

Chapter 480-93--Draft Rules

GENERAL RULES

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-002 Application of rules.

These rules shall apply to every gas company, as that term is defined by WAC 480-93-005, and shall apply to the construction, operation, maintenance, and safety of gas facilities used in the gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission of gas in this state, except those gas facilities exclusively under federal jurisdiction for compliance with pipeline safety regulations.

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-002 Application of rules

These rules apply to every gas company, for the construction, operation, maintenance, and safety of gas facilities that are used in the gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission of gas. Gas facilities that are under the federal jurisdiction for compliance with the Pipeline Safety Regulations are exempt from these rules.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-002, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-99, § 480-93-002, filed 5/18/77.]

WAC 480-93-003 Additional requirements (New Rule)

- (1) These rules do not relieve any gas company from any of its duties and obligations under the laws of the state of Washington.
- (2) The commission retains the authority to impose additional or different requirements on any gas company in appropriate circumstances, consistent with the requirements of law.

WAC 480-93-003 Severability. (New Rule)

If any provision of this chapter or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the chapter or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

**WAC 480-93-010 Compliance with federal standards.
This rule will be incorporated in a new rule 480-93-999**

~~Gas companies' gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission facilities must be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated in compliance with the provisions of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 191, 192, 193 and 199 in effect on September 7, 1999. The provisions of this chapter shall govern to the extent that the standards in the state regulations are compatible with the federal standards. Copies of the above referenced regulations can be viewed at the commission branch of the Washington state library or are available from the Government Printing Office Bookstore, Seattle, Washington.~~

~~[Statutory Authority: RCW 34.05.310, 34.05.356, 80.01.040, 80.04.160 and 80.04.160 [81.04.160]. 99-20-013 (Order R-465, Docket No. A-980247), § 480-93-010, filed 9/24/99, effective 10/25/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 99-02-037 (Order 457, Docket No. UG-980962), § 480-93-010, filed 12/30/98, effective 1/30/99. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.28.210. 96-13-022 (Order R-437, Docket No. UG-951453), § 480-93-010, filed 6/10/96, effective 7/11/96; 95-13-082 (Order R-427, Docket No. UG-950061), § 480-93-010, filed 6/20/95, effective 7/21/95. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 93-18-097 (Order R-396, Docket No. UG-930243), § 480-93-010, filed 9/1/93, effective 10/2/93; 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-010, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-010, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-010, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]~~

~~WAC 480-93-220 Rule of precedence.~~

Staff proposes to delete this rule.

~~Where there is any conflict between the provisions of CFR 49, Part 192 (Minimum Federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Standards) and any rule specifically set forth herein, the former will govern.~~

~~(2) These rules will take precedence over all orders, heretofore made by the commission, insofar as said orders may be inconsistent with these rules.~~

~~(3) These rules will take precedence over all rules filed or to be filed by gas companies insofar as inconsistent therewith. Rules of the gas companies now on file and inconsistent with the rules herein~~

~~established must be properly revised and refiled within sixty days from the effective date of this order.~~

~~[Order R-28, § 480-93-220, filed 7/15/71.]~~

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-223 Civil penalty for violation of RCW 80.28.210 or regulations issued thereunder--Maximum amount.

(1) Any gas company which violates any public safety provision of RCW 80.28.210 or regulation issued thereunder is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each violation for each day that the violation persists. The maximum civil penalty under this subsection for a related series of violations is five hundred thousand dollars. This subsection applies to violations of public safety requirements including WAC 480-90-101 and including chapter 480-93 WAC except for WAC 480-93-160 and 480-93-200 (1)(e).

(2) Any gas company violating any other provision of RCW 80.28.210 or regulations promulgated thereunder, including WAC 480-93-160 and 480-93-200 (1)(e), shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation for each day that the violation persists, but the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars for a related series of violations.

