

Decision S3 10 039 OCT 19 1983

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's
own motion to amend Sections 192.745
and 192.747 of General Order
No. 112-D to Improve Gas Valve
Maintenance Standards.

OII 83-01-02
(Filed January 19, 1983)

O P I N I O N

Following the gas accident which occurred on August 25, 1981 at Battery and Sacramento Streets in San Francisco, an investigation was made by Commission staff (staff) gas safety engineers. As a result of its investigation the staff made the following recommendations to improve gas pipeline safety by amending General Order (GO) 112-D, which contains the Commission's currently effective rules governing design, construction testing, maintenance and operation of utility gas gathering, transmission and distribution piping systems:

- 1. Amend § 192.745, which reads:

"192.745. Valve maintenance: transmission lines
Each transmission line valve that
might be required during any emergency
must be inspected and partially
operated, at intervals not exceeding
one year."

to read:

"192.745. Valve maintenance: transmission lines
Each transmission line valve that
might be required during any emergency
must be inspected, serviced, lubricated
(where required) and partially
operated, at intervals not exceeding
one year." (Insertion underlined.)

2. Amend § 192.747, which reads:

"192.474. Valve maintenance: distribution systems
Each valve, the use of which may be necessary for the safe operation of a distribution system, must be checked and serviced, at intervals not exceeding one year."

to read:

"192.747. Valve maintenance: distribution systems
Each valve, the use of which may be necessary for the safe operation of a distribution system, must be inspected, serviced, lubricated (where required) and partially operated, at intervals not to exceed one year." (Insertions underlined.)

In response to the staff recommendation, the Commission issued its Order Instituting Investigation (OII) 83-01-02 for the purpose of considering under its rule-making procedures revisions to GO 112-D.

The OII invited gas utilities and interested parties to submit written comments on the proposed revisions no later than February 22, 1983. On that date, a prehearing conference (PHC) was held to determine whether evidentiary hearings and/or oral argument would be useful in the Commission's determinations. None of the gas public utilities and none of the other parties who had been served with the OII expressed a desire for public hearing or oral argument. In fact, all of the three major gas utilities which participated in the PHC (Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), San Diego Gas &

Electric Company, and Southern California Gas Company) stated that they did not take issue with the proposed revisions and took the position that they could be adopted by an ex parte order. PG&E indicated that it has already implemented the changes proposed by the staff.

Findings of Fact

1. A public hearing is not necessary.
2. It is in the best interest of the gas customers and the public utility companies to revise GO 112-D as proposed in OII 83-01-02.
3. The proposed revisions to § 192.745 and § 192.747 will improve gas valve maintenance standards and will promote public safety and reliability of gas utility operations.
4. The proposed revisions exceed Minimum Federal Safety Standards issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Material Transportation Bureau.

Conclusion of Law

The Commission should adopt the proposed revisions.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. GO 112-D is revised to incorporate the amendments of § 192.745 and § 192.747 as proposed in OII 83-01-02 and as quoted in the opinion portion of this decision.

2. A copy of this decision shall be mailed to each gas corporation under the jurisdiction of this Commission.

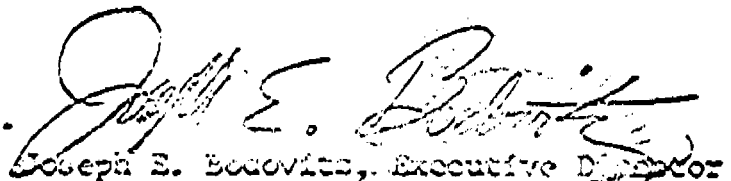
This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated OCT 19 1983, at San Francisco, California.

LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.
President

VICTOR CALVO
FRISCHILLA C. CREW
DONALD VEAR
WILLIAM T. BAGLEY
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director