

R.11-02-019 Technical Workshop

Notes to Agenda

The **purpose of the workshops** shall be to discuss and provide recommendations for California's natural gas transmission system operators on their Implementation Plans, including assisting in prioritizing segments for replacement or pressure testing. (D.11-06-017, OP 11, emphasis added.)

Topics (per workshop notice): Description of existing transmission pipeline systems, overview of potential safety issues, and discussion of approaches for prioritizing pipeline segments for replacement or pressure testing, and for considering whether to make changes to valves.

Objectives -- education, understanding, timely input:

- Define key concepts/terms and develop basic understanding of pipeline system threats and methods for mitigating those threats.
 - Identify acceptable prioritization criteria, based on existing safety standards, for determining whether:
 - to pressure test or replace transmission pipelines located in High Consequence Areas (HCA) and other locations where there are no records of prior pressure tests; and
 - to add, replace or alter valves.
- Present overviews of the prioritization criteria developed thus far by CPUC-regulated natural gas utilities.
 - Provide opportunity for all parties to offer feedback on those prioritization criteria.
 - ***Focus on prioritization criteria (including models/ decision-trees) not alternatives to testing/replacement, actual Implementation Plans, or timeline for operationalizing Implementation Plans.***

Ground Rules:

- Questions to utilities/utility consultants should focus on ensuring other parties understand utility prioritization criteria, etc.; answers should be direct and complete.
- Feedback to utilities should focus on clearly explaining other parties' suggestions and/or concerns.
- ***Discussion! Not cross-examination!***

Technical Agenda: Pipelines

Background: Definition of Key Terms/Concepts: *brief presentations, Q&A*

- High Consequence Area (HCA)

- Potential Impact Radius (PIR)
- Classes 1,2,3,4
- Historical & current regulations for establishing Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP)
- Other?

Threats to Pipeline Integrity/Safety: *brief presentations, Q&A.*

- Identify potential threats or categories of threats
- Describe potential means to mitigate each threat or category of threats

Utility Pipeline Prioritization Proposals in Development: *each utility to provide an overview and update of its approach to prioritization, including any prioritization model or decision-tree; brief Q&A to follow each utility presentation, with fuller discussion at conclusion of the last presentation.*

Discussion of Utility Pipeline Prioritization Proposals and Feedback: *some considerations*

- Pressure Test or Replace? Each utility should explain, conceptually as well as functionally, if possible, how its prioritization approach will answer this question.
 - Demonstrate operation of prioritization model or decision-tree by “walking” a few pipeline examples through it.
 - Explain (for example), whether the model or decision-tree always yields a determination (pressure test/replace) for each pipeline, or whether some pipelines don't fit the model/decision-tree, or could be assigned a different result than the model/decision-tree output suggests.
 - Does the model or decision-tree consider factors/issues that may influence actual prioritization (in the Implementation Plan) such as cost, permits timeline, customer impact, etc.?
 - If the prioritization approach does not consider factors/issues such as cost, customer impact, etc. that may influence actual prioritization in the Implementation Plan), how/when/where will such factors/issues be considered?
 - Does use of different prioritization approaches make sense for different utility systems? Why or why not?
 - Does each approach have specific strengths or weaknesses? What are they?
 - What might improve each approach? (*Ideas/suggestions - an exhaustive check list is not expected*)
 - Other?

Technical Agenda: Valves

Background: Definition of Key Terms/Concepts: *brief presentations, Q&A*

- Automatic control valves (ACV)
 - Remote control valves (RCV)

Criteria for considering whether to make changes to valves: *brief presentations, Q&A*

- What type of valve is appropriate at a particular location and why?
 - Operational concerns
 - Other concerns

Utility Valve Proposals in Development: *each utility to provide an overview and update of its approach, including any prioritization model or decision-tree; brief Q&A to follow each utility presentation, with fuller discussion at conclusion of the last presentation.*

Discussion of Utility Valve Proposals and Feedback:

- Does each approach have specific strengths or weaknesses? What are they?
- What might improve each approach? (*Ideas/suggestions - an exhaustive check list is not expected*)
- Other?