

NOTICE: This report is required by 49 CFR Part 191. Failure to report can result in a civil penalty not to exceed 100,000 for each violation for each day that such violation persists except that the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed \$1,000,000 as provided in 49 USC 60122.

OMB NO: 2137-0522  
EXPIRATION DATE: 8/31/2020



U.S Department of Transportation  
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Original Report  
Date:

03/07/2018

No.

20180031- 30003

(DOT Use Only)

### INCIDENT REPORT - GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, nor shall a person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act unless that collection of information displays a current valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Control Number for this information collection is 2137-0522. All responses to this collection of information are mandatory. Send comments regarding the burden or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collection Clearance Officer, PHMSA, Office of Pipeline Safety (PHP-30) 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, D.C. 20590.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

**Important:** Please read the separate instructions for completing this form before you begin. They clarify the information requested and provide specific examples. If you do not have a copy of the instructions, you can obtain one from the PHMSA Pipeline Safety Community Web Page at <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline/library/forms>.

#### PART A - KEY REPORT INFORMATION

Report Type: (select all that apply)	Original: Yes	Supplemental:	Final: Yes
Last Revision Date			
1. Operator's OPS-issued Operator Identification Number (OPID):	31632		
2. Name of Operator	NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION		
3. Address of Operator:			
3a. Street Address	3010 W. 69TH ST.		
3b. City	SIOUX FALLS		
3c. State	South Dakota		
3d. Zip Code	57108		
4. Local time (24-hr clock) and date of the Incident:	02/06/2018 10:14		
5. Location of Incident:			
5a. Street Address or location description	507 N 2nd St		
5b. City	Aberdeen		
5c. County or Parish	Brown		
5d. State:	South Dakota		
5e. Zip Code:	57401		
5f. Latitude:	45.470957		
Longitude:	-98.490929		
6. National Response Center Report Number:	1203737		
7. Local time (24-hr clock) and date of initial telephonic report to the National Response Center:	02/06/2018 12:25		
8. Incident resulted from:	Unintentional release of gas		
9. Gas released:	Natural Gas		
- Other Gas Released Name:			
10. Estimated volume of gas released - Thousand Cubic Feet (MCF):	5.000		
11. Were there fatalities?	No		
- If Yes, specify the number in each category:			
11a. Operator employees			
11b. Contractor employees working for the Operator			
11c. Non-Operator emergency responders			
11d. Workers working on the right-of-way, but NOT associated with this Operator			
11e. General public			
11f. Total fatalities (sum of above)			
12. Were there injuries requiring inpatient hospitalization?	No		
- If Yes, specify the number in each category:			
12a. Operator employees			
12b. Contractor employees working for the Operator			
12c. Non-Operator emergency responders			
12d. Workers working on the right-of-way, but NOT associated with this Operator			
12e. General public			
12f. Total injuries (sum of above)			
13. Was the pipeline/facility shut down due to the incident?	No		
- If No, Explain:	Service was squeezed off only		
- If Yes, complete Questions 13a and 13b: (use local time, 24-hr clock)			

13a. Local time and date of shutdown:	
13b. Local time pipeline/facility restarted:	
- Still shut down? (* Supplemental Report Required)	
14. Did the gas ignite?	Yes
15. Did the gas explode?	Yes
16. Number of general public evacuated:	2
17. Time sequence (use local time, 24-hour clock):	
17a. Local time operator identified Incident - effective 10-2014, "Incident" changed to "failure"	02/06/2018 10:14
17b. Local time operator resources arrived on site:	02/06/2018 10:23
<b>PART B - ADDITIONAL LOCATION INFORMATION</b>	
1. Was the Incident on Federal land?	No
2. Location of Incident	Private property
3. Area of Incident:	Underground
Specify:	Under pavement
If Other, Describe:	
Depth of Cover:	24
4. Did Incident occur in a crossing?	No
- If Yes, specify type below:	
- If Bridge crossing –	
Cased/ Uncased:	
- If Railroad crossing –	
Cased/ Uncased/ Bored/drilled	
- If Road crossing –	
Cased/ Uncased/ Bored/drilled	
- If Water crossing –	
Cased/ Uncased	
Name of body of water (If commonly known):	
Approx. water depth (ft):	
<b>PART C - ADDITIONAL FACILITY INFORMATION</b>	
1. Indicate the type of pipeline system:	Investor Owned
- If Other, specify:	
2. Part of system involved in Incident:	Service Riser
- If Other, specify:	
2a. Year "Part of system involved in Incident" was installed:	1956
3. When "Main" or "Service" is selected as the "Part of system involved in Incident" (from PART C, Question 2), provide the following:	
3a. Nominal diameter of pipe (in):	
3b. Pipe specification (e.g., API 5L, ASTM D2513):	
3c. Pipe manufacturer:	
3d. Year of manufacture:	
4. Material involved in Incident:	Steel
- If Other, specify:	
4a. If Steel, Specify seam type:	
None/Unknown?	None
4b. If Steel, Specify wall thickness (inches):	.156
4c. If Plastic, Specify type:	
- If Other, describe:	
4d. If Plastic, Specify Standard Dimension Ratio (SDR):	
Or wall thickness:	
4e. If Polyethylene (PE) is selected as the type of plastic in Part C, Question 4.c:	
- Specify PE Pipe Material Designation Code (i.e. 2406, 3408, etc.)	
Unknown?	
5. Type of release involved :	Leak
- If Mechanical Puncture - Specify Approx size:	
Approx. size: in. (axial):	
in. (circumferential):	
- If Leak - Select Type:	Connection Failure
- If Other, Describe:	
- If Rupture - Select Orientation:	
- If Other, Describe:	
Approx. size: (widest opening):	
(length circumferentially or axially):	
- If Other - Describe:	

