

AUG 17 1992

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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of Chapter 480-93)
WAC, Rules Relating to: GAS)
COMPANIES - SAFETY, viz.:)
Amendment of WAC 480-93-002,)
-005, -010, -020, -030, -110,)
-120, -140, -180, -185, - 18601,))
-187, -188, -190, -200, -210,)
and -230; and Adoption of)
WAC 480-93-015, -017, -018)
-082, -111, -112, -115, -124,)
-155, -175, and -183.)
.)

TIME: 11:49 ^{PM}
WSR 92-16-100

DOCKET NO. UG-911261
GENERAL ORDER NO. R-375
ORDER AMENDING AND
ADOPTING RULES PERMANENTLY

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission takes this action under Notice No. WSR 92-06-086, filed with the Code Reviser on March 4, 1992, after issuing a notice of proposed rulemaking on February 12, 1992. The Commission brings this proceeding pursuant to RCW 80.01.040.

This proceeding complies with the Open Public Meetings Act (chapter 42.30 RCW), the Administrative Procedure Act (chapter 34.05 RCW), the State Register Act (chapter 34.08 RCW), the State Environmental Policy Act of 1971 (chapter 43.21C RCW), and the Regulatory Fairness Act (chapter 19.85 RCW).

The Commission scheduled this matter for oral comment under Notice WSR 92-06-086, for 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 1992, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.

The Notice provided interested persons the opportunity to submit initial data, information, or arguments to the Commission in writing until April 17, 1992. The Notice additionally provided for the submission of written reply comments until May 27, 1992. The Commission provided an additional opportunity for interested persons to submit written comments until June 4, 1992.

The Commission, pursuant to the Notice, considered the rule change proposal for adoption at its regularly scheduled June 17, 1992 open public meeting, before Chairman Sharon L. Nelson and Commissioners Richard D. Casad and A. J. Pardini. The Commission at that time heard additional oral comments on the proposed rule.

During the course of the Commission's consideration of the proposed rule, oral and/or written commentors included the ARCO Products Company and ARCO Western Gas Pipeline Company, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, City of Ellensburg, City of Enumclaw, Inland Empire Paper Company, Intalco Aluminum Corporation, North Pacific Paper Corporation, Northwest Industrial Gas Users, Northwest Natural Gas Company, Public Counsel, Town of Buckley, Washington Natural Gas Company, Washington Water Power Company, and Weyerhaeuser Company.

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During the period the proposed rules were under review and consideration, several versions of the draft rule were prepared and circulated to interested persons by the Commission. The draft language of nearly every section of the proposed rules was modified in part (and one section deleted in its entirety) in response to the oral and written comments submitted to the Commission.

The rule change affects no economic values.

After reviewing the entire oral and written record compiled in this proceeding, the Commission finds that WAC 480-93-002, -005, -010, -020, -030, -110, -120, -140, -180, -185, -18601, -187, -188, -190, -200, -210 and -230 should be amended, and WAC 480-93-015, -017, -018, -082, -111, -112, -115, -124, -155, -175, and -183 should be adopted as set forth in Appendix A, attached, and by reference made a part of the Commission's order.

ORDER

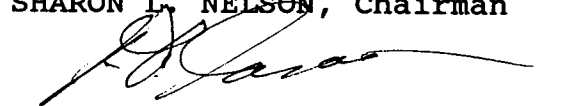
THE COMMISSION ORDERS That WAC 480-93-002, -005, -010, -020, -030, -110, -120, -140, -180, -185, -18601, -187, -188, -190, -200, -210 and -230 are amended, and WAC 480-93-015, -017, -018, -082, -111, -112, -115, -124, -155, -175, and -183 are adopted, as set forth in Appendix A, as rules of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to take effect pursuant to RCW 34.05.380(2).

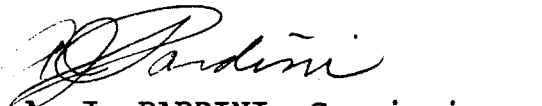
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That this order and the attached rule, after first being recorded in the order register of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, shall be forwarded to the Code Reviser for filing pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW and chapter 1-21 WAC.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, this 4th day of August 1992.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION


SHARON L. NELSON, Chairman


RICHARD D. CASAD, Commissioner


A. J. PARDINI, Commissioner

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AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-99, filed 5/18/77)

WAC 480-93-002 APPLICATION OF RULES. These rules shall apply to ~~((all-gas-companies))~~ every gas company, as that term is defined by WAC 480-93-005, and shall ~~((be-complied-with-in))~~ apply to the construction, operation, ((and)) maintenance, and safety of gas facilities ~~((for))~~ used in the ~~((transmission--and))~~ gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission of gas in this state ~~((by-these-gas-companies))~~, except those gas facilities exclusively under federal jurisdiction for compliance with pipeline safety regulations.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-100, filed 5/18/77)

WAC 480-93-005 DEFINITIONS. (1) ~~((Gas-company---the-term-"gas company"-shall-mean:~~

~~(a)-Every-gas-company-otherwise-subject-to--the--jurisdiction--of the-commission-as-to-rates-and-service,-or~~

