



**DISTRIBUTION & CUSTOMER SERVICE (DCS)
GENERATION, TRANSMISSION & SUPPLY (GTS)**

*DCS Standard D-S0428
GTS Standard S4129*

ISSUING DEPARTMENT: GD&TS	EFFECTIVE DATE: 12-98
DCS SPONSOR: VP - DE&P	REVIEW DATE: 12-99
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TITLE: Abandonment of Gas Facilities

Purpose To establish methods and procedures to be used in abandoning PG&E gas transmission lines, distribution mains and services, and in cutting and capping services in conformance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 192.727.

This standard replaces Standard Practice No. 463-2, "Abandonment of Gas Transmission Lines, Distribution Mains and Services, and Cutting and Capping Inactive Services," issued 10/1/87. Minor editing has been done to reflect organizational changes, but the requirements of the original Standard Practice have not been changed.

Implementation Responsibilities Each Area Operations, Maintenance and Construction (OM&C) manager, and the manager, Gas System Maintenance & Technical Support (GSM&TS) are responsible for the administration of this standard.

Compliance Implementation and effectiveness are measured by responsible managers/superintendents. Periodic audits can be conducted by internal company departments. The California Public Utilities Commission also conducts compliance reviews on the requirements in this standard.

- Requirements**
- 1. Abandonment of Transmission Lines, Distribution Mains, and Services**
Transmission lines, distribution mains, and services shall be abandoned at any time it is decided that they are no longer needed for any present or foreseeable use.
 - 2. Cutting and Capping of Services**
 - a. A service shall be cut and capped at or outside the property line within 120 days after PG&E becomes aware of the destruction, demolition or removal of the structure being supplied, unless a new structure is started within this period and the same service will be



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TITLE: Abandonment of Gas Facilities

1. Abandonment of Transmission Lines, Distribution Mains, and Services

Transmission lines, distribution mains, and services shall be abandoned at any time it is decided that they are no longer needed for any present or foreseeable use.

2. Cutting and Capping of Services

- a. A service shall be cut and capped at or outside the property line within 120 days after PG&E becomes aware of the destruction, demolition or removal of the structure being supplied, unless a new structure is started within this period and the same service will be used to supply this new structure. A service supplying a riser without an accompanying building

shall be cut and capped at or outside the property line immediately upon discovery. A service shall be reviewed for cutting and capping at or outside the property line when the last remaining meter is removed and not replaced. If there is reason to believe that the service will be used within one year, it may be cut and capped near the street side of the property line.

- b. Inactive services or stubs shall not be transferred to other mains if the original main is abandoned, unless there is evidence that the service will be used within one year.
- c. Records of inactive services and partially abandoned services shall be reviewed annually for safety, exposure to hazardous conditions, and probability of future use in order to decide if the facility should be immediately abandoned, removed, or cut and capped at the main. Any services and partially abandoned services that have been inactive for three years shall be abandoned at the first reasonable opportunity by cutting and capping at the main.
- d. Stubs installed for new customers shall be abandoned at the main if not used within ten years of their installation.

Definition of Terms **Abandoned pipes:** All pieces or sections of gas pipe remaining in the ground after being permanently disconnected from the active gas system and removed from plant.

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Signed,

Signed,

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Reference Documents 49 CFR Part 192.727

Supplement - Procedures**I. Pipe Abandonment**

- A. All pipe sections to be abandoned shall be disconnected from all gas sources.
- B. All open ends of abandoned pipes shall be sealed.
- C. Long lengths of main shall be plugged at intervals of approximately two blocks, or a maximum of approximately 1000 feet. This provision may be waived or altered for pipes in rural areas or in private rights-of-way by approval of the GD&TS department for distribution or System Integrity for transmission.
- D. All pipe sections to be abandoned shall be purged in accordance with Gas Standard A-38.
- E. In the abandonment of pipe eight inches or larger, consideration should be given to the following:
 - 1) Purging with inert gas.
 - 2) Abandoning the pipe.
 - 3) Removing the pipe from the ground.
- F. Pipe segments may be abandoned by filling the entire length of the abandoned pipe with a concrete slurry mix pumped into the pipe.

II. Service Abandonment

When services are abandoned:

- C. Except as provided in C) and D) below, the pipe shall be cut as close to the main connection as practicable and the open end of the abandoned pipe sealed.
- D. The riser shall be removed to below ground level and the remaining pipe sealed, or if the service passed through or under the building foundation, the pipe shall be cut outside the building and both ends sealed.
- E. When a service is abandoned along with the main or when only a portion of the service is abandoned, the service shall be cut on the street side of the property line, the riser removed (per II.B) and both ends sealed. This cut should be made at the most economical location, such as in unpaved parking strips or lawn areas.
- F. When a service is abandoned with a rear easement main, the riser shall be removed (per III.A), but the service needs to be cut and plugged at the main.
- G. Services off mains need not be cut off at the main if the entire length of the abandoned main is completely filled with a concrete slurry mix.

VIII. Valve Abandonment

- A. Valves and curb cocks may be removed and salvaged if the cost of removal is justified. The open ends of the pipe shall be sealed.
- B. If abandoned in place, the valve or curb cock shall be left in the closed position.
- C. Valve boxes shall be removed or broken-in and the hole filled, whether a valve or curb cock is abandoned or salvaged.

IV. General

- A. In every case where a cut is necessary in Paragraphs I, II and III, a piece of pipe at least 18 inches in length is to be removed and the backfill thoroughly compacted in its place.
- B. Open ends of abandoned pipes are to be sealed by the most appropriate method. The following methods are suggested:
 - 1) Crushing or flattening the pipe end and seal welding the opening.
 - 2) Welding a plate or a weld cap over the opening.
 - 3) Plugging with concrete or mortar products.
 - 4) Securely plugging with a tightly-driven redwood plug (2-inch or smaller).
 - 5) For copper pipe: Flattening and bending to 180 degrees.
 - 6) Plugging with polyurethane foam cast in place.
 - 7) For plastic pipe: Either fusion or mechanical caps can be used to seal pipe or methods 3), 4) and 6) above.
 - 8) For low pressure cast iron or steel pipe: Installing a mechanical blanking head.