<b>PART D - ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCE INFORMATION</b>	
1. Class Location of Incident :	Class 3 Location
2. Estimated Property Damage :	
2a. Estimated cost of public and non-Operator private property damage paid/reimbursed by the Operator – effective 6-2011, "paid/reimbursed by the Operator" removed	\$ 85,000
Estimated cost of gas released – effective 6-2011, moved to item 2f	
2b. Estimated cost of Operator's property damage & repairs	\$ 150
2c. Estimated cost of Operator's emergency response	\$ 500
2d. Estimated other costs	\$ 25,000
	- Describe: Fire investigation/rental of ground thaw blanket to remove frost
2e. Property damage subtotal (sum of above)	\$ 110,650
<b>Cost of Gas Released</b>	
2f. Estimated cost of gas released	\$ 50
Total of all costs	\$ 110,700
3. Estimated number of customers out of service:	
3a. Commercial entities	0
3b. Industrial entities	0
3c. Residences	2
<b>PART E - ADDITIONAL OPERATING INFORMATION</b>	
1. Estimated pressure at the point and time of the Incident (psig):	23.00
2. Normal operating pressure at the point and time of the Incident (psig):	23.00
3. Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) at the point and time of the Incident (psig):	25.00
4. Describe the pressure on the system relating to the Incident:	Pressure did not exceed MAOP
5. Was a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) based system in place on the pipeline or facility involved in the Incident?	No
- If Yes:	
5a. Was it operating at the time of the Incident?	
5b. Was it fully functional at the time of the Incident?	
5c. Did SCADA-based information (such as alarm(s), alert(s), event(s), and/or volume or pack calculations) assist with the detection of the Incident?	
5d. Did SCADA-based information (such as alarm(s), alert(s), event(s), and/or volume calculations) assist with the confirmation of the Incident?	
6. How was the Incident initially identified for the Operator?	Notification from Emergency Responder
- If Other, Specify:	
6a. If "Controller", "Local Operating Personnel, including contractors", "Air Patrol", or "Ground Patrol by Operator or its contractor" is selected in Question 6, specify.	
7. Was an investigation initiated into whether or not the controller(s) or control room issues were the cause of or a contributing factor to the Incident?	No, the facility was not monitored by a controller(s) at the time of the Incident
- If "No, the operator did not find that an investigation of the controller(s) actions or control room issues was necessary due to:" (provide an explanation for why the operator did not investigate)	
- If Yes, Specify investigation result(s) (select all that apply):	
- Investigation reviewed work schedule rotations, continuous hours of service (while working for the Operator), and other factors associated with fatigue	
- Investigation did NOT review work schedule rotations, continuous hours of service (while working for the Operator), and other factors associated with fatigue	
- Provide an explanation for why not:	
- Investigation identified no control room issues	
- Investigation identified no controller issues	
- Investigation identified incorrect controller action or controller error	
- Investigation identified that fatigue may have affected the controller(s) involved or impacted the involved controller(s) response	
- Investigation identified incorrect procedures	
- Investigation identified incorrect control room equipment operation	
- Investigation identified maintenance activities that affected control room operations, procedures, and/or controller response	
- Investigation identified areas other than those above	
Describe:	

