General Info

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GAS COMPANIES--SAFETY

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**WAC 480-93-002 Application of rules.**

These rules shall apply to every gas company, as that term is defined by WAC 480-93-005, and shall apply to the construction, operation, maintenance, and safety of gas facilities used in the gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission of gas in this state, except those gas facilities exclusively under federal jurisdiction for compliance with pipeline safety regulations.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-002, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-99, § 480-93-002, filed 5/18/77.]

**WAC 480-93-005 Definitions.**

(1) **Bar hole** - a hole that has been made in the soil or paving for the specific purpose of testing the subsurface atmosphere with a combustible gas indicator.
(2) **Building** - any structure which is normally or occa-sion-al-ly entered by humans for business, residential, or other purposes and within which gas could accumulate.
(3) **Combustible gas indicator (CGI)** - a device capable of detecting and measuring gas concentrations of the gas being transported.
(4) **Confined space** - any subsurface structure of sufficient size which could accommodate a person and within which gas could accumulate, e.g., vaults, catch basins, manholes, etc.
(5) **Follow-up inspection** - an inspection performed after a repair has been completed in order to determine the effectiveness of the repair.
(6) **Gas** - natural gas, flammable gas, or gas which is toxic or corrosive.
(7) **Gas associated substructures** - those devices or facilities utilized by a gas company which are not intended for storing, transporting, or distributing gas, such as valve boxes, vaults, test boxes, and vented casing pipe.
(8) **Gas company** - the term "gas company" shall mean:

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(a) Every gas company otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission under Title 80 RCW as to rates and service; and
(b) Every person, corporation, city, or town which owns or operates a pipeline transporting gas in this state, even though such person, corporation, city, or town is not a public service company under chapter 80.28 RCW, and even though such person, corporation, city, or town does not deliver, sell, or furnish gas to any person or corporation within this state.

(9) **Gathering line** - a gas pipeline which transports gas from the outlet of a well and any associated compressor to the connection with a second gathering line or with a transmission line.

(10) **Indication** - a response indicated by a gas detection instrument that has not been verified as a reading.

(11) **L.E.L.** - the lower explosive limit of the gas being transported.

(12) **Main** - a gas pipeline, not a gathering or transmission line:
(a) Which serves as a common source of gas for more than one service line;
(b) Which crosses a public right of way; or
(c) Which crosses property not owned by the customer or the gas company.

(13) **Master meter system** - a pipeline system for distributing gas to more than one building within, but not limited to, a definable area, such as a mobile home park, housing project, or apartment complex, where the operator purchases metered gas from an outside source for distribution to ultimate consumers other than the system operator's immediate family through a gas distribution pipeline system.

(14) **Maximum operating pressure** - a maximum pressure selected by a gas company for operation of a pipeline or segment of a pipeline, which is equal to or less than the maximum allowable operating pressure derived pursuant to 49 CFR, Part 192 on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999.

(15) **Prompt action** - shall consist of dispatching qualified personnel without undue delay for the purpose of evaluating and where necessary abating an existing or probable hazard.

(16) **Reading** - a repeatable deviation on a combustible gas indicator or equivalent instrument expressed in percent L.E.L. or gas-air ratio. Where the reading is in an unvented, confined space, consideration shall be given to the rate of dissipation when the space is ventilated and the rate of accumulation when the space is resealed.

(17) **Service line** - a gas pipeline, not a main, gathering or transmission line, which provides service to one building. Service lines shall include gas pipelines extended from a main to provide service to one building, which traverse a public right of way or an easement immediately adjacent to a public right of way or another easement.

(18) **Transmission line** - a gas pipeline which connects to an existing transmission line without pressure regulation to lower the pressure; which is downstream of the connection of two or more gathering lines; and as defined in 49 CFR, Part 192, section 192.3 on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999.

(19) **Tunnel** - a subsurface passageway large enough for a person to enter and within which gas could accumulate.

(20) Other terms which correspond to those used in 49 CFR, Parts 191, 192 and 199 (Minimum Federal Safety Standards for Gas Pipelines) shall be construed as used therein on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.310. 01-20-061 (Docket No. A-010827, General Order No. R-491), § 480-93-005, filed 9/28/01, effective 10/29/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040 and 80.28.210. 95-13-082 (Order R-427, Docket No. UG-950061), § 480-93-005, filed 6/20/95, effective 7/21/95. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-005, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-100, § 480-93-005, filed 5/18/77. Formerly WAC 480-93-001.]

**WAC 480-93-010 Compliance with federal standards.** Gas companies' gathering, storage, distribution, and transmission facilities must be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated in compliance with the provisions of Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 191, 192, 193 and 199 in effect on the date [http://www.wutc.wa.gov/webdocs.nsf/2d5fa9f409e55886882563da0072c702/a926ada6cb4232ff8825647c00... 5/19/2004](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/webdocs.nsf/2d5fa9f409e55886882563da0072c702/a926ada6cb4232ff8825647c00...).
specified in WAC 480-93-999. The provisions of this chapter shall govern to the extent that the standards in the state regulations are compatible with the federal standards.


