

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SAFETY DIVISION
UTILITIES SAFETY BRANCH

RESOLUTION SU-13
Date August 11, 1992

RESOLUTION

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

By letter of June 24, 1992, Southern California Gas Company (SoCal) requests a waiver of General Order (GO) 112-D to install a larger polyethylene pipe than allowed by the Order.

SUMMARY

1. SoCal proposes to install approximately 5,400 feet of 8-inch SDR 13.5 Plexco - medium density polyethylene (plastic) pipe in its distribution system. This installation would serve a future housing development in a Class 3, residential area, where no future high rises are planned. Installation will take place on Winnetka Avenue between Corbin Avenue and Sesnon Blvd., and on Sesnon Blvd. easterly from Winnetka for a distance of 900 feet in the City of Los Angeles.
2. The General Order does not permit plastic pipe over 6-inch in diameter.
3. Resolution G-2556, dated September 30, 1983, allowed Pacific Gas and Electric Company to insert a 10-inch plastic pipe inside a 12-inch cast iron pipe in West Grand Avenue, between Webster Street and Bay Place in Oakland. There have been no leaks in this pipe.
4. The Utilities Safety Branch (USB) recommends that this deviation be granted.

BACKGROUND

1. The first 8-inch plastic pipe installation successfully verified the operational feasibility of installing plastic pipe larger than 6-inch. The installation of approximately 5,400 feet of 8-inch SDR 13.5 Plexco plastic pipe into SoCal's distribution system will provide SoCal with an opportunity to determine the economics of construction in relation to future 8-inch plastic pipe installations.

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2. SoCal would like to begin this project early in August 1992.
3. The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, does not have a limitation on plastic pipe diameters, only on operating pressure and testing pressures.
4. SoCal intends to come before the Commission, in the near future, with a proposal to amend Section 192.123(e) of GO 112-D so as to include 8-inch plastic pipes in the Code. In so doing, SoCal will eliminate the need for this type of waiver requests for 8-inch pipes.

FINDINGS

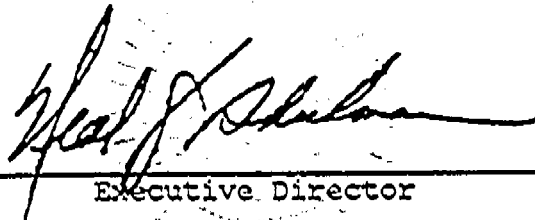
1. The Commission's Utilities Safety Branch (USB) has reviewed SoCal's request and recommends that the waiver be granted, provided that the following precautions are taken:
 - a. Two ten-foot sections from each lot of pipe shall be set aside and stored for possible future testing. The two sections shall be stored wrapped or covered to prevent exposure to ultraviolet light.
 - b. Complete copies of the project plans, specifications and estimates will be sent to the USB in San Francisco at least 30 days prior to the start of construction. Also, a notice of the start of construction will be required. USB's staff may observe SoCal's procedure in the field and will observe testing upon completion. It is understood that the company will conform with all relevant gas pipeline safety standards of GO 112-D.
 - c. The USB should be kept advised so arrangements to visit the job site can be planned. An additional leak test six months after construction completion is also required.

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THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT;

1. SoCal may deviate from Section 192.123 (e) of General Order 112-D, and install 5,400 feet of eight-inch, SDR 13.5 Plexco, Medium Density Polyethelene Pipe, in Class Location 3 Area, along Winnetka Avenue between Corbin Avenue and Sesnon Blvd. and on Sesnon Blvd. easterly from Winnetka for approximately 900 feet, in the city of Los Angeles.
2. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on August 11, 1992. The following Commissioners approved it:



Executive Director

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

Commissioner John B. Ohanian,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.