<b>PART F - DRUG &amp; ALCOHOL TESTING INFORMATION</b>	
1. As a result of this Incident, were any Operator employees tested under the post-accident drug and alcohol testing requirements of DOT's Drug & Alcohol Testing regulations? - If Yes:	No
1a. How many were tested:	
1b. How many failed:	
2. As a result of this Incident, were any Operator contractor employees tested under the post-accident drug and alcohol testing requirements of DOT's Drug & Alcohol Testing regulations? - If Yes:	No
2a. How many were tested:	
2b. How many failed:	
<b>PART G - CAUSE INFORMATION</b>	
<i>Select only one box from PART G in shaded column on left representing the Apparent Cause of the Incident, and answer the questions on the right. Describe secondary, contributing, or root causes of the Incident in the narrative (PART H).</i>	
<b>Apparent Cause:</b>	G4 - Other Outside Force Damage
<b>G1 - Corrosion Failure</b> – only one <b>sub-cause</b> can be picked from shaded left-hand column	
<b>Corrosion Failure Sub-Cause:</b>	
<b>- If External Corrosion:</b>	
1. Results of visual examination: - If Other, Specify:	
2. Type of corrosion: - Galvanic - Atmospheric - Stray Current - Microbiological - Selective Seam - Other - If Other, Describe:	
3. The type(s) of corrosion selected in Question 2 is based on the following: - Field examination - Determined by metallurgical analysis - Other - If Other, Describe:	
4. Was the failed item buried under the ground? - If Yes: 4a. Was failed item considered to be under cathodic protection at the time of the incident? - If Yes, Year protection started: 4b. Was shielding, tenting, or disbonding of coating evident at the point of the incident? 4c. Has one or more Cathodic Protection Survey been conducted at the point of the incident? If "Yes, CP Annual Survey" – Most recent year conducted: If "Yes, Close Interval Survey" – Most recent year conducted: If "Yes, Other CP Survey" – Most recent year conducted: - If No: 4d. Was the failed item externally coated or painted?	
5. Was there observable damage to the coating or paint in the vicinity of the corrosion?	
6. Pipeline coating type, if steel pipe is involved: - If Other, Describe:	
<b>- If Internal Corrosion:</b>	
7. Results of visual examination: - If Other, Describe:	
8. Cause of corrosion ( <i>select all that apply</i> ): - Corrosive Commodity - Water drop-out/Acid - Microbiological - Erosion - Other	

- If Other, Specify:	
9. The cause(s) of corrosion selected in Question 8 is based on the following: <i>(select all that apply)</i> :	
- Field examination	
- Determined by metallurgical analysis	
- Other	
- If Other, Describe:	
10. Location of corrosion <i>(select all that apply)</i> :	
- Low point in pipe	
- Elbow	
- Drop-out	
- Other	
- If Other, Describe:	
11. Was the gas/fluid treated with corrosion inhibitor or biocides?	
12. Were any liquids found in the distribution system where the Incident occurred?	
<b>Complete the following if any Corrosion Failure sub-cause is selected AND the "Part of system involved in incident" (from PART C, Question 2) is Main, Service, or Service Riser.</b>	
13. Date of the most recent Leak Survey conducted	
14. Has one or more pressure test been conducted since original construction at the point of the Incident?	
- If Yes:	
Most recent year tested:	
Test pressure:	
<b>G2 – Natural Force Damage – only one sub-cause can be picked from shaded left-handed column</b>	
<b>Natural Force Damage – Sub-Cause:</b>	
<b>- If Earth Movement, NOT due to Heavy Rains/Floods:</b>	
1. Specify:	
- If Other, Specify:	
<b>- If Heavy Rains/Floods:</b>	
2. Specify:	
- If Other, Specify:	
<b>- If Lightning:</b>	
3. Specify:	
<b>- If Temperature:</b>	
4. Specify:	
- If Other, Specify:	
<b>- If Other Natural Force Damage:</b>	
5. Describe:	
<b>Complete the following if any Natural Force Damage sub-cause is selected.</b>	
6. Were the natural forces causing the Incident generated in conjunction with an extreme weather event?	
6.a If Yes, specify <i>(select all that apply)</i> :	
- Hurricane	
- Tropical Storm	
- Tornado	
- Other	
- If Other, Specify:	
<b>G3 – Excavation Damage – only one sub-cause can be picked from shaded left-hand column</b>	
<b>Excavation Damage – Sub-Cause:</b>	
<b>- If Previous Damage due to Excavation Activity: Complete the following ONLY IF the "Part of system involved in Incident" (from Part C, Question 2) is Main, Service, or Service Riser.</b>	
1. Date of the most recent Leak Survey conducted	
2. Has one or more pressure test been conducted since original construction at the point of the Incident?	
- If Yes:	
Most recent year tested:	
Test pressure:	
<b>Complete the following if Excavation Damage by Third Party is selected.</b>	
3. Did the operator get prior notification of the excavation activity?	
3a. If Yes, Notification received from: <i>(select all that apply)</i> :	
- One-Call System	