~~(b)-Every-person,-corporation,-city-or-town,-transporting-natural gas--by--pipeline,-or-having-for-one-or-more-of-its-principal-purposes the-construction,-maintenance-or-operation-of-pipelines-for-transporting-natural-gas-in-this-state,-even-though-such--person,-corporation,-city--or-town-not-be-a-public-service-company-under-chapter-80-28-RCW, and-even-though-such--person,-corporation,-city--or--town--does--not deliver,-sell--or--furnish--any-such-gas-to-any-person-or-corporation within-this-state.-~~

~~(2)) Bar hole - a hole that has been made in the soil or paving for the specific purpose of testing the subsurface atmosphere with a~~ ~~((CGI)) combustible gas indicator.~~

~~((3)) (2) Building - any structure which is normally or occasionally entered by humans for business, residential, or other purposes and ((in)) within which gas could accumulate.~~

~~((4)) (3) Combustible gas indicator (CGI) - a device capable of detecting and measuring gas concentrations of the gas being transported.~~

~~((5)) (4) Confined space - any subsurface structure of sufficient size which could accommodate a person and ((in)) within which gas could accumulate, e.g., vaults, catch basins, manholes, etc.~~

~~((6)) (5) Follow-up inspection - an inspection performed after a repair has been completed in order to determine the effectiveness of the repair.~~

~~(6) Gas - natural gas, flammable gas, or gas which is toxic or corrosive.~~

~~(7) Gas associated substructures - those devices or facilities utilized by a gas company which are not intended for storing, ((transmitting)) transporting, or distributing gas, such as valve boxes, vaults, test boxes, and vented casing pipe.~~

~~(8) Gas company - the term "gas company" shall mean:~~

~~(a) Every gas company otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission under Title 80 RCW as to rates and service; and~~

~~(b) Every person, corporation, city, or town which owns or operates a pipeline transporting gas in this state, even though such person, corporation, city, or town is not a public service company under chapter 80.28 RCW, and even though such person, corporation, city, or town does not deliver, sell, or furnish gas to any person or corporation within this state.~~

~~(9) Gathering line - a gas pipeline which transports gas from the outlet of a well and any associated compressor to the connection with a second gathering line or with a transmission line.~~

~~(10) Indication - ((an-indication-is)) a response indicated by a gas detection instrument that has not been verified as a reading.~~

~~((9)) (11) L.E.L. - the lower explosive limit of the gas being transported.~~

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~~((+0))~~ (12) Main - a gas pipeline, not a gathering or transmission line:

(a) Which serves as a common source of gas for more than one service line;

(b) Which crosses a public right of way; or

(c) Which crosses property not owned by the customer or the gas company.

(13) Maximum operating pressure - a maximum pressure selected by a gas company for operation of a pipeline or segment of a pipeline, which is equal to or less than the maximum allowable operating pressure derived pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 192.

(14) Prompt action - ~~((this-action))~~ shall consist of dispatching qualified personnel without undue delay for the purpose of evaluating and where necessary abating ~~((the))~~ an existing or probable hazard.

~~((++))~~ (15) Reading - ~~((a-reading-is))~~ a repeatable deviation on a combustible gas indicator or equivalent instrument expressed in percent L.E.L. or gas-air ratio. Where the reading is in an unvented, confined space, consideration shall be given to the rate of dissipation when the space is ventilated and the rate of accumulation when the space is resealed.

~~((+2))~~ (16) Service line - a gas pipeline, not a main, gathering or transmission line, which provides service to one building. Service lines shall include gas pipelines extended from a main to provide service to one building, which traverse a public right of way or an easement immediately adjacent to a public right of way or another easement.

(17) Transmission line - a gas pipeline which connects to an existing transmission line without pressure regulation to lower the pressure; which is downstream of the connection of two or more gathering lines; and as defined in 49 CFR, Part 192, section 192.3.

~~((+3))~~ (18) Tunnel - a subsurface passageway large enough for a ~~((man))~~ person to enter and ~~((in))~~ within which gas could accumulate.

~~((+4))~~ (19) Other terms which correspond to those used in 49 CFR, Part 192 (Minimum Federal Safety Standards for Gas Pipelines) shall be construed as used therein.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-010 COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL STANDARDS. Gas gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission facilities in this state shall be constructed, maintained, and operated in compliance with the provisions of 49 CFR ~~((49))~~, Part 192 - Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Federal Safety Standards (effective November 12, 1970, except for those provisions applicable to design, installation, construction, initial inspection, and initial testing of new pipelines which become effective March 13, 1971) as developed and issued by the office of pipeline safety (OPS), United States Department of Transportation (DOT), under Public Law (PL) 90-481, and as published in the Federal Register, Vol. 35, No. 161, dated August 19, 1970, and all subsequent additions, deletions, or amendments thereto when appropriately authorized, issued, and made official by OPS-DOT.

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-015 ODORIZATION OF GAS. All gas being transported by pipeline in this state, and all gas consumed by an end use customer, shall be odorized in accordance with 49 CFR, Part 192.625, unless waiver is approved in advance of such transportation, in writing, by the commission.

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NEW SECTION

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.