(3) The commission may compromise any civil penalty pursuant to RCW 80.28.210.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 95-19-057 (Order R-433, Docket No. UG-950625), § 480-93-223, filed 9/15/95, effective 10/16/95.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-223 Civil Penalties for violation of Chapter 80.28

Any gas company which violates any public safety provision of RCW 80.28.210 is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each violation for each day that the violation persists. The maximum civil penalty under this subsection for each violations is five hundred thousand dollars. This subsection applies to violations of public safety requirements including WAC 480-90- 303 and including chapter 480-93 WAC except for WAC 480-93-160 and 480-93-200 (1)(e).

Any gas company violating any other provision of RCW 80.28.210 including WAC 480-93-160 and 480-93-200 (1)(e), will be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation for

each day that the violation persists, but the maximum civil penalty will not exceed two hundred thousand dollars for each violation .

(3) The commission may compromise any civil penalty pursuant to RCW 80.28.210.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 95-19-057 (Order R-433, Docket No. UG-950625), § 480-93-223, filed 9/15/95, effective 10/16/95.]

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-230 Modification/waivers.

If a gas company determines that an undue hardship or an unsafe condition may result from the application of any rule in this chapter, application may be made to the commission to deviate from the rule. Every request for a deviation shall be accompanied by full and complete justification for such requested deviation. The petitioning company shall describe how it will meet the requirements of this chapter in the absence of the waived rule, which may include proposed amendments to this chapter. Requests for waiver will be written, properly documented, and submitted to the commission. A gas company shall concurrently submit to the commission all petitions for waiver of any gas safety rule filed with the federal government or other governmental authority.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-230, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-230, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-230, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-230 Exemptions from rules in chapter 480-93 WAC

(1) The commission may grant an exemption from the provision of any rule in this chapter, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.

(2) To request a rule exemption, a person must file with the commission a written request identifying the rule for which an exemption is sought, giving a full explanation of the reason for requesting the exemption.

(3) The commission will assign a docket number, if it does not arise in an existing docket, and will schedule the request for consideration at one of its regularly scheduled open meetings or, if appropriate under chapter 34.05 RCW, in an adjudication. The commission will notify the person requesting the exemption, and other affected persons, of the date of the hearing or open meeting when the commission will consider the request.

(4) In determining whether to grant the request, the commission may consider whether application of the rule would impose undue hardship on the petitioner, of a degree or a kind different from hardship imposed on other similarly situated persons, and whether the effect of applying the rule would be contrary to the purposes of the rule.

(5) The commission will enter an order granting or denying the request or setting it for hearing, pursuant to chapter 480-09 WAC.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-230, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-230, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-230, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-017 Design, specification, and construction procedures.

The design, specification, and construction procedures for all gas facilities in this state must be on file with the commission. All proposed construction plans which do not conform with a gas company's existing and accepted design, specification, and construction procedures on file with the commission, must be submitted to the commission at least thirty days prior to the initiation of construction activity. Written commission acceptance or rejection of the design, specification, and construction procedures to be utilized will be made within thirty days of receipt.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-017, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-017 Filing requirements for design, specification, and construction procedures.

(1) Any gas company operating a gas pipeline facility in this state must have on file with the Commission all applicable design, specification and construction procedures. All procedures must detail the acceptable types of materials, fittings and components for the different types of facilities in the gas company's system.

(2) Any construction plans which do not conform with a gas company's existing and accepted design, specification, construction procedures on file with the commission, must be submitted to the commission at least forty five days prior to the initiation of construction activity. Written commission approval or rejection of the design, specification, and construction procedures to be utilized will be made within forty five days of receipt of all documentation necessary to evaluate the proposed construction activity.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-020 Proximity considerations.

Gas facilities having a maximum operating pressure greater than five hundred psig shall not be operated within five hundred feet of the places described below without prior written authorization of the commission, unless a waiver previously approved by the commission continues in effect:

(1) A building intended for human occupancy which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission, and which is not owned and used by the petitioning gas company in its gas operations;

(2) Property which has been zoned as residential or commercial prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission;

(3) A well-defined outside area, such as a playground, recreation area, outdoor theater, or other place of public assembly, which is occupied by twenty or more people, sixty days in any twelve-month period which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission; and

(4) A public highway, as defined in RCW 81.80.010(3).