- Excavator	
- Contractor	
- Landowner	
<b>Complete the following mandatory CGA-DIRT Program questions if any Excavation Damage sub-cause is selected.</b>	
4. Do you want PHMSA to upload the following information to CGA-DIRT ( <a href="http://www.cga-dirt.com">www.cga-dirt.com</a> )?	
5. Right-of-Way where event occurred <i>(select all that apply)</i> :	
- Public	
- If Public, Specify:	
- Private	
- If Private, Specify:	
- Pipeline Property/Easement	
- Power/Transmission Line	
- Railroad	
- Dedicated Public Utility Easement	
- Federal Land	
- Data not collected	
- Unknown/Other	
6. Type of excavator :	
7. Type of excavation equipment :	
8. Type of work performed :	
9. Was the One-Call Center notified?	
9a. If Yes, specify ticket number:	
9b. If this is a State where more than a single One-Call Center exists, list the name of the One-Call Center notified:	
10. Type of Locator:	
11. Were facility locate marks visible in the area of excavation?	
12. Were facilities marked correctly?	
13. Did the damage cause an interruption in service?	
13a. If Yes, specify duration of the interruption:	
14. Description of the CGA-DIRT Root Cause <i>(select only the one predominant first level CGA-DIRT Root Cause and then, where available as a choice, the one predominant second level CGA-DIRT Root Cause as well)</i> :	
- Root Cause Description:	
- If One-Call Notification Practices Not Sufficient, specify:	
- If Locating Practices Not Sufficient, specify:	
- If Excavation Practices Not Sufficient, specify:	
- If Other/None of the Above, explain:	
<b>G4 - Other Outside Force Damage</b> - only one <b>sub-cause</b> can be selected from the shaded left-hand column	
<b>Other Outside Force Damage – Sub-Cause:</b>	Other Outside Force Damage
<b>- If Damage by Car, Truck, or Other Motorized Vehicle/Equipment NOT Engaged in Excavation:</b>	
1. Vehicle/Equipment operated by:	
<b>- If Damage by Boats, Barges, Drilling Rigs, or Other Maritime Equipment or Vessels Set Adrift or Which Have Otherwise Lost Their Mooring:</b>	
2. Select one or more of the following IF an extreme weather event was a factor:	
- Hurricane	
- Tropical Storm	
- Tornado	
- Heavy Rains/Flood	
- Other	
- If Other, Specify:	
<b>- If Previous Mechanical Damage NOT Related to Excavation:</b> Complete the following ONLY IF the "Part of system involved in Incident" (from Part C, Question 2) is Main, Service, or Service Riser.	
3. Date of the most recent Leak Survey conducted:	
4. Has one or more pressure test been conducted since original construction at the point of the Incident?	
- If Yes:	
Most recent year tested:	
Test pressure (psig):	
<b>- If Intentional Damage:</b>	
5. Specify:	
- If Other, Specify:	
<b>- If Other Outside Force Damage:</b>	
6. Describe:	Structural Movement of building wall

