



Natural Gas Commercial Quality Regulation – Technical Service

AERS and PA PUC Partnership



May 2011

Emergency Procedures



- **§ 59.63. Natural gas emergency plans.**

- ✓ As part of its officially filed tariff, each jurisdictional gas utility shall have on file with the Commission natural gas emergency plans. The plans shall be under Commission requirements § § 59.71—59.75 (relating to gas emergency plans).



Interruptions



- **§ 59.12. Interruptions of service.**
- (a) *Records.* Each public utility shall keep a record which shall include data showing the time, duration and cause of each interruption of service affecting its entire system or a major division of its system.
- (b) *Notification to customers.* Each customer who may be affected shall be notified prior to starting work which will result in an interruption of his service.



Interruptions



- **Scheduled system work outages:**
 - ✓ **Normally no scheduled outages**
 - ✓ **System bypass in place for routine work**
 - ✓ **Notice to customers required if outage expected**



Interruptions



- **Unscheduled system outages:**
 - ✓ **Normally due to contractor line hits**
 - ✓ **No complete restoration time metrics**
 - ✓ **Dispatch and on-site response metrics**
 - **15 minutes to dispatch**
 - **60 minutes to arrive on site**



Interruptions



- Operational Flow Order (“OFO”) – A directive issued by the Company that is reasonably necessary to alleviate conditions that threaten the operational integrity of the Company’s system on a critical day.
- Daily Flow Directive (“DFD”) – An order issued by the Company to address system management issues on a non-critical day, including actions necessary to comply with statutory directives and obligations.



Pipeline Leaks



- **Leak Grades:**
 - ✓ **Class / Grade 1 – repair immediately**
 - ✓ **Class / Grade 2 – repair within 15 months**
 - ✓ **Class / Grade 3 – monitor**
- **§ 59.34 requires establishment and execution of leak survey plan**



Gas Quality Complaints



- ***Types of quality complaints:***
 - ✓ ***Heating Value and Purity of Gas***
 - ***PUC tests as soon as practical, necessarily immediate***
 - ✓ ***Pressure is too high***
 - ***Safety issue – immediate PUC testing***
 - ✓ ***Pressure is too low***
 - ***Safety issue – immediate PUC testing***



Accident Response Criteria



- (1) An event that involves a release of gas from a pipeline or of LNG or gas from an LNG facility and one of the following:
 - (i) A death, or personal injury necessitating inpatient hospitalization
 - (ii) Estimated property damage, including cost of gas lost, of the operator or others, or both, of \$50,000 or more.
- (2) An event that results in an emergency shutdown of an LNG facility.
- (3) An event that is significant, in the judgment of the operator, even though it did not meet the criteria of paragraph (1) or (2).



Accident Response Criteria



- Written report from natural gas company within 30 days
- Average about 4 reportable incidents each year due to line hits, corrosion or operator error



Meter Testing



- **§ 59.19. Testing facilities and records.**
- (a) *Testing facilities. Each public utility shall provide and keep available the laboratory meter-testing equipment and auxiliary appliances as may be necessary to make tests required by the Commission. The apparatus and equipment so provided shall be of standard type, and measuring devices shall be accurate within normal laboratory limits and shall be available at all times for the inspection or use of the Commission staff.*
- (b) *Tests and records. Each public utility shall, as a minimum requirement, make tests as prescribed in this chapter with the frequency, in the manner, and at the places as provided in this chapter or as may be approved or ordered by the Commission, and shall keep records of the tests.*



Meter Testing



- **§ 59.20. Meter-testing equipment.**

(a) *General testing equipment.* Each public utility furnishing metered gas service shall own and maintain the equipment and facilities necessary for accurately testing the various types and sizes of meters used by such utility for the measurement of gas, unless arrangements are made to have the testing done in a shop or laboratory containing equipment and operated in a manner acceptable to the Commission. The accuracy of provers and method of operation will be checked periodically by the Commission. Alterations, accidents, or repairs to stationary meter-proving equipment, which might affect the accuracy of the equipment or the method of operating it, shall be promptly reported in writing to the Commission. The accuracy of testing instruments and equipment used as utility standards, such as dead-weight testers and precision type pressure gauges, which are used in the testing or calibration of meters or associated metering equipment will be checked periodically by the Commission.



Meter Testing (Cont.)



- ✓ (b) *Equipment for testing small capacity meters.* Each public utility shall own and maintain, except as provided in subsection (a), one meter prover of approved type and of a capacity adequate for the testing of small capacity meters. Each meter prover shall be supplied with accessories needed for accurate meter testing, be located in a room suitable for meter testing, and be protected from drafts and excessive changes of temperature. If the proving system includes automatic testing equipment or any mechanical devices to provide “read-out” capability—the entire meter proving system, including the basic prover, shall be maintained in good condition and correct adjustment so that it will be capable of determining the accuracy of any service meter to within 0.5%.
- ✓ (c) *Equipment for testing large capacity meters.* Each public utility furnishing metered-gas service through orifice, turbine, or large displacement meters—except as provided in subsection (a)—shall have available and maintain in proper adjustment test equipment suitable for determining the accuracy of any orifice or large displacement meter used by the utility to within 0.5%. If the public utility uses a transfer prover standard for testing large capacity meters, the accuracy of the transfer prover and the method of operating will be checked periodically by the Commission in conjunction with all prover tests.



Meter Testing



- § 59.21. Meter tests provides guidance on regular testing intervals and scope of testing
- § 59.22. Adjustment of bills for meter error
- No mandated time to remove meter upon customer complaint
 - ✓ Time for complaint resolution depends on time to receive test results from lab



Questions

