



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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March 5, 1985
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

D.P.U. 85-61

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Department of Public Utilities will conduct a public hearing relative to the adoption of regulations governing the procedures to be followed by gas corporations and municipalities subject to Chapter 164 of the General Laws relating to the inactivation, abandonment and leakage survey of gas service lines. A copy of the regulations proposed by the Department is attached to this notice of public hearing.

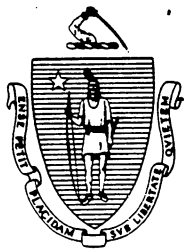
The Department will hold a public hearing on April 16, 1985, at 9:30 A.M. at the Department's offices, 100 Cambridge Street, 12th floor, Boston, Massachusetts, on the proposed regulations pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §§ 2 and 4, to determine whether the Department should adopt these regulations.

Oral presentation of data, views or arguments relating to the proposal may be submitted by any interested person at the public hearing.

All parties interested in submitting written comments are asked to do so no later than 5:00 P.M., April 26, 1984, at the Department's offices, 100 Cambridge Street, 12th floor, Boston, Massachusetts. Any questions concerning this proceeding should be directed to John E. Studley, Jr., at (617) 727-3500.

By Order of the Department,

Mary L. Cottrell
Mary L. Cottrell
Secretary



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

D.P.U. 85-61

PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Investigation by the Department of Public Utilities on its own motion relative to regulations governing the procedures to be followed by gas corporations and municipalities subject to Chapter 164 of the General Laws relating to the inactivation, abandonment and leakage survey of gas service lines.

220 C.M.R. 107

GAS LINE INACTIVATION, ABANDONMENT, AND LEAKAGE
SURVEY PROCEDURES

Section

- 107.01 Applicability and definitions
- 107.02 Inactivation of a service line
- 107.03 Abandonment of service lines
- 107.04 Abandonment of service lines that become inactive
service lines after the effective date of these
regulations
- 107.05 Identification and abandonment of known or recorded
service lines that became inactive service lines before
the effective date of these regulations
- 107.06 Abandonment of any inactive service line
- 107.07 Leakage survey of all service lines
- 107.08 Records, reports and procedures
- 107.09 Application for exceptions and waivers from provisions
of these regulations

220 C.M.R. 107

GAS LINE INACTIVATION, ABANDONMENT, AND LEAKAGE
SURVEY PROCEDURES

107.01: APPLICABILITY AND DEFINITIONS

(1)-Applicability:

These regulations apply to every gas corporation and municipal gas department engaged in the distribution of gas within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The following regulations prescribe requirements for pipeline facilities of gas distribution systems referred to as service lines.

(2)-Definitions:

The following terms, as used in these regulations, shall have the following meanings, unless their context requires otherwise:

(a) "Abandoned" means that the service line is disconnected or cut off at the main, or at the distribution line that is the source of supply if the pipe is not a main; and that the pipeline is purged, inerted and sealed in accordance with 49 C.F.R. 192.727(b) and 220 C.M.R. 107.03.

(b) "Determine" means to make appropriate investigation using scientific or other definitive methods, reach a decision based on sound engineering judgment, and be able to demonstrate, substantiate and document the basis of the decision.

(c) "Distribution line" means a gas pipeline, other than a gas-gathering or transmission line, that is normally used by utilities for the transportation of natural gas and/or other flammable gas to customers.

(d) "Inactive service line" means a service line where gas service to the customer has been discontinued but the service line has not been abandoned.

(e) "Main" means a distribution line that serves as a common source of supply for more than one service line.

(f) "Operator" means a person who engages in the transportation of gas.

(g) "Person" means any individual, firm, joint venture, partnership, corporation, association, State, municipality, cooperative association or joint stock association, including any trustee, receiver, assignee or personal representative thereof.

(h) "Pipe" means any pipe or tubing used in the transportation of gas, including pipe-type holders.

(i) "Pipeline" means all parts of those physical facilities through which gas moves in transportation, including pipe, valves and other appurtenances attached to pipe, compressor units, metering stations, regulator stations, delivery stations, holders and fabricated assemblies.

(j) "Service line" means a distribution line that transports gas from a common source of supply to:

1. the outlet of a customer meter, or

2. the connection to a customer's piping if there is no customer meter.

(k) "Service stub" means a partial service line that terminates at or in close proximity to a property line.

107.02: INACTIVATION OF A SERVICE LINE

Whenever a service line becomes an inactive service line, one of the following must be promptly implemented:

- (1) The valve that is closed to prevent the flow of gas to the customer must be provided with a locking device or other means designed to prevent the opening of the valve by persons other than those authorized by the operator;
- (2) A mechanical device or fitting that will prevent the flow of gas must be installed in the service line or in the meter assembly;
- (3) The customer's piping must be physically disconnected from the gas supply and the open pipe ends sealed; or
- (4) The operator's pipe must be physically disconnected at some point other than the source of gas supply and the open pipe ends sealed.

