



July 15, 2005

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO PIPELINE CONTRACTORS, PLUMBERS, BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS (hereafter referred to a “Contractors”)**

RE: Department of Transportation Regulations for Anti-Drug and Alcohol Misuse Plans

**Equitable Resources, Inc. and its divisions and subsidiaries, including but not limited to, Equitable Gas Company, Equitrans, Equitable Production Company, and Kentucky West Virginia Gas Company collectively referred to as (“Equitable”)** have designated National Compliance Management Service, Inc. (“NCMS”) to request, review and advise Equitable on the status of Anti-Drug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Plans and Programs (“D&A Program”) for all Contractors who perform operation, maintenance, or emergency-response functions on any Department of Transportation (“DOT”) regulated facilities that are owned and/or operated by Equitable. In carrying out this responsibility, NCMS will request that each Contractor provide the following information.

- Copy of Anti-Drug and Alcohol Misuse Prevention Programs
- Copy of verification of supervisory training
- Custody and control form
- Listing of Covered Employee
- Drug\Alcohol Statistical Data

NCMS will use this information to determine a Contractor’s compliance with DOT D&A Program requirements established by 49 CFR Parts 40 and 199. Failure to comply with these DOT requirements will prevent the Contractor from performing work on DOT regulated facilities owned and/or operated by Equitable.

For D&A Program development, Contractors may either join a consortium or establish their own D&A Program. Contractors should contact NCMS to obtain detailed information to ensure compliance with DOT D&A Program requirements. NCMS’ contact information is listed below:

National Compliance Management Service, Inc.  
7 Compound Drive  
Hutchinson, Kansas 67502  
Phone 1-800-294-8758 Fax (620) 669-8430

There are several consortiums available that provide DOT compliant D&A Programs. Although we do not endorse one consortium, below are a few consortiums that can provide Contractors with the necessary services. Please contact them directly if their services are needed.

Pipeline Testing Consortium, Inc.  
9 Compound Drive  
Hutchinson, KS 67502  
Phone: 1-800-294-8758

IEBT, Corp  
P.O. Box 266  
Mogadore, OH 44260  
Phone: 1-800-628-5106

D.D.T.A. Service, Inc.  
P.O. Box 461  
East Palestine, OH 44413  
Phone: 1-800-488-3382

Once Contractors submit the required information to NCMS, they will review the Contractor's D&A Program utilizing the federal inspection forms. These forms contain the same criteria utilized by the federal and state agencies.

Based on this review, if the Contractor's D&A Program should require any revisions, NCMS will advise the Contractor and provide them with the necessary information to bring their plan into compliance. All Contractors must revise their D&A Program to comply with the regulations as determined by NCMS. The first review and notice of D&A Program revisions by NCMS is without fee. Additional reviews, however, will result in fees which must be paid directly to NCMS.

At this time, NCMS will also request the necessary D&A Program testing data on the Contractor's employees, D&A Program testing numbers and kinds of tests performed and their results. The drug and alcohol statistical reports will be requested by NCMS on a semi-annual basis.

**It is the responsibility of each Contractor to revise/update their D&A Programs as changes occur in the federal drug/alcohol regulations. Contractors are required to submit semi-annual drug and alcohol statistical data to NCMS as a means of demonstrating their continued compliance with the federal regulations.**

The role of NCMS is to advise Equitable on the status of each Contractor with regard to the submission of the initial documents to determine compliance and to monitor the Contractor's continued submission of drug/alcohol statistical reports semi-annually. Failure to provide the necessary documentation could result in a change in the Contractor's satisfactory status and prevent them from performing work on DOT regulated facilities owned or operated by Equitable in the future.

Only Contractors with NCMS approved D&A Programs and who are Operator Qualified will be allowed to perform operation, maintenance and/or emergency response functions on DOT covered facilities owned and/or operated by Equitable.

Sincerely,

Robert Frankouser  
Drug Program Manager  
Equitable Resources, Inc.