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-018 MAPS, DRAWINGS, AND RECORDS OF GAS FACILITIES. All gas companies shall prepare, maintain, and provide to the commission, upon request, copies of maps, drawings, and records of the company's gas facilities. The maps, drawings, and records shall be of such scale and detail as is necessary to show the size and type of material of all facilities, whether or not the facilities are cathodically-protected, and the maximum operating pressure. The maps and drawings shall indicate all district regulator stations and gate stations and the approximate location of all valves, identifying those valves classified as emergency valves in the company's emergency procedures. The gas company shall provide key sheets for ready reference as needed.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-020 PROXIMITY CONSIDERATIONS. Gas (~~(pipelines-to-be operated-at-pressures-in-excess-of-500)~~) facilities having a maximum operating pressure greater than five hundred psig (~~(and-to-be-designed and--constructed--for-operation-in-a-Class-1-or-2-location)~~) shall not be (~~(constructed)~~) operated within (~~(500)~~) five hundred feet of the places described below without (~~(the-authority)~~) prior written authorization of (~~(this)~~) the commission, unless a waiver previously approved by the commission continues in effect:

(1) (~~(A-place-of-residence-)~~) 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-building-used-for-public-gatherings,-including-railroad stations-)~~) 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) (~~(Any--school--building,-hospital,-public--building-or-any playground-)~~

~~(5)-A-building-devoted-to-a-business-in-which-more-than-three people-are-employed-~~

~~(6-))~~ A public highway, as defined in RCW 81.80.010(3).

In requesting (~~(such-authority)~~) prior written authorization of the commission, the petitioning gas company shall certify ((to--the

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commission)) 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 ~~((that there is no justification for the pipeline to be designed and constructed to meet Class 3 or 4 requirements at such locations))~~ 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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-030 PROSCRIBED AREAS. Gas ~~((pipelines which are to be operated at a maximum pressure in excess of 250))~~ facilities having a maximum operating pressure between two hundred fifty-one psig and four hundred ninety-nine psig shall not be ~~((installed))~~ operated within 100 feet of ~~((any building intended for human occupancy which is in existence or under construction prior to or at the date of execution of the right of way agreement or at the date of filing of a petition in condemnation unless such installation is authorized and approved by the commission))~~ 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.

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-082 QUALIFICATION OF EMPLOYEES. Every gas company that operates a gas facility in this state shall have one or more employees working in this state that are collectively knowledgeable and qualified in all aspects of gas company construction, operation, maintenance, and state and federal gas safety rules and regulations. Every gas company shall prepare, maintain, and provide to the commission, upon request, evidence of the qualifications of employees to perform all duties assigned in the operation, maintenance, inspection, and construction of gas facilities. This evidence of an employee's qualifications shall specify the type of all training received, when and where such training was received, and the length of time the employee has performed the specific duties assigned. On the job training, under the supervision of personnel qualified by training and experience, in a company-certified, company-sponsored training program, may satisfy the requirements of this section.

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AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-110 CORROSION CONTROL. Every gas company must ensure that all of its metallic gas pipelines, except cast iron and ductile iron, are protected by a recognized method or combination of methods of cathodic protection. Every gas company shall record and retain all cathodic protection test readings taken and complete remedial action within ninety days to correct any cathodic protection deficiencies known and indicated by the company's records.

Whenever a gas company finds from investigation as required by 49 CFR ((49)), Part 192, that ((corrosion)) cathodic protection of gas pipelines ((located--within--a--Class-3-or-4-location)) is not needed, ((such)) the company shall submit to the commission a report setting forth good and sufficient reasons why such protection is not required((,--such)). The report ((to)) shall include the results of soil tests and other supporting data((,--otherwise--all--gas--pipelines--located--in--a--Class-3-or-4-location--shall--be--protected--by--a--recognized--method--or--combination--of--methods--of--corrosion--protection)).

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-111 NONCATHODICALLY PROTECTED GAS FACILITIES. Every gas company that has metallic gas facilities which are not now, or have never been, under cathodic protection or are not under adequate cathodic protection, shall semiannually provide to the commission, upon request, drawings which show the location of such facilities, and a description of their size and material. The drawings and associated documentation will indicate the approximate date by which cathodic protection will be applied or the facilities will be replaced. If the gas company can prove, through electrical test data and other means, that the gas facilities are not in a corrosive environment, then neither cathodic protection nor replacement will be required.

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-112 CORROSIVE CONDITION INVESTIGATION. Whenever a gas company finds the presence of active corrosion; that the surface of the gas facility is generally pitted; or that corrosion has caused a leak, the company shall investigate further to determine the extent of the corrosion. Within ninety days after the discovery of a corrosive situation, action shall be taken to correct any unsafe condition. The company shall record the condition of all underground gas facilities each time such facility is exposed and retain those records for the life of that facility.

NEW SECTION

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.

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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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-120 EXPOSED PIPELINES. Proper warning signs shall be placed ~~((or))~~ and other adequate protective measures taken at any point where gas pipelines ~~((or-mains-or))~~ and any associated equipment and facilities are exposed ~~((and/or--because--of))~~, and where their location presents an unusually hazardous situation~~((+s))~~. ~~((+i-e-7 river-crossings, road-crossings, railroad-crossings,--etc--especially where--pressures--in-excess-of-100-psig-are-involved-))~~ All gas pipelines attached to bridges or otherwise spanning an area shall have proper warning signs at both ends of the suspended pipeline. The gas company shall keep these signs visible and readable, and inspect all signs annually; signs which are reported damaged and missing shall be replaced promptly.