107.03: ABANDONMENT OF SERVICE LINES

When a service line is abandoned, the meter and assembly must be removed. The end of the operator's pipe that is within the customer's building must be cut off below ground and sealed outside the building, or must be sealed by inserting a device within the service line to a point that is outside the building

wall or foundation. Provisions must be made so that the seal or device cannot be readily removed. When the end of the operator's pipe is located above ground outside the building, the above-ground segment must be removed and the remaining segment below ground sealed. In any case, the pipeline's above- or below-ground entry point into the building or foundation, provided for the operator's pipe, must be sealed after the pipe has been removed.

107.04: ABANDONMENT OF SERVICE LINES THAT BECOME INACTIVE SERVICE LINES AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE REGULATIONS

(1) An inactive service line shall be abandoned by the end of five (5) years if it has not been reactivated.

(2) The operator should determine whether inactive service lines ought to be abandoned at any prior time. The determination shall be based on such appropriate variables as service line age, location, condition, material, construction methods, leak and maintenance history of the pipe, existence and/or application of cathodic protection and other criteria selected by the operator.

107.05: IDENTIFICATION AND ABANDONMENT OF KNOWN OR RECORDED SERVICE LINES THAT BECAME INACTIVE SERVICE LINES BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE REGULATIONS

(1) The operator shall establish and begin a program to identify the location of inactive service lines within one hundred and eighty (180) days of the effective date of these regulations. The identification program shall be completed by the operator within thirty-six (36) months of the effective date of these regulations.

(2) All inactive service lines known and identified shall be abandoned within ten (10) years of the effective date of these regulations. At least 10 percent of the known and identified inactive service lines shall be abandoned each year.

(3) The operator must determine the priorities for inactive service line abandonment based on such appropriate variables as service line age, location, condition, material, construction methods, leak and maintenance history of the pipe, existence and/or application of cathodic protection, time period of inactivity and any other criteria selected by the operator.

107.06: ABANDONMENT OF ANY INACTIVE SERVICE LINE

Inactive service lines which shall be abandoned promptly are those:

- (1) Located in, or in close proximity to, excavations; or
- (2) Located in, or in close proximity to, buildings being demolished; or
- (3) Discovered to be leaking gas; or
- (4) Unrecorded or previously unknown lines discovered in the course of leakage surveys, construction, maintenance or inspection of facilities.

107.07: LEAKAGE SURVEY OF ALL SERVICE LINES

(1) Leakage surveys, using a gas detector system, such as flame ionization equipment or equivalent devices, must be made over all active and identified inactive service lines outside of business districts as frequently as necessary but at intervals not exceeding five (5) years. The surveys shall cover at least

20 percent of the service lines each year and shall begin no later than during calendar year 1986. Persons participating in leakage surveys shall be trained to establish or recognize the possible existence of locations of unknown or unidentified leaking inactive service lines that may be found during survey analysis. If any part of this section, 107.07(1), conflicts with Department regulations contained in 220 C.M.R. 101.04, these regulations shall be controlling.

(2) Service stubs shall be identified in accordance with paragraph 107.05(1), and leakage surveyed at least once in every consecutive twenty-four (24) month period using a gas detector system, such as flame ionization equipment or equivalent devices.

107.08: RECORDS, REPORTS AND PROCEDURES

(1) Readily accessible records of inactive service lines shall be maintained by the operator which shall include the service line's location, the date the service line became inactive, and the date the service line was installed. If any information is unavailable to or unobtainable by the operator, it shall be listed on the record as "unknown".

(2) Readily accessible records of the location of any service line that is abandoned after the effective date of these regulations shall be maintained by the operator for a length of time determined by the operator but for no less than five (5) years from the date of abandonment.

(3) Each operator shall have a written plan including the methods, procedures and determinations involving inactive service lines and abandoned service lines. Each operator shall submit an annual report to the Department for the preceding calendar year, not later than March 15th, indicating the total number of inactive service lines in existence on its distribution lines on December 31st of the preceding year, and the number of inactive service lines abandoned during the calendar year, under each classification established under Sections 107.04 and 107.05, above.

107.08: APPLICATION FOR EXCEPTIONS AND WAIVERS FROM PROVISIONS OF THESE REGULATIONS.

A gas corporation or municipal gas department may make a written request to the Department for an exception to the provision of these regulations. The Department may, after consideration, and the payment of the appropriate fee, issue the exception as requested or with modifications thereof to the particular gas corporation or municipality requesting such exception.

2.

S-212

Notice of a public hearing from the DPU to be held on April 16, 1985 at 9:30 a.m. at 100 Cambridge St., Boston Re: adoption of regulations governing procedures to be followed by gas corporations & municipalities on the inactivity, abandonment & leakage survey of gas service lines.

In City Council,

March 18, 1985

3/18/85

Referred to the
City Manager

copy sent to the city manager 3/20/85
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