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Gas Pipeline Safety OIR
Rulemaking 11 -02-019
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	LocalUnions246-342_003-18		
PG&E File Name:	GasPipelineSafetyOIR_DR_LocalUnions246-342_003-Q18		
Request Date:	January 17, 2012	Requester DR No.:	003
Date Sent:	January 30, 2012	Requesting Party:	Plumbers/Pipe Fitters/Steamfitters Local Unions 246/342
PG&E Witness:	Ben Campbell	Requester:	Sarah Grossman-Swenson

As used in the following questions, the terms "segment," "pipeline segment," and "pipeline test segment" are used synonymously, in the context of hydrostatic gas pipeline testing, to refer to the portion of a gas pipeline between the inlet and the outlet for water used in a particular hydrostatic test.

QUESTION 18

With respect to each pipeline test segment upon which a hydrostatic pressure test was performed in 2010 or 2011, please state whether the pig(s) were removed from the pipeline before hydrostatic testing began on each test segment.

ANSWER 18

Pigs are typically removed after cleaning runs. However, when water is put in the pipeline, a pig is used to regulate the speed of the fill and prevent air from slipping past the pig and mixing with the water. Air in the line with the water makes the pipeline dangerous during a test because compressed air stores so much energy. When the pig arrives at the test head on the other end of the test segment it seats itself in the test head and remains there during the hydrostatic test. At the end of the test, the pipe is dewatered by pushing air behind the pig in the test head which then moves down the pipeline pushing the water out of the line. In other words, you need to have a pig in the pipeline during the test. This was consistent with all 2011 hydrostatic pressure tests.

PG&E did not conduct any hydrostatic pressure tests on existing pipe in 2010.