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-124 PIPELINE MARKERS. All buried gas pipelines shall have pipeline markers placed and maintained as close as practical over each main and transmission line as required by 49 CFR, Part 192.707. Off-set pipeline markers may be used only if they indicate the distance from and direction to the pipeline. The pipeline markers shall be double-faced or single-faced signs. Single-faced signs may be used on posts of distinctive color and shall meet the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 192.707(d). Pipeline markers shall be placed at all railroad crossings, road crossings, irrigation and drainage ditch crossings, and at all fence lines where a pipeline crosses private property. Pipeline markers required by 49 CFR, Part 192.707(a), shall be placed approximately five hundred yards apart if practical and at points of deflection of the pipeline. Exceptions to this rule must conform with 49 CFR, Part 192.707(b).

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-140 ~~((HOUSE))~~ 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 ~~((on-house-regulators-shall-certify, through-responsible-officers-thereof, to the commission--they--have--given))~~, 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.

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NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-155 INCREASING MAXIMUM OPERATING PRESSURE. Notwithstanding the requirements of any other section of this chapter, the commission shall be furnished complete written plans and drawings of each pressure uprating to a maximum operating pressure greater than sixty psig, at least thirty days prior to raising the pressure. The plan shall include a review of the following:

- (1) All affected gas facilities, including pipe, fittings, valves, and other associated equipment, with their manufactured design operating pressure and specifications;
- (2) Original design and construction standards;
- (3) All previous operating pressures and length of time at that pressure;
- (4) All leaks, regardless of cause, and the date and method of repair;
- (5) All upstream and downstream regulators and relief valves; and
- (6) All cathodic protection readings on mains for the past three years or three most recent inspections, whichever is longer, and the most recent inspection on each attached service line, which is electrically isolated.

The plan shall conform with the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 192.

NEW SECTION

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.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-180 PLAN OF OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES ((AND-REPORTS-THEREON)); EMERGENCY POLICY; REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. In compliance with the provisions and general intent of the federal "Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act," ((see)) 49 CFR ((49)), Part 192, ((Sections-192-603-and-192-605)-each)) every gas company shall develop appropriate operating, maintenance ((and/or)), safety, and inspection plans and ((/or)) procedures and an emergency policy. Such plans and ((/or)) procedures, ((as--well--as)) and all subsequent changes ((thereto)) and amendments, initiated by the gas company or pursuant to changes in state and federal rules and regulations, shall be promptly filed with the commission, for review and ((/or)) determination as to ((the)) their adequacy ((of-such)), when properly executed, to achieve an acceptable level of safety. The commission may, after notice and opportunity for ((a)) hearing, require such plans

and(~~/or~~) procedures to be revised. (~~(Such plans--and/or--procedures will be furnished the appropriate federal agency upon request.--Operational,--maintenance--and--inspection--plans--and/or--procedures will be considered as having been filed with the--commission--when--such--have been officially issued by the company and made available to commission personnel at a mutually acceptable filing location and so certified to in--writing to the commission.--The file designated for commission use will be officially designated or identified--by--the--company--as--the "WUTC official file."~~Such files will be kept current and will not be removed--from the agreed location except by authorized commission personnel and/or for purposes of proper--file--maintenance.) The plans and(~~/or~~) procedures required by the commission shall be practicable and designed to meet the needs of safety. In determining the adequacy of such plans and(~~/or~~) procedures to achieve an acceptable level of safety, the commission shall consider:

- (1) Relevant available pipeline safety data(~~(-)~~);
 - (2) Whether the plans and(~~/or~~) procedures are appropriate for the particular type of pipeline operations being (~~(engaged--in)~~) performed by the gas company, taking into consideration company size, geographical area of operation, and the public interest(~~(-)~~);
 - (3) The reasonableness of the plans and(~~/or~~) procedures(~~(-)~~);
- and
- (4) The extent to which the plans (~~(or)~~) and procedures, if properly executed, will contribute to (~~(assuring)~~) an acceptable level of public safety being (~~(maintained)~~) achieved by the company.

Furthermore, (~~(each)~~) every gas company shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining such records, making such reports, and providing such information as the commission may reasonably require to enable it to determine whether the gas company has acted (~~(or)~~) and is acting in compliance with these rules and regulations and the standards established thereunder. (~~(Each)~~) Every gas company shall, upon request of the commission (~~(or)~~) and its authorized representatives, permit the commission (~~(or)~~) and its authorized representatives to inspect books, papers, records, and documents relevant to determining whether the gas company (~~(or)~~) and its agents have acted (~~(or)~~) and are acting in compliance with these rules and regulations and(~~/or~~) the standards established (~~(hereunder)~~) thereunder. Such commission inspections shall be conducted at reasonable times, within reasonable limits, and in a reasonable manner, and each inspection shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness.

