TITLE: Retiring Gas Transmission Valves No Longer Required for Operation

Purpose

This guideline establishes an overall policy of retiring gas transmission valves that have been installed in California Gas Transmission (CGT) facilities but are no longer required in an emergency, or for the safe and reliable operation of the gas system. This guideline does not apply to retiring valves located in distribution systems operating at 60 psig or less.

Recision

This guideline supersedes all previous instructions, oral or written, that may be contrary to this guideline.

Safety

All valve and pipeline maintenance and associated work will be performed in a safe manner and in accordance with all applicable safety rules, including those listed in USP 22, "Safety and Health Program."

Implementation Responsibilities

The director of Gas System Maintenance & Technical Support (GSM&TS) is responsible for approving, revising, and distributing this guideline.

Compliance

The GSM&TS district superintendents and local transmission superintendents are responsible for the district- or division-maintained transmission valves and for compliance with the requirements of this guideline.

Contacts

For additional information, please contact GSM&TS System Integrity section, Standards group (8-583-4313 or 925-974-4313).

Procedures

Procedures for retiring transmission valves no longer required for operation begin on Page 3 of this guideline.

Material Redacted GTR0046753

Date Issued/Updated

Effective: October 2001

Review Date: October 2006

Signed,

B. D. Davis
Director
Gas System Maintenance & Technical Support

Reference Documents GS&S F-11, "Valve Lubrication and Maintenance Requirements"
Section E of GS&S, "Coating and Wrapping"
UO Standard S4129, "Deactivation of Gas Facilities" (in draft)

Material Redacted GTR0046754

General

Occasionally, it may be determined that an existing transmission system valve is no longer required in an emergency or for the safe and reliable operation of the pipeline. The valve may be installed in series with another nearby valve that serves the same function. The valve also could have been used as an isolation valve on a system that is no longer required (e.g., the piping downstream of the valve may have been removed or capped).

Furthermore, some valves may no longer be operable. The valve may be worn or defective and cannot be repaired without removing it from service. On further investigation it may be found that the valve is not required for emergency or system operation, and therefore does not need to be replaced.

Once it has been determined that the valve is no longer required, the valve may be either removed from the system or left in place according to the procedure below.

Although this procedure allows valves which are no longer required for service to remain in the piping system, valves should be removed at the first practical opportunity, since they will always be a potential source of external leakage and require additional maintenance expense should they begin to leak.

Procedure

1. Verify that the valve is no longer needed for any present or foreseeable use. The district superintendent or UO operating supervisor or his/her designees should contact the appropriate facility/pipeline engineer and Gas System Operations to verify that the valve is no longer required.

2a. If practical, remove the valve from the piping system and install a cap or spool piece as required. Proceed to Step 3.

2b. In some cases, the cost of removing the valve can be substantial, especially if it is buried and/or a large quantity of gas must be blown down. In these instances, removal of the valve is considered impractical, and the valve should be left in place. If unrelated piping construction is conducted adjacent to the valve in the future, the valve should be removed at that time. Proceed to Step 4.

Note: Since the valve body is qualified for the gas pressure and either transports gas through an open valve port or shuts off gas flow when the valve is closed, the valve shall be considered part of the operating pipeline. The integrity of the valve must be monitored by annual leak surveys.

3. When the valve is removed, update the appropriate operating diagram and/or map, construction drawings, and the operating and maintenance instructions (O&MI), if appropriate.

Material Redacted GTR0046755

4. If the valve is to be left in the line, the following actions shall be taken:

   a) Render the valve inoperable by doing the following:

      1. If the valve is installed with a valve frame and cover, remove any valve extension and valve frame and cover, externally coat the valve, and bury it.
      2. If the valve is installed with an extended manual gear operator or power actuator and is located in an unsecured area, remove the operator (or power actuator) and valve extension, externally coat the valve, and bury it.
      3. If the valve is installed in a secured area, perform 1 or 2 (above) or the use following procedure:
         - Leave the valve operator or actuator on the valve.
         - For valves with a manual gear operator, remove the handwheel.
         - For valves with power actuation, disconnect the pneumatic/electric power connection.
         - Using a stainless steel tag, tag the valve: "Not in Service – Inoperable." Attach the tag to the valve stem or handwheel stem by using a stainless steel hose clamp.

   d) Provide appropriate external coating protection as required in Section E of *Gas Standards and Specifications.*

   e) Indicate on the operating diagram/map that the valve is "Not Required for Service - Valve Inoperable." Designate on the OM&I, if applicable, that the valve is inoperable.

   f) Indicate on the "Valve Maintenance Record" ("Valve Card" Form FF11) that the valve is "Not Required for Service - Valve Inoperable". Move the "Valve Card" to the inactive portion of the district's valve maintenance binder.

Update the data on the computerized pipeline maintenance-scheduling program (PLM) to indicate that valve maintenance is not required for this particular valve.

Material Redacted GTR0046756