

Decision No. 89182 AUG 8 - 1978

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC UTILITIES COMPANY,  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY,  
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY,  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY, and  
SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION,  
public utility gas corporations, for an  
Order modifying General Order No. 112-C  
adopted April 2, 1971, in Decision  
No. 78513 in order to conform with the  
changes to the Minimum Federal Safety  
Standards issued by the Department of  
Transportation, Office of Pipeline  
Safety, as more particularly set forth  
in the Application herein.

Application No. 57782  
(Filed December 30, 1977)

O P I N I O NApplicants' Request

This application was filed pursuant to the authority  
granted in Section 142.1 of the Commission's General Order  
No. 112-C.<sup>1/</sup>

1/ Section 142.1 of General Order No. 112-C provides:

"142.1. For the purpose of keeping the provisions, rules, standards, and specifications of this General Order up to date, the gas utilities subject to these rules, either individually or collectively, shall file an application setting forth such recommended changes in rules, standards, or specifications as they deem necessary to keep this General Order up to date in keeping with the purpose, scope and intent thereof. However, nothing herein shall preclude other interested parties from initiating appropriate formal proceedings to have the Commission consider any changes they deem appropriate, or the Commission from acting upon its own motion."

Applicants are requesting an order from the Commission incorporating the addition of paragraph (f) to Section 192.455 and amending paragraphs (d)(1) and (e)(2)(1) of Section 192.707 to conform with the changes to the Minimum Federal Safety Standards issued by the Materials Transportation Bureau, Department of Transportation.

Section 192.455 External corrosion control: buried or submerged pipelines installed after July 31, 1971

This proposed amendment would permit the use of metal alloy fittings (primarily Type 316 stainless steel) without cathodic protection as previously required by this Section 192.455 and without the requirements for monitoring the protection, as outlined in Section 192.465.

The Department of Transportation, Materials Transportation Bureau, has amended Section 192.455 to permit the use of electrically isolated, metal alloy fittings in plastic pipelines without the need for cathodic protection or periodic tests, provided the fittings meet certain specific requirements (Federal Register, Volume 42, No. 137, pages 35653-4, July 11, 1977). The amendment became effective August 12, 1977.

The amendment adopted by the Materials Transportation Bureau is essentially the same amendment to General Order No. 112-C proposed by applicants in this application.

Further, in support of the proposed amendment to General Order No. 112-C, applicants cite the Commission's Resolution No. 1967, dated October 5, 1976. The Commission by this resolution granted Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) a deviation from Section 192.455(a) of the General Order No. 112-C for plastic pipe connector sizes up to and including 2-inch nominal diameter and for operating pressures up to and including 60 pounds per square inch gauge. The Commission further ordered that three years from the effective date (December 9, 1976) the utility (PG&E) shall excavate and examine for corrosion a sample of the connectors then in operation, and shall report to the Commission the results of such examination.

These orders were based on the Commission staff's analysis and evaluation of a study which had been prepared by the utility (PG&E) in demonstrating the noncorrosive properties of uncoated and unprotected Type 316 non-sensitized (annealed) stainless steel used for approximately 500,000 plastic pipeline connector installations. As a result of the analysis and evaluation of the study, the Commission staff concluded that coating and cathodic protection of steel in the application were not necessary for gas pipeline safety, and that compliance with that portion of the General Order would be inordinately expensive with no appreciable increase in pipeline safety. This deviation was not contested by the Materials Transportation Bureau and became effective December 9, 1976. ✓

Applicants have overlooked the Commission's orders in Resolution No. G-1967 and failed to consider them in the proposed amendment to General Order No. 112-C as follows:

- (1) The sizes of the plastic connector are up to and including 2-inch nominal diameter.
- (2) The operating pressures are up to and including 60 pounds per square inch gauge.
- (3) The alloy for the plastic connector is Type 316 non-sensitized (annealed) stainless steel.
- (4) Resolution No. G-1967 stipulates that PG&E will have to excavate and examine for corrosion representative samples of the connectors, three years after the effective date (December 9, 1976) of the Resolution No. G-1967, and to report to the Commission the results of such examination. This three-year period has not yet expired.

In addition, an adoption at this time would anticipate results from the examination as specified in Resolution No. G-1967. Even though Resolution No. G-1967 concerns only PG&E, prudence dictates that all other utilities await results from PG&E's examination. For these reasons, this proposed amendment of incorporating the addition of paragraph (f) to Section 192.455 is not adopted at this time. ✓

Section 192.707 Line markers for mains and transmission lines

The proposed amendment would permit the operators of pipelines transporting gases other than natural gas to use the name of the gas being transported as an alternative to "gas" on their markers.

The Department of Transportation, Materials Transportation Bureau, has amended Section 192.707 to permit the markers required by this Section to include the name of the gas transported in a pipeline, instead of the word "gas" as appropriate (Federal Register, Volume 41, No. 252, page 56807, December 30, 1976).

The change to Section 192.707 would provide the public with a ready means of identifying the contents of a pipeline and to differentiate between pipelines carrying natural gas and those carrying other types of gases. Furthermore, the change to Section 192.707 would have no effect on the utilities presently under the jurisdiction of the Commission, but it will bring General Order No. 112-C into conformance with 49 CFR, Part 192.

Findings

Upon consideration of the evidence, the Commission finds that:

1. It is in the interest of the consuming public and the public utility corporations that General Order No. 112-C be revised to incorporate the amendment of Section 192.707 to conform with the changes to the Minimum Federal Safety Standards issued by the Office of Pipeline Safety. The above revision is shown as Applicants' Exhibit B.
2. The proposed amendment to Section 192.455 should be rejected.
3. A public hearing is not necessary.

Conclusion

The Commission having found as hereinabove set forth concludes that it should issue its order as follows.

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O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. General Order No. 112-C is hereby revised to incorporate the amendment to Section 192.707 to conform with the changes to the Minimum Federal Safety Standards issued by the Materials Transportation Bureau and as shown in the Appendix of this decision.

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

The effective date of this order shall be thirty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of AUGUST, 1978.

Robert Bateman  
President

William L. Sturgeon  
Charles D. Howell

Commissioners

Commissioner William Symons, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Commissioner Clair T. Dedrick, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

APPENDIX

AMENDMENT TO GENERAL ORDER NO. 112-C

Paragraphs (d)(1) and (e)(2)(1) of Section 192.707, line markers for mains and transmission lines, are amended to read as follows:

(d) \*\*\*

- (1) The words "Warning", "Caution", or "Danger" followed by the words "Gas (or name of gas transported) Pipeline" all of which, except for markers in heavily developed urban areas, must be in letters at least one inch high with one quarter inch stroke.

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) \*\*\*

(2) \*\*\*

- (1) The words "Warning", "Caution", or "Danger" followed by the words "Do Not Anchor or Dredge" and the words "Gas (or name of gas transported) Pipeline Crossing" and

\* \* \* \* \*