In requesting prior written authorization of the commission, the petitioning gas company shall certify that it is not practical to select an alternative route which will avoid such locations and further certify that

management has given due consideration to the possibility of the future development of the area and has designed its facilities accordingly. The petition shall include, upon request of the commission, an aerial photograph showing the exact location of the pipeline in reference to places listed above that are within five hundred feet of the pipeline right of way.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-020, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-020, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-020, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-020 Proximity Considerations

A gas company must submit a written request and receive written approval prior to operating any gas pipeline facility at the following pressures:

(1) Gas facilities having a maximum operating pressure greater than five hundred pounds per square inch gauge (psig) that operate within five hundred feet of the places described below:

(a) A building intended for human occupancy that is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission, and which is not owned and used by the petitioning gas company in its gas operations.

(b) A well-defined outside area, such as a playground, recreation area, outdoor theater, or other place of public assembly, which may be occupied by twenty or more people and which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission.

(c) A public highway, as defined in RCW 81.80.010(3).

(2) Gas facilities having a maximum operating pressure from two hundred fifty one psig up to and including five hundred psig that operate within 100 feet of the places described below:

(a) A building intended for human occupancy that is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission, and which is not owned and used by the petitioning gas company in its gas operations.

(b) A well-defined outside area, such as a playground, recreation area, outdoor theater, or other place of public assembly, which may be occupied by twenty or more people and which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission.

(3) The petitioning gas company must provide documentation proving that it is not practical to select an alternative route that will avoid such locations and further document that management has considered the possibility of the future development of the area and has designed their facilities accordingly. Maps and records must be provided to the commission showing the exact location of the pipeline and the shortest direct distance to the places listed above. Upon request of the commission, the gas company must provide with the petition the maintenance, construction, and operational history of the pipeline system and an aerial photograph showing the exact location of the pipeline in reference to places listed above.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-030 Proscribed areas.

Gas facilities having a maximum operating pressure between two hundred fifty-one psig and four hundred ninety-nine psig shall not be operated within 100 feet of the places described below without prior written authorization of the commission, unless a waiver previously approved by the commission continues in effect:

(1) A building intended for human occupancy which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission, and which is not owned and used by the petitioning gas company in its gas operations; and

(2) A well-defined outside area, such as a playground, recreation area, outdoor theater, or other place of public assembly which is occupied by twenty or more people, sixty days in any twelve-month period, which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission.

The petition shall include, upon request of the commission, an aerial photograph showing the exact location of the pipeline in reference to the places listed above that are within one hundred feet of the pipeline right of way.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-030, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92;

Order R-28, § 480-93-030, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-030, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

WAC 480-93-030 Proscribed areas (Incorporated into 480-93-020)

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-040 Location of compressor stations on gas pipelines.

No compressor station to be located on any gas pipeline shall be constructed in any zoned area without prior approval of the appropriate zoning authority and acquisition of required permits. In other areas the distance between any compressor station designed to operate at pressures in excess of 250 psig and any existing building intended for human occupancy and not under the control of the gas company shall not be less than 500 feet, except for compressor stations having an installed capacity of less than 1,000 horsepower, in which case such distance shall not be less than 250 feet.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-040, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-040, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-040 Location of gas compressor stations on gas pipelines.

(1) Compressor stations located on a gas pipeline that are designed to operate at pressures in excess of 250 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) must be at least 500 feet away from any existing building intended for human occupancy that are not under the control of the gas company.

(2) Gas compressor stations having an installed capacity of less than 1,000 horsepower must be at least 250 feet away from any existing buildings intended for human occupancy that are not under the control of the gas company.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-100 Automatic valves.

Automatic valves shall not be installed on any gas pipeline except where the particular circumstances are such as to show that such valves will contribute to safer operation.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-100, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-100, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposal

WAC 480-93-100 Automatic valves.

Staff proposes to eliminate this rule in it's entirety.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-115 Casing of pipelines.