NEW SECTION

WAC 480-93-183 PIPELINE AND SYSTEM PRESSURE REPORTING. All gas companies shall establish a maximum operating pressure for a pipeline or system, in accordance with this chapter, and notify the commission of the following pressure related changes:

- (1) When a pipeline or system pressure exceeds the established maximum operating pressure, the commission shall be notified within six hours, to be followed by written explanation within thirty days;
- (2) When a gas company proposes to raise any pipeline's pressure above two hundred fifty psig, the gas company shall petition the commission for a waiver of WAC 480-93-030, if applicable, before increasing the pressure;
- (3) When a gas company proposes to raise any pipeline's pressure above five hundred psig, the gas company shall petition the commission for a waiver of WAC 480-93-020, if applicable, before increasing the pressure;
- (4) When a pipeline or system operating at low pressure drops below the safe operating conditions of attached appliances and gas equipment; and
- (5) When a pipeline, operating in excess of two hundred fifty psig, is taken out of service for any reason the commission shall be

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notified within six hours, followed by written explanation within thirty days.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-102, filed 5/18/77)

WAC 480-93-185 GAS LEAK INVESTIGATION. Any notification of a leak, explosion, or fire, which may involve gas pipelines or other gas facilities, received from an outside source such as a police or fire department, other utility, contractor, customer, or the general public, shall be investigated promptly by the gas company. Where the investigation reveals a leak, the leak shall be graded pursuant to WAC 480-93-186 and appropriate action shall be taken in accordance with these rules.

When leak indications are found to originate from a foreign source or facility, such as gasoline vapors, sewer or marsh gas, or customer-owned piping, prompt action shall be taken at that time, where appropriate, to protect life and property. Leaks that ((are)) represent an ongoing, potentially hazardous situation shall be reported promptly to the owner or operator of the source facility and, where appropriate, to the police department, or other appropriate governmental agency. In all cases, the property owner or the adult person occupying the premises shall be notified of the leak conditions. If no methane indication is found, the gas company employee on-site shall so inform the property owner or the adult person occupying the premises, and shall request the adult person occupying the premises sign the gas company work order indicating that a gas leak was not the source of the leak indication. The gas company employee shall provide the adult person occupying the premises an odor sniff card which identifies the odor of natural gas and indicates the name, address, and telephone number of the gas company representative to be contacted if the leak indications are again noticed. If the property owner or an adult person occupying the premises is not available, the gas company shall, within twenty-four hours of the leak notification, send by first-class mail addressed to the person occupying the premises, a letter explaining the results of the investigation. A copy of the letter shall be retained by the gas company and kept with the leak report. A leak investigation report form shall be maintained in the gas company's leak report files for all leaks investigated, indicating gas company employee making the initial leak evaluation.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-103, filed 5/18/77)

WAC 480-93-18601 TABLE 1--LEAK CLASSIFICATION AND ACTION CRITERIA--GRADE--DEFINITION--PRIORITY OF LEAK REPAIR--EXAMPLES.

TABLE 1--LEAK CLASSIFICATION AND ACTION CRITERIA

GRADE 1
DEFINITION

A leak that represents an existing or probable hazard to persons or property and requires immediate repair or continuous action until the conditions are no longer hazardous.

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PRIORITY OF LEAK REPAIR	EXAMPLES
Requires prompt action* to protect life and property and continuous action until the conditions are no longer hazardous.	Leaks requiring prompt action:
*The prompt action in some instances may require one or more of the following:	1. Any leak which, in the judgment of operating personnel at the scene, is regarded as an immediate hazard.
a. Implementation of company emergency plan (192.615).	2. Escaping gas that has ignited unintentionally.
b. Evacuating premises.	3. Any indication of gas which has migrated into or under a building or tunnel.
c. Blocking off an area.	4. Any reading at the outside wall of a building or where the gas would likely migrate to the outside wall of a building.
d. Rerouting traffic.	5. Any reading of 80% LEL or greater in a confined space.
e. Eliminating sources of ignition.	6. Any reading of 80% LEL, or greater in small substructures not associated with gas facilities where the gas would likely migrate to the outside wall of a building.
f. Venting the area, or	7. Any leak that can be seen, heard, or felt and which is in a location that may endanger the general public or property.
g. Stopping the flow of gas by closing valves or other means.	
h. Notifying police and fire ((department{s})) <u>departments</u> .	

GRADE 2
DEFINITION

A leak that is recognized as being nonhazardous at the time of detection but justifies scheduled repair based on probable future hazard.

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Leaks should be repaired or cleared in one year but shall not exceed fifteen months from the date reported. If a Grade 2 leak occurs in a segment of pipeline which is under consideration for replacement, an additional 6 months may be added to the 15 months maximum time for repair noted above. In determining the repair priority, criteria such as the following should be considered:	A. Leaks requiring action ahead of ground freezing or other adverse changes in venting conditions:
a. Amount and migration of gas, b. Proximity of gas to buildings and subsurface structures, c. Extent of pavement, and d. Soil type and conditions, such as frost cap, moisture	1. Any leak, which under frozen or other adverse soil conditions, would likely migrate to the outside of a building.
	B. Leaks requiring action within six months:
	1. Any reading of 40% LEL or greater under a sidewalk in a wall-to-wall paved area that does not qualify as a Grade 1 leak and where gas is likely to migrate to the outside wall of a building.

