

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SAFETY DIVISION  
UTILITIES SAFETY BRANCH

RESOLUTION SU-11  
Date January 21, 1992

R E S O L U T I O N

DEVIATION FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY FROM  
GENERAL ORDER 112 D SECTION 192.123 (e) TO INSTALL  
8-INCH PLASTIC PIPE.

SUMMARY

1. Southern California Gas Company (SoCal) proposes to replace approximately 2,700 feet of a 34 year old 4-inch bare steel pipe with an 8-inch polyethylene pipe in a class three location along Sierra Highway, between Arline Street and Vasquez Road, in the city of Canyon Country located in Northern Los Angeles County. The proposed project would cause minimum interference with traffic along Sierra Highway.
2. General Order 112-D does not permit the use of plastic pipe over 6-inches in diameter without a deviation.
3. The Utilities Safety Branch (USB) recommends that this deviation be granted.

BACKGROUND

1. By letter of November 26, 1991, SoCal requests a waiver of General Order 112-D to install 8-inch polyethylene pipe. General Order 112-D currently allows the use of polyethylene pipe with a limitation of operating pressure and diameter of the pipe not to exceed 6-inches.
2. The Code Of Federal Regulations Title 49, does not have a limitation on polyethylene pipe diameters. It only provides regulation for operating and testing pressures. Other utilities throughout the nation have polyethylene pipelines larger than 6-inch diameter in operation at this time.
3. The installation of approximately 2,700 of 8-inch SDR 13.5 Plexco medium density polyethylene pipe into this distribution system will serve as a "test project" to assist in determining the operational feasibility and economic benefits of installing polyethylene pipe in sizes larger than 6-inches in diameter.
4. Resolution G-2556 of September 30, 1983 allowed Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to insert a 10-inch plastic pipe inside a 12-inch cast iron pipe in West Grand Avenue, between

Resolution SU-11  
(insert appropriate information here)

Webster Street and Bay Place in Oakland. There have been no leaks detected in this pipe.

5. SoCal plans to begin construction on this project in January 1992. USB supports granting a deviation.

#### FINDINGS

1. SoCal is proposing a valid "test project" which may have significant bearing on modifying the restrictions currently imposed in General Order 112-D.
2. USB, has reviewed SoCal's request and recommends the deviation be granted, provided that the following precautions are taken:
  - a. The four inch steel pipe will be abandoned, purged and sealed as required by Section 192.727 of G.O. 112-D.
  - b. Two ten foot sections from each lot of pipe shall be set aside and stored for possible future testing. The two sections shall be stored, wrapped or covered to prevent exposure to ultraviolet light.
  - c. Complete copies of the project plans, specifications and estimates will sent to the USB in San Francisco at least 30 days prior to the start of construction. A notice of the start of construction is required. Engineers in the CPUC Safety Division may observe your procedure in the field and will observe testing upon completion. SoCal will conform with all relevant gas pipeline safety standards of General Order 112-D. An additional leak test to be taken six months after the completion of construction is also required.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. SoCal may deviate from Section 192.123 (a) and (e) of General Order 112-D and install 2,700 feet of eight-inch, SDR 13.5 Plexco, Medium Density Polyethelene Pipe in a Class Location 3 Area along Sierra Highway between Aline Road and Vasques Road in the city of Canyon Country.
2. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on January 21, 1992, the following Commissioners approved it:

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
President  
JOHN B. OHEANIAN  
PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
Commissioners

  
Executive Director