Whenever a gas company is required by a governmental entity or railroad company to install pipeline casing, the casing shall be designed to withstand the superimposed load. Steel pipe shall only be encased in a bare steel casing. A separate test lead wire shall be attached to the casing and the steel gas pipeline to verify that no electric short exists between the two. Tests shall be performed annually on all encased gas pipelines. Whenever a short exists between a pipeline and its casing, the condition shall be evaluated within ninety days to determine whether a hazardous condition exists. Thereafter, leak tests shall be conducted on a ninety day schedule until the condition is corrected. Every gas company shall develop procedures to ensure that whenever plastic pipe is encased, suitable precautions shall be taken to prevent crushing or shearing of the plastic pipe where it exits the casing.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-115, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-115 Casing of pipelines

Section (1) and (2) below applies to all new and pre-existing casings.

(1) Whenever a gas company installs pipeline casing, the casing must be designed to withstand the superimposed load. Steel pipe must be encased in a bare steel casing.

(2) A separate test lead wire must be attached to the casing and the steel gas pipeline to verify that no electric short exists between the two. Other testing methods may be acceptable if the gas company can demonstrate that the test lead wires are not necessary to monitor for electrical isolation and adequate cathodic protection levels. Tests must be performed annually not to exceed fifteen months, on all encased gas pipelines.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-130 Multistage pressure regulation.

Where gas pressures are reduced in two or more stages, the necessary regulations and auxiliary equipment will be installed in such a manner as to provide maximum protection between regulator systems. The purpose is to minimize the potential dangers from the failure of one stage of regulator equipment due to fire, explosion or damage of any kind from adversely affecting the operation of the other stage or stages of regulation. A minimum of fifty feet of separation must be provided between regulator systems when practical to do so.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-130, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-130, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-130 Multistage pressure regulation

Where gas pressures are reduced in two or more stages, the necessary regulators and auxiliary equipment will be installed in such a manner as to provide maximum protection between regulator systems. The purpose is to minimize the potential dangers from the failure of one stage of regulator equipment due to fire, explosion or damage of any kind from adversely affecting the operation of the other stage or

stages of regulation. A minimum of fifty feet of separation will be provided between regulator systems when practical to do so.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-140 Meter regulators.

Gas companies that have customers with electronic ignition appliances shall have meter regulators with relief valves, monitors, or safety shut-off valves. Gas companies that have customers with standing pilots may use meter regulators that do not use relief valves, monitors, or safety shut-off valves, if responsible officers of the gas company certify to the commission that due consideration has been given to the possible existence of foreign matter in their distribution system and other factors that might interfere with the proper operation of service regulators and they believe that under such conditions relief valves, monitors, or safety shut-off valves are not required or appropriate for safe operation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-140, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-140, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-140, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-140 Meter regulators.

Meter regulators must be installed, operated and maintained in accordance with federal and state regulations and in accordance with the manufacturers recommended installation and maintenance practices. Meter regulators and associated safety devices installed on services, must be inspected and tested during each start-up to determine whether they are in proper operating condition. Testing will include determining the gas regulators outlet set pressure at a specified flow rate. Pressure gauges must be used downstream of the regulator during testing.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-160 Reports of proposed construction.

(1) At least 30 days prior to the construction or major reconstruction (or reconditioning) of any gas pipeline intended to be operated at 20% or

more of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used, a report shall be filed with the commission setting forth the proposed route and the specifications for such pipeline. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following items:

(a) Description and purpose of the proposed pipeline.

(b) Pipe specifications and route map showing type of construction to be used throughout the length of the line and delineation of class location and incorporated boundaries along the route. Where Type A or B construction is planned, aerial photographs or other suitable means of verifying the applicability of Type A or B construction shall be furnished to the commission.

(c) Maximum allowable operating pressure for which the pipeline is being constructed.

(d) Location and construction details of all river crossings or other unusual construction requirements encountered en route; i.e., places where pipe will be exposed or it is impractical to provide required cover, bridge crossings, lines to be laid parallel to railroads or state highways and encroachments thereto, other areas requiring special or unusual design and construction considerations.

(e) Proposed corrosion control program to be followed including specifications for coating and wrapping.

(f) Type of fluid and test pressures to be used when proof strength testing the line. Terrain profile sketches indicating maximum and minimum elevations for testing purposes, if appropriate. Water will be used when feasible as the test medium on all lines 6" or greater in diameter and when the test pressure is to exceed 250 psig. If water is not to be used, briefly explain and list test medium to be used.