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and natural venting.
Grade 2 leaks shall be re-evaluated at least once every six months until cleared. The frequency of reevaluation should be determined by the location and magnitude of the leakage condition.

It should be recognized that Grade 2 leaks will vary greatly in degree of potential hazard. There will be some Grade 2 leaks, which when evaluated by the above criteria, will justify scheduled repair within the next 5 working days. Others will justify repair within 30 days. These situations shall be brought to the attention of the individual responsible for scheduling leakage repair at the end of the working day.

On the other hand, there will be many Grade 2 leaks, which because of their location and magnitude, can be scheduled for repair on a normal routine basis with periodic reinspection as necessary.

2. Any reading of 100% LEL or greater under a street in a wall-to-wall paved area that does not qualify as a Grade 1 leak and where the gas is likely to migrate to the outside wall of a building.
3. Any reading less than 80% LEL in small substructures not associated with gas facilities where gas would likely migrate creating a probable future hazard.
4. Any reading between 20% LEL and 80% LEL in a confined space.
5. Any reading on a pipeline operating at 30% SMYS or greater in Class 3 or 4 locations that does not qualify as a Grade 1 leak.
6. Any leak which in the judgment of operating personnel at the scene is of sufficient magnitude to justify scheduled repair.

GRADE 3
DEFINITION

A leak that is nonhazardous at the time of detection and can reasonably be expected to remain nonhazardous.

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Grade 3 leaks should be re-evaluated during the next scheduled survey, or within 15 months of the reporting date, whichever occurs first, until the leak is regraded or no longer results in a reading.

Leaks requiring reevaluation at periodic intervals:

1. Any reading of less than 80% LEL in small gas associated substructures such as small meter boxes or gas valve boxes.
2. Any reading under a street in areas without wall-to-wall paving where it is unlikely the gas could migrate to the outside wall of a building.
3. Any reading of less than 20% LEL in a confined space.

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AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-104, filed 5/18/77)

WAC 480-93-187 RECORDS AND SELF AUDIT. (1) Gas leak records. ((Historical--gas--leak--repair--records--shall--be--maintained--by--each)) Every gas company shall prepare and maintain permanent gas leak repair records. Sufficient data and information shall be ((available--so that)) included in leak repair records to permit the commission to assess the adequacy of the company maintenance programs ((can--be--demonstrated)) and to provide the data and information needed to complete ((department--of--transportation--leak--report--forms--DOT)) every required RSPA F-7100.1, ((DOT)) F-7100.1-1, ((DOT)) F-7100.2, and ((DOT)) F-7100.2-1 leak report.

(2) The following data and information shall be recorded and maintained((--but--need--not--be--in--any--specific--format--or--retained--at--one--location--Environmental--description--records--are--required--only--for--those--leaks--which--are--reported--to--a--regulatory--agency)). Every gas company which by law must report leaks to a regulatory agency charged by law with environmental protection shall file copies of those reports with the commission. Data and information which cannot reasonably be expected to be available under the particular circumstances ((existing)) of a leak situation need not be reported~~((:))~~, but at a minimum will include the following:

(a) Date ((detected, time reported, time dispatched, time investigated and by whom)) and time detected, date and time reported, date and time and name of employees dispatched, and the date and time the leak was investigated;

(b) Date and time the leak was reevaluated before repair, and ((by whom)) the name of the employee involved;

(c) Date ((repaired)) and time of repair, when a Grade 1 leak is involved, and ((by whom)) the name of the employee in charge of the repair;

(d) Date and time the leak was rechecked after repair and ((by whom)) the employee involved;

(e) If leak was reportable ((leak)) to an environmental agency, date and time ((of telephone)) report made to regulatory authority and ((by whom)) name of reporting employee;

(f) Location of leak((:)) (sufficiently described to allow ready location by other competent personnel((:)));

(g) Leak grade((:));

(h) Line use((:)) (distribution, transmission, etc.);

(i) Method of leak detection((:)) (if reported by outside party, list name and address((:)));

(j) Part of system where leak occurred((:)) (main, service, etc.);

(k) Part of system which leaked((:)) (pipe, valve, fitting, compressor or regulator station, etc.);

(l) Material which leaked((:)) (steel, plastic, cast iron, etc.);

(m) Origin of leak((:));

(n) Pipe description((:));

(o) Type repair((:));

(p) Leak cause((:));

(q) Date pipe installed (if known)((:));

(r) Whether under cathodic protection((?--Yes--No)); and

(s) Magnitude of CGI readings at appropriate locations which are a part of the classification procedures contained in Table 1 of WAC 480-93-186 [codified as WAC 480-93-18601].

The data to be recorded on leaks which have been appropriately ((graded)) classified as "Grade 3" may be at the company's discretion, but must include, ((as)) at a minimum, information necessary to allow for proper follow-up action to be accomplished.

