

Resolution on Excess Flow Valves

WHEREAS, The excess flow valve has been identified as a safety device that may mitigate a hazard caused from the release of natural gas on a service line should the line be severed; *and*

WHEREAS, Recognizing the wide variation of conditions and applications that exist in gas distribution systems, Title 49 CFR Part 192 establishes performance based regulation for excess flow valve installation which allows gas utility operators to choose to either install the devices or to notify customers of its availability and associated costs of such installation; *and*

WHEREAS, A significant percentage of gas utilities have chosen to voluntarily install excess flow valves in lieu of turn-off valves on service lines and may recover such costs in gas rates charged to customers; *and*

WHEREAS, Such voluntary installations of excess flow valves have occurred primarily in new or renewed single-family residential service lines that are operated at a pressure of 10 psig or greater, and under conditions of lower pressures, the excess flow valve may not activate in all natural gas release conditions; *and*

WHEREAS, Depending on a number of operational factors and conditions that differ widely among utilities in the States, specific physical conditions may exist that interfere with the safe operation of excess flow valves; *and*

WHEREAS, State regulatory agencies have primary responsibility for regulating natural gas distribution pipeline safety and play a critical role in ensuring distribution integrity and in meeting the unique demands of their State's energy needs; *now therefore be it*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), convened in its November 2005 Annual Convention in Indian Wells, California, recommends Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) continue to work with State commissioners and staff to determine what technologies and actions can help enhance the safety of natural gas distribution systems, considering new standards only after added analysis is completed of the relevant distribution system safety performance metrics; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, That the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners encourages federal agencies and legislators to recognize that State officials are well positioned to understand the operational conditions and circumstances of the local gas distribution companies, including the installation of excess flow valve devices, and urges these federal officials to be guided by the report of the Distribution Integrity Management Program Team and to consider that additional regulation of the safety of gas distribution systems, to the maximum extend practical, is best decided by the affected States regulatory bodies.

*Sponsored by the Committee on Gas (Recommended by Staff Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety)
Recommended by the NARUC Board of Directors November 15, 2005
Adopted by the NARUC November 16, 2005*