

**RULEMAKING TO CONSIDER POSSIBLE CORRECTION AND CHANGES TO
SELECTED RULES IN CHAPTER 480-93 WAC, GAS COMPANIES-SAFETY
DOCKET NO. PG-050933**

PROPOSED RULES - September 28, 2005

WAC 480-93-005(18) "Prompt action" means to dispatch qualified personnel without undue delay ~~for the purpose of evaluating and, where necessary, abating an existing or probable hazard.~~

WAC 480-93-017 Filing requirements for design, specification, and construction procedures. (1) Any operator intending to operate~~ing~~ a gas pipeline facility in this state must file with the commission all applicable construction procedures, designs, and specifications used for each pipeline facility prior to operating the pipeline. All procedures must detail the acceptable types of materials, fittings, and components for the different types of facilities in the operator's system.

(2) With the exception of emergency situations, any construction plans that do not conform with a gas company's existing and accepted construction procedures, designs, and specifications on file with the commission, must be submitted to the commission for review at least forty-five days prior to the initiation of construction activity.

WAC 480-93-178 Protection of plastic pipe. (1) Every operator must have detailed written procedures for the storage, handling, and installation of plastic pipelines. Except for joining procedures, and unless the operator has more stringent procedures, the storage, handling, and installation of all plastic pipe must be in accordance with the latest applicable manufacturer's recommended practices.

(2) The maximum cumulative ultraviolet light exposure limit for plastic pipe is two years, or the manufacturer's recommended limit. The acceptable time limit must be detailed in the operator's procedures manual.

(3) Plastic pipe that is pulled through the ground by mechanical means must have a weak link installed that will ensure the pipe will not be damaged by excessive tensile forces.

(4) When installing plastic pipelines parallel to other underground utilities, operators must ensure there is

a minimum of twelve inches of separation from the other utilities. Where a minimum twelve inches of separation is not possible, operators must take adequate precautions, such as inserting the plastic pipeline in conduit, to minimize any potential hazards resulting from the close proximity to the other utilities.

(5) When installing plastic pipelines perpendicular to other underground utilities, operators must ensure there is a minimum of six inches of separation from the other utilities. Where a minimum six inches of separation is not possible, an operator must take adequate precautions, such as inserting the plastic pipeline in conduit, to minimize any potential hazards resulting from the close proximity to the other utilities.

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(6) Except for approved steel encased plastic pipe, and except where allowed by (b) of this subsection, the maximum time limit that plastic pipe may be temporarily installed above ground is thirty days.

(a) During temporary installations, operators must monitor and protect above ground plastic pipe from potential damage.

(b) Operators may install above ground plastic pipe for periods longer than thirty days if they have a written monitoring program and notify the commission by telephone prior to exceeding the thirty-day time limit.

(7) Plastic pipe must be bedded in a suitable material as recommended by the pipe manufacturer. Unless otherwise permitted by the manufacturer, plastic pipe must be bedded in an essentially rock-free material.

(8) Plastic pipe may not be squeezed more than one time in the same location.

(9) Plastic pipe must not be squeezed within twelve inches or three pipe diameters, whichever is greater, from any joint or fitting.

WAC 480-93-200 Reporting requirements for operators of gas facilities. (1) Every operator must give notice to the commission by telephone within two hours of discovering an incident or hazardous condition arising out of its operations that:

(a) Results in a fatality or personal injury requiring hospitalization;

(b) Results in damage to the property of the operator and others of a combined total exceeding fifty thousand dollars;

(c) Results in the evacuation of a building, or high occupancy structures or areas;

(d) Results in the unintentional ignition of gas;

(e) Results in the unscheduled interruption of service furnished by any operator to twenty five or more distribution customers;

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(f) Results in a pipeline or system pressure exceeding the MAOP plus ten percent or the maximum pressure allowed by proximity considerations outlined in WAC 480-93-020;

(g) Is significant, in the judgment of the operator, even though it does not meet the criteria of (a) through (e) of this subsection; or

(h) Results in the news media reporting the occurrence, even though it does not meet the criteria of (a) through (e) of this subsection.

(2) Operators must give notice to the commission by telephone within twenty-four hours of occurrence of every incident or hazardous condition arising out of its operations that results in:

(a) The uncontrolled release of gas for more than two hours;

(b) The taking of a high pressure supply or transmission pipeline or a major distribution supply pipeline out of service;

(c) A pipeline or system operating at low pressure dropping below the safe operating conditions of attached appliances and gas equipment; or

(d) A pipeline or system pressure exceeding the MAOP.

(3) Routine or planned maintenance and operational activities of the operator that result in operator-controlled plant and equipment shut downs, reduction in system pressures, flaring or venting of gas, and normal leak repairs are not reportable items under this section.

(4) Operators must provide to the commission a written report within thirty days of the initial telephonic report required under subsection (1) of this section. At a minimum, written reports must include the following:

(a) Name(s) and address(es) of any person or persons injured or killed, or whose property was damaged;

(b) The extent of such injuries and damage;

(c) A description of the incident or hazardous condition including the date, time, and place;

(d) A description of the gas facilities involved in the incident or hazardous condition, the system operating pressure at that time, and the MAOP of the facilities involved;

(e) The date and time the gas facility was made safe;

(f) The date, time, and type of any temporary or permanent repair made; and

(g) The cost of the incident to the operator.

(5) Operators must provide to the commission a written report within forty-five days of receiving the failure analysis of any incident or hazardous condition that was due to construction defects or material failure.

(6) Operators must file with the commission the following annual reports ~~no later than March 15 for the preceding calendar year:~~

(a) A copy of every Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) F-7100.1-1 and F-7100.2-1 annual report required by U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety.

(b) A report titled, "Damage Prevention Statistics." ~~with the corresponding PHMSA fiscal year.~~ The Damage Prevention Statistics report must include in detail the following information:

(i) Number of gas-related one-call locate requests completed in the field;

(ii) Number of third-party damages incurred; and

(iii) Cause of damage, where cause of damage is classified as either:

(A) Inaccurate locate;

(B) Failure to use reasonable care; or

(C) Excavated prior to a locate being conducted.

(c) A report detailing all construction defects and the results from construction defects or material failures resulting in leakage. Operators must categorize the different types of construction defects and material failures anticipated for their system. The report must include the following:

(i) Types and numbers of construction defects; and

(ii) Types and numbers of material failures.

~~The report must be submitted with the operator's annual report.~~

(7) Operators must file with the commission, and with appropriate officials of all municipalities where operators have facilities, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the responsible officials of the operator who may be contacted in the event of an emergency. In the event of any changes in operator personnel, the operator must notify immediately the commission and municipalities.

(8) Operators must send daily reports of construction and repair activities electronically to the commission. Operators may send reports either by facsimile or e-mail to the commission. The reports must be received no later than

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10:00 a.m. each day of the scheduled work, and must include both operator and contractor construction and repair activities.

(9) When an operator is required to file a copy of a DOT Drug and Alcohol Testing Management Information System (MIS) Data Collection Form with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety, the operator must simultaneously submit a copy of the form to the commission.