((+2)) (3) Self audits. In order that the effectiveness of the leak repair program may be evaluated, the following self audits shall be performed by ((each)) every gas company:

(a) Repair scheduling - assure that repairs are made within the time specified((:));

- (b) Repair effectiveness - assure that leak repairs are effective((?)); and
 (c) Check adequacy of records.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-105, filed 5/18/77)

WAC 480-93-188 GAS LEAK SURVEYS. (1) Types of gas leak surveys and test methods. ~~((leak-surveys-and-test-methods-as-set-forth-in-the-most-currently-published-issue-of-the-American-Society-of-Mechanical Engineers-Guide-for-Gas-Transmission-and-Distribution-Systems,--Guide Material--Appendix--6--it--subsection-3-4,--entitled--leakage-Surveys-and Test-Methods--shall-be-employed--at--the--discretion--of--the--operator either-singly-or-in-combination.--Other-survey-and-test-methods-may-be employed--if--they--are--authorized--by--an--appropriate--governmental agency--))~~ Every gas company shall have a leak control program, which shall be determined by the nature of the gas company's system and by existing physical and operating conditions, and which must meet the following minimum requirements. During a gas leak survey, a gas detection instrument shall be conducted over all mains and services, including the testing of the atmosphere in gas, electric, telephone, sewer, water, and other underground structures; at cracks in paving, and in wall-to-wall paved areas, the cracks in sidewalks; at building walls; and at other opportune locations for discovering gas leaks.

(2) Maintenance and calibration of instruments. All instruments used in leak detection and evaluation shall be maintained, calibrated, and operated in accordance with the latest applicable manufacturers' specifications, methods, and procedures unless alternative specifications, methods, and procedures have been approved by an appropriate governmental agency.

(3) Frequency of surveys in designated areas. Gas leakage surveys shall be conducted according to the following specified frequencies:

(a) Business areas - at ~~((least-annually--))~~ intervals not exceeding fifteen months, but at least once each calendar year;

(b) Residential areas - ~~((at-least-every--))~~ as frequently as necessary, but at intervals not exceeding five years((?));

(c) Buildings of public assembly - at ~~((least-annually--))~~ intervals not exceeding fifteen months, but at least once each calendar year;

(d) Special surveys ~~((or-abnormal-areas--))~~ - as required; and

(e) Where the gas system has cast iron, wrought iron, or ductile iron, or noncathodically protected bare steel, galvanized steel, or coated steel pipe - at intervals not exceeding eight months, but at least twice each calendar year.

(4) Business areas and buildings of public assembly. Leakage surveys of business areas and public buildings shall be conducted on the following basis:

(a) All business structures and buildings of public assembly within 100 feet of an active pipeline, whether or not served with gas, shall be considered for survey((?));

(b) Where gas service lines exist, a survey shall be conducted at the building wall at the point of entrance, using a bar hole if necessary((?));

(c) Surveys shall be conducted within all buildings where leakage has been detected at the outside wall at all points where escaping gas could be expected to penetrate into and accumulate inside the building((?)); and

(d) Service piping, riser piping and meter(s) shall be checked with soap solution or by use of a gas ~~((detector))~~ detection instrument.

(5) Special surveys. Special leakage surveys shall be conducted in the following circumstances:

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(a) Prior to paving or resurfacing, following street alterations or repairs, where gas facilities are under the area to be paved, and where there is a substantial probability that damage could have occurred to the gas facilities, an appropriate gas survey, including manholes and other street openings, shall be made((?));

(b) In areas of sewer, water, or other substructure construction adjacent to underground gas facilities, where there is a substantial probability that damage could have occurred to the gas facilities, an appropriate gas detection survey shall be made following the completion of installation but prior to paving((?));

(c) Unstable soil areas where active gas lines could be affected((?));

(d) Special surveys shall be made annually of places of public congregation when an active gas service line serves the building or where active gas service lines or mains are located with such close proximity as to present a possible hazard should leakage occur, for example((-

~~(+)-Churches-~~

~~(+)-Schools-~~

~~(+)), churches; schools; and hospitals((?));~~

(e) Special surveys shall be made of abnormal areas. Special surveys shall be conducted in areas of unusual activity, including, but not limited to, foreign construction, possible ground movement, flooding, earthquake, and explosions.

(6) Leak survey records. For the most current and immediately ((previous)) preceding survey of an area, the following information shall be maintained:

(a) Description of system and area surveyed((?)) (this could include maps and((/or)) leak survey logs((?));

(b) Survey results((?));

(c) Survey method((?));

(d) Names of those making survey((?));

(e) Survey dates((?)); and

(f) In addition to the above, the following records shall be kept for pressure drop test:

(i) The ((operator's name, the name of the operator's)) name of the gas company, the name of the gas company employee responsible for making the test, and the name of any test company used((?));

(ii) Test medium used((?));

(iii) Test pressure((?));

(iv) Test duration((?));

(v) Pressure recording charts, or other record of pressure readings((?)); and

(vi) Test results.