(g) Welding specifications and welding inspection methods and procedures to be followed during construction of the pipeline. Location of inspection records during and after construction. Name(s) and address(es) (while at the construction site) of authorized chief company inspector(s) and scope of responsibility, if appropriate. The 30-day advanced notification of name(s) and address(es) of chief inspector(s) is waived for this requirement and telephonic communication of such information will be acceptable. This information will, however, be furnished to the commission prior to the start of construction and will be kept current until construction is completed.

(h) Bending procedures to be followed.

(i) Location and specification of principal valves, regulators and other auxiliary equipment to be installed as a part of the pipeline system to be constructed.

(j) Any features of design or construction which do not meet or exceed the safety requirements of these rules and regulations will be explained and justified. Further, it will be necessary to certify that the proposed deviation meets all known safety requirements and in the

opinion of the certifying officer for the company, the deviation, if granted, would not contribute to the development of an unsafe operating condition in the system. All waivers to office of pipeline safety, department of transportation, rules and regulations require 60-day advanced notification before approval.

(2) Every gas company shall on the fifteenth day of each month submit a report to the commission setting forth the progress of such construction or major reconstruction as of the end of the preceding month.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-160, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-160, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-160 Reporting requirements for proposed construction.

(1) Every gas company must file a proposed construction report at least 45 days prior to a construction or replacement of any gas transmission pipeline. The report must be filed with the commission setting forth the proposed route and the specifications for the pipeline and must include, but is not limited to the following items:

- (a) Description and purpose of the proposed pipeline.
- (b) Route maps showing type of construction to be used throughout the length of the line and delineation of class location and incorporated boundaries along the route. Location and specification of principal valves, regulators and other auxiliary equipment to be installed as a part of the pipeline system to be constructed. When requested by the commission, aerial photographs must be submitted .
- (c) Maximum allowable operating pressure for which the pipeline is being constructed.
- (d) Location and construction details of all river crossings or other unusual construction requirements encountered en route; i.e., places where pipe will be exposed or it is impractical to provide required cover, bridge crossings, lines to be laid parallel to railroads or state highways and including encroachments, and any other areas requiring special or unusual design and construction considerations.

(e) Proposed corrosion control program to be followed including specifications for coating and wrapping, and ensuring the integrity of the coating using a methodology such as jeepping.

(f) Welding specifications.

(g) Bending procedures to be followed.

(2) Every gas company must submit a report to the commission on the fifteenth day of each month describing the progress of such construction or major reconstruction for the preceding month.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-160, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-160, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-170 Tests and reports thereof for pipelines.

(1) When any gas pipeline intended to be subjected to pressures in excess of 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used is placed in operation a report shall be filed with the commission certifying the maximum pressure to which the line is intended to be subjected and also certifying that the pipeline has been constructed and tested in accordance with the requirements of the rules herein prescribed. The results of all tests made pursuant thereto shall be filed with the commission within 30 days of placing the facilities into service. No gas pipeline hereafter placed in service shall be operated at pressures in excess of the pressure for which it was certified to the commission.

(2) At least 30 days prior to an increase and not later than 30 days subsequent to a decrease in the maximum allowable operating pressure of a pipeline, on pipelines operating at pressures equal to or greater than 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe in use, a report shall be filed with the commission giving change in allowable operating pressure, and, if the pressure was increased, the steps taken to qualify the line for higher operating pressure.

(3) The commission shall be notified in writing at least two business days prior to the commencement of any pressure test of a gas pipeline to be operated at pressures in excess of 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used.

(4) The pressure tests of any such gas pipeline built in Class 3 or Class 4 locations shall be of at least 8 hours' duration.

(5) When the test medium is to be a gas or compressible fluid then every gas company testing pipelines to be operated in excess of 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used

shall, prior to any tests, notify appropriate officials of all municipalities wherein such tests are to be made in order that adequate and proper police protection may be provided.

(6) The requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4) will be waived in an emergency where it is necessary to maintain continuity of service.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-170, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-170, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

Proposal

WAC 480-93-170 Tests and reports thereof for pipelines

A portion of this will be incorporated in the reporting rules and the remainder of the rule will be incorporated in the new testing rules.

