

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
UTILITIES SAFETY BRANCH

RESOLUTION SU-41
Date: May 22, 1996

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION SU-41, ORDER AUTHORIZING ELIMINATION OF EXISTING SECTION 122.2(c) OF GENERAL ORDER 112-E, WHICH REQUIRES ALL GAS OPERATORS TO REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (COMMISSION) ALL INCIDENTS INVOLVING ESCAPING GAS AND PROPERTY DAMAGE IN EXCESS OF \$1,000, BY THE NEXT WORKING DAY.

SUMMARY

1. Existing section 122.2(c) of General Order (G.O.) 112-E, requires gas operators to report, by fax, all incidents involving escaping gas and property damage which cause damage in excess of \$1,000, by the next working day.
2. This Resolution authorizes the following:
 - a. Elimination of existing section 122.2(c), and the requirements associated with it.
 - b. Renaming existing section 122.2(d) as 122.2(c).
 - c. Renaming existing section 122.2(e) as 122.2(d).

BACKGROUND

1. Public Utilities (P.U.) Code Sections 702 and 768 grant the Commission authority to establish and enforce standards of construction, maintenance and operation of utility systems. The rules governing design, construction, testing, maintenance and operation of utility gas piping systems are codified in G.O. 112-E, Reference 49 CFR.
2. The Utilities Safety Branch (USB) oversees gas operators' compliance with G.O. 112-E. Existing section 122.2(c) of G.O. 112-E, titled "Gas Incident Reports", states:

"Each operator shall report by fax to the CPUC as follows:

- (1) All incidents involving escaping gas from the operator's facilities and property damage including loss of gas in excess of \$1,000.
- (2) Reports should be made by the end of the next working day using the standard reporting form, 'Report of Gas Leak or Interruption,' CPUC File No. 420 (see attachment)."

DISCUSSION

1. Existing section 122.2(c) was added to G.O. 112-E to enable the USB to investigate third-party damage of gas operators'

facilities, and to cite contractors who cause such damage for noncompliance; the rationale for the addition was the assumption that such citing authority was going to be granted to the Commission.

2. The Contractor's State License Board (CSLB) and Underground Service Alert (USA) are currently working on joint measures to prevent contractor third-party damage. As such, there is no point or need, at this time, for the Commission, to pursue any citing authority.

3. Existing section 122.2(e) requires all gas operators to submit to the Commission, on a quarterly basis, a summary of all reportable and non-reportable gas leak related incidents, including those incidents that are currently covered by the existing section 122.2(c). In light of the fact that the Commission is not going to pursue any citing authority over contractors who cause third-party damage, there will be no benefit in receiving daily incident reports required by the existing section 122.2(c).

FINDINGS

1. The requirements of the existing Section 122.2(c), of G.O. 112-E, could be eliminated without jeopardizing public safety.

2. In so doing, the reporting requirements of the gas operators, and their associated expenses, will decrease.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Existing section 122.2(c), of G.O. 112-E, and its associated reporting requirements, are hereby eliminated.

2. Existing section 122.2(d), of G.O. 112-E, shall be renamed as section 122.2(c), and existing section 122.2(e), of G.O. 112-E, shall be renamed as section 122.2(d).

3. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on May 22, 1996. The following Commissioners approved it:

Wesley Franklin

WESLEY M. FRANKLIN
Executive Director

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, Jr.
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
Commissioners

President P. Gregory Conlon, being necessarily absent, did not participate.