(7) Self audits. In order that the effectiveness of the leak detection and repair program may be evaluated, the following self audits shall be performed ((periodically)) as frequently as necessary, but at intervals not exceeding three years:

(a) Leak survey schedule - assure that it is commensurate with the Minimum Federal Safety Standards for gas lines, Subpart M-Maintenance, and the general condition of the pipeline system as required by other applicable regulations((?));

(b) Survey effectiveness - evaluate survey results to assure that a consistent evaluation of leaks is being made throughout the system((?)); and

(c) Check adequacy of records.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-190 BEING AWARE OF CONSTRUCTION WORK, NEAR ((COMPANY)) GAS COMPANY FACILITIES. ((A--definite-program-shall-be-adopted-by)) All gas companies shall subscribe to the available "one call locating

service" in every area their facilities are located. Every gas company shall establish procedures for obtaining prompt notice and full information concerning the commencement and progress of all construction work in areas in close proximity to ((~~pipelines, mains or~~)) gathering lines, mains, service lines, transmission lines, and other gas facilities. The object of such a program will be to lessen the probability of incurring damage to the company's underground facilities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-200 ((~~REPORTING--ACCIDENTS~~)) REPORTS ASSOCIATED WITH GAS COMPANY FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS. (1) ((~~Each~~)) Every gas company shall give prompt telephonic notice to the commission, within six hours of occurrence, of every accident ((~~or~~)), incident, or hazardous condition, arising out of its ((~~facilities employed in the transmission, supply, storage, distribution or company use of gas~~)) operations which:

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

(b) Results in damage to the property of the company and others of a combined total exceeding ((~~\$7,000~~)) five thousand dollars (auto-mobile collisions and other equipment accidents not involving gas or gas handling equipment need not be reported under this rule); ((~~or~~))

(c) ((~~Requires the taking of any segment of a transmission or a major distribution supply pipeline out of service, or~~

~~(d) Results in gas escaping and igniting, or~~

~~(e))~~ Is significant, in the judgment of the company, even though it does not meet the criteria of ((~~subparagraphs~~)) (a) ((~~through (d)~~)) and (b) of this subsection;

(d) Results in the taking of a high pressure supply or transmission pipeline or a major distribution supply pipeline out of service or lowering its pressure fifty percent or more below its normal operating pressure; or

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

(2) Such reports shall be verified in detail in writing if not so reported initially and shall include at least the following:

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

(b) The extent of such injuries and ((~~or~~)) damage; ((~~and~~))

(c) A description of the accident ((~~or~~)), incident, or hazardous condition to include date, time, and place;

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

(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) A report shall be available to the commission within three months, upon request, of the failure analysis of any accident, incident, or hazardous condition which was due to construction or material failure.

Routine or planned maintenance and operational activities of the company which result in company controlled plant and equipment shut downs, reduction in system pressures except as noted above, flaring or venting of gas, ((~~taking a segment of pipeline out of service~~)) and normal leak repairs are not to be considered reportable items under this ((~~rule~~)) section.

((~~Reference CFR 49 Part 191 (OPS Leak Reporting--Requirements--Bocket No. OPS-2) Sections 191.57-191.77-191.97-191.117-191.137-191.156-191.177--Unless otherwise directed by the commission, the Washington~~

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utilities and transportation commission elects to follow the filing of written leak reports as specified under Section 191.7 as a part of its Section 5(a) agreement.---A))

(3) Every gas company ((may)) shall file ((the original and one)) a copy of ((each)) every required RSPA F-7100.1-1 and F-7100.2-1 leak report with the ((WUTC which will in turn (within 10 days) forward a copy to the OPS or it may file one copy directly with the OPS and one copy with the WUTC.---Telephonic reporting as required by Section 191.5 will be made to the WUTC who will, if the company desires, relay the reported information to OPS.---In the event that WUTC personnel cannot be contacted, then direct reporting to OPS is required)) commission. Names and ((phone)) telephone numbers of ((WUTC)) commission personnel authorized to take telephonic leak reports will be furnished and kept current under a separate letter to ((each)) every company.

((Every)) (4) All gas ((company operating such system in this state)) companies shall file with ((this)) the commission, and with appropriate officials of all municipalities within which such gas ((pipelines are located)) companies have facilities, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of responsible officials of such gas companies who may be contacted in the event of an emergency. In the event of any changes in gas company personnel, immediate notification thereof shall be given to ((this)) the commission and ((such)) municipalities.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-210 INTERRUPTIONS TO SERVICE. Interruptions to the service furnished by any gas ((pipeline or main affecting a whole-sale)) company to an industrial customer, a master meter customer, or ((25)) twenty-five or more ((distributor)) distribution customers, or the failure of any ((major equipment thereof)) gas facilities, shall be ((promptly)) reported to the commission within six hours. When service has been restored, a written report shall be submitted promptly to the commission detailing the cause of the interruption or failure and steps taken to prevent any recurrence.

This requirement shall not apply to interruptions to service made by gas companies in accordance with the provisions of contracts between such companies and their customers or other planned interruptions carried out in conjunction with normal operational and maintenance requirements of the company.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending Order R-28, filed 7/15/71)

WAC 480-93-230 MODIFICATION/WAIVERS. If ((in the opinion of the)) a gas company ((it is determined)) determines that an undue hardship or an unsafe condition may result from the application of any rule ((herein prescribed because of special facts)) in this chapter, application may be made to the commission to deviate from the ((order)) rule. ((Each)) Every request for a deviation shall be accompanied by ((a)) full and complete justification for such requested deviation ((together with a proposed alternate rule which will be applicable to the conditions requiring the 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 ((reduced to writing)) written, properly documented, and submitted to the commission ((in sufficient time to allow a 60-day advanced notice to the office of pipeline safety prior to such a waiver becoming

effective)). 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.

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