Current Rule

WAC 480-93-175 Moving and lowering gas pipelines.

A gas company shall prepare a study, prior to the moving or lowering of every gas pipeline, except service lines and plastic mains, to determine whether the proposed action will cause an unsafe condition. This study will be reviewed and certified by the gas company's senior engineer and retained in the gas company's files for the life of the pipeline. The study shall include, but not be limited to the following criteria:

- (1) The required deflection of the pipeline;
- (2) The diameter, wall thickness, and grade of the pipe;
- (3) The characteristics of the pipeline;
- (4) The terrain and class location;
- (5) The soil conditions, including the pH;
- (6) The current condition of the pipeline;
- (7) The safe stress of the pipeline; and
- (8) The toughness of the steel.

If the toughness of the pipe is unknown, it shall be considered to be brittle, and the pipeline shall not be moved.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-175, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

Proposed Rule

WAC 480-93-175 Moving and lowering gas pipelines

(1) Every operator must prepare a study, prior to moving or lowering any gas pipeline, to determine whether the proposed action will cause an unsafe condition. This study must be reviewed and approved by the company's senior engineer and retained in the company's files for the life of the pipeline. The study must include, but not limited to the following criteria:

- (a) The required deflection of the pipe;
- (b) The diameter, wall thickness, and grade of pipe;
- (c) The characteristics of the pipeline;
- (d) The terrain and class location;
- (e) The present condition of the pipeline;
- (f) The anticipated stresses of the pipeline including the safe allowable stress limits;
- (g) The toughness of the steel.

(2) If the toughness of the pipeline is unknown it must be considered to be brittle and must not be moved or lowered. Pipelines with mechanical joints must not be moved or lowered.

(3) Pipelines operating at 60 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) or less and having a diameter of two inches or less may be moved or lowered if the operator can certify that no undue stresses will be placed on the pipeline and that it can be moved or lowered in a safe manner. Factors such as type of materials, proximity to fittings, joints, and welds, and any other factors that could place undue stress on the pipeline or create an unsafe condition must be considered.

WAC 480-93-XXX Protection of Plastic Pipe (New Rule)

(1) Every gas company must have detailed written procedures for the storage, handling, and installation of plastic pipelines. The storage, handling, and installation of all plastic pipelines other than joining procedures, must be in accordance with the latest applicable manufacturers' recommended practices. Unless a more stringent requirement is specified by the manufacturer, the following requirements must be adhered to.

- (2) The maximum cumulative ultraviolet light exposure limit for plastic pipe is 2 years or the manufacturer's recommended exposure limit, whichever is less.
- (3) When plastic pipe is pulled through the ground during the installation process and the pipe could potentially be exposed to excessive tensile stresses, a weak link or other method of ensuring that the pipe will not be damaged must be used.
- (4) When installing plastic pipelines parallel to other underground utilities a minimum of 12 inches of separation from the other utilities must be maintained. Where a minimum 12 inches of separation is not possible adequate precautions must be taken to minimize any potential hazards resulting from the close proximity to the other utilities.
- (5) Where installing plastic pipelines perpendicular to other underground utilities, a minimum of 6 inches of separation from the other utilities must be maintained. Where a minimum 6 inches of separation is not possible adequate precautions must be taken to minimize any potential hazards resulting from the close proximity to the other utilities.
- (6) Plastic pipe must not be installed above ground. Where necessary to prevent customer outage and no other alternative exists, plastic pipe may be temporarily installed above ground for a period of two weeks.
- (7) Plastic pipe must not be backfilled or bedded with any rock or debris larger than one half inch in diameter which could potentially cause damage. All efforts must be taken to provide a rock free bedding material for plastic pipe.
- (8) Plastic pipe must not be squeezed more than one time in the same location.
- (9) Plastic pipe must not be squeezed within 12 inches or 3 pipe diameters whichever is greater from the joint.
- (10) Plastic pipe must be installed and backfilled prior to being pressure tested to expose any potential damage that could have occurred during the installation and backfilling process.