**G5 - Pipe, Weld, or Joint Failure** - only one **sub-cause** can be selected from the shaded left-hand column

<b>Pipe, Weld or Joint Failure – Sub-Cause:</b>	
<b>- If Body of Pipe:</b>	
1. Specify:	
	- If Other, Describe:
<b>- If Butt Weld:</b>	
2. Specify:	
	- If Other, Describe:
<b>- If Fillet Weld:</b>	
3. Specify:	
	- If Other, Describe:
<b>- If Pipe Seam:</b>	
4. Specify:	
	- If Other, Describe:
<b>- If Mechanical Fitting:</b>	
5. Specify the mechanical fitting involved:	
	- If Other, Describe:
6. Specify the type of mechanical fitting:	
	- If Other, Describe:
7. Manufacturer:	
8. Year manufactured:	
9. Year Installed:	
10. Other attributes:	
11. Specify the two materials being joined:	
11a. First material being joined:	
	- If Other, Specify:
11b. If Plastic, specify:	
	- If Other Plastic, specify:
11c. Second material being joined:	
	- If Other, Specify:
11d. If Plastic, specify:	
	- If Other Plastic, Specify:
12. If used on plastic pipe, did the fitting – as designed by the manufacturer – include restraint?	
12a. If Yes, specify:	
<b>- If Compression Fitting:</b>	
13. Fitting type:	
14. Manufacturer:	
15. Year manufactured:	
16. Year installed:	
17. Other attributes:	
18. Specify the two materials being joined:	
18a. First material being joined:	
	- If Other, specify:
18b. If Plastic, specify:	
	- If Other Plastic, specify:
18c. Second material being joined:	
	If Other, specify:
18d. If Plastic, specify:	
	- Other Plastic, specify:
<b>- If Fusion Joint:</b>	
19. Specify:	
	- If Other, Specify:
20. Year installed:	
21. Other attributes:	
22. Specify the two materials being joined:	
22a. First material being joined:	
	- If Other, Specify:
22b. Second material being joined:	
	- If Other, Specify:
<b>- If Other Pipe, Weld, or Joint Failure:</b>	
23. Describe:	

<b>Complete the following if any Pipe, Weld, or Joint Failure sub-cause is selected.</b>	
24. Additional Factors (select all that apply):	
- Dent	
- Gouge	
- Pipe Bend	
- Arc Burn	
- Crack	
- Lack of Fusion	
- Lamination	
- Buckle	
- Wrinkle	
- Misalignment	
- Burnt Steel	
- Other	
	- If Other, Specify:
25. Was the Incident a result of:	
- Construction defect	
	Specify:
- Material defect	
	Specify:
	- If Other, Specify:
- Design defect	
- Previous damage	
26. Has one or more pressure test been conducted since original construction at the point of the Incident?	
- If Yes:	
	Most recent year tested:
	Test pressure:
<b>G6 - Equipment Failure</b> - only one <b>sub-cause</b> can be selected from the shaded left-hand column	
<b>Equipment Failure – Sub-Cause:</b>	
<b>- If Malfunction of Control/Relief Equipment:</b>	
1. Specify:	
- Control Valve	
- Instrumentation	
- SCADA	
- Communications	
- Block Valve	
- Check Valve	
- Relief Valve	
- Power Failure	
- Stopple/Control Fitting	
- Pressure Regulator	
- Other	
	- If Other, Specify:
<b>- If Threaded Connection Failure:</b>	
2. Specify:	
	- If Other, Specify:
<b>- If Non-threaded Connection Failure:</b>	
3. Specify:	
	- If Other, Specify:
<b>- If Valve:</b>	
4. Specify:	
	- If Other, Specify:
4a. Valve type:	
4b. Manufactured by:	
4c. Year manufactured:	
<b>- If Other Equipment Failure:</b>	
5. Describe:	
<b>G7 - Incorrect Operation</b> - only one <b>sub-cause</b> can be selected from the shaded left-hand column	
<b>Incorrect Operation Sub-Cause:</b>	
<b>- If Other Incorrect Operation:</b>	
1. Describe:	



<b>Complete the following if any Incorrect Operation sub-cause is selected.</b>	
2. Was this Incident related to: (select all that apply)	
- Inadequate procedure	
- No procedure established	
- Failure to follow procedure	
- Other	
- If Other, Describe:	
3. What category type was the activity that caused the Incident:	
4. Was the task(s) that led to the Incident identified as a covered task in your Operator Qualification Program?	
4a. If Yes, were the individuals performing the task(s) qualified for the task(s)?	
<b>G8 - Other Incident Cause</b> - only one <b>sub-cause</b> can be selected from the shaded left-hand column	
<b>Other Incident Cause – Sub-Cause:</b>	
<b>- If Miscellaneous:</b>	
1. Describe:	
<b>- If Unknown:</b>	
2. Specify:	
<b>PART H - NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION OF THE INCIDENT</b>	
<b>PART I - PREPARER AND AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE</b>	
Preparer's Name	Melissa Baruth
Preparer's Title	DOT Supervisor
Preparer's Telephone Number	6053537462
Preparer's E-mail Address	melissa.baruth@northwestern.com
Preparer's Facsimile Number	
Authorize Signature's Name	Melissa Baruth
Authorized Signature's Title	DOT Superviosr
Authorized Signature's Email Address	melissa.baruth@northwestern.com