WAC 480-93-015 Odorization of gas.
All gas being transported by pipeline in this state, and all gas consumed by an end use customer, shall be odorized in accordance with 49 CFR, Part 192.625 in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999 unless waiver is approved in advance of such transportation, in writing, by the commission.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-015, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

WAC 480-93-017 Design, specification, and construction procedures.
The design, specification, and construction procedures for all gas facilities in this state must be on file with the commission. All proposed construction plans which do not conform with a gas company's existing and accepted design, specification, and construction procedures on file with the commission, must be submitted to the commission at least thirty days prior to the initiation of construction activity. Written commission acceptance or rejection of the design, specification, and construction procedures to be utilized will be made within thirty days of receipt.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-017, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

WAC 480-93-018 Maps, drawings, and records of gas facilities.
All gas companies shall prepare, maintain, and provide to the commission, upon request, copies of maps, drawings, and records of the company's gas facilities. The maps, drawings, and records shall be of such scale and detail as is necessary to show the size and type of material of all facilities, whether or not the facilities are cathodically-protected, and the maximum operating pressure. The maps and drawings shall indicate all district regulator stations and gate stations and the approximate location of all valves, identifying those valves classified as emergency valves in the company's emergency procedures. The gas company shall provide key sheets for ready reference as needed.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-018, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]
WAC 480-93-020 Proximity considerations.

Gas facilities having a maximum operating pressure greater than five hundred psig shall not be operated within five hundred feet of the places described below without prior written authorization of the commission, unless a waiver previously approved by the commission continues in effect:

1. A building intended for human occupancy which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission, and which is not owned and used by the petitioning gas company in its gas operations;
2. Property which has been zoned as residential or commercial prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission;
3. A well-defined outside area, such as a playground, recreation area, outdoor theater, or other place of public assembly, which is occupied by twenty or more people, sixty days in any twelve-month period which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission; and
4. A public highway, as defined in RCW 81.80.010(3).

In requesting prior written authorization of the commission, the petitioning gas company shall certify that it is not practical to select an alternative route which will avoid such locations and further certify that management has given due consideration to the possibility of the future development of the area and has designed its facilities accordingly. The petition shall include, upon request of the commission, an aerial photograph showing the exact location of the pipeline in reference to places listed above that are within five hundred feet of the pipeline right of way.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-020, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-020, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-020, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

WAC 480-93-030 Proscribed areas.

Gas facilities having a maximum operating pressure between two hundred fifty-one psig and four hundred ninety-nine psig shall not be operated within 100 feet of the places described below without prior written authorization of the commission, unless a waiver previously approved by the commission continues in effect:

1. A building intended for human occupancy which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission, and which is not owned and used by the petitioning gas company in its gas operations; and
2. A well-defined outside area, such as a playground, recreation area, outdoor theater, or other place of public assembly which is occupied by twenty or more people, sixty days in any twelve-month period, which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission.

The petition shall include, upon request of the commission, an aerial photograph showing the exact location of the pipeline in reference to the places listed above that are within one hundred feet of the pipeline right of way.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-030, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-030, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-030, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

WAC 480-93-040 Location of compressor stations on gas pipelines.

No compressor station to be located on any gas pipeline shall be constructed in any zoned area without prior approval of the appropriate zoning authority and acquisition of required permits. In other areas the distance...
between any compressor station designed to operate at pressures in excess of 250 psig and any existing building intended for human occupancy and not under the control of the gas company shall not be less than 500 feet, except for compressor stations having an installed capacity of less than 1,000 horsepower, in which case such distance shall not be less than 250 feet.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-040, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-040, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

**WAC 480-93-080 Welder identification and qualification certificates.**
Welders will carry appropriate identification and qualification certificates showing name of welder, his welding qualifications, and date of last qualification test, the results thereof, and the company whose procedures were followed for the qualification. Welders certificates will be subject to commission inspection at all times when welder is working on construction projects which are subject to the commission's authority.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-080, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-080, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

**WAC 480-93-082 Qualification of employees.**
Every gas company that operates a gas facility in this state shall have one or more employees working in this state that are collectively knowledgeable and qualified in all aspects of gas company construction, operation, maintenance, and state and federal gas safety rules and regulations. Every gas company shall prepare, maintain, and provide to the commission, upon request, evidence of the qualifications of employees to perform all duties assigned in the operation, maintenance, inspection, and construction of gas facilities. This evidence of an employee's qualifications shall specify the type of all training received, when and where such training was received, and the length of time the employee has performed the specific duties assigned. On the job training, under the supervision of personnel qualified by training and experience, in a company-certified, company-sponsored training program, may satisfy the requirements of this section.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-082, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

**WAC 480-93-100 Automatic valves.**
Automatic valves shall not be installed on any gas pipeline except where the particular circumstances are such as to show that such valves will contribute to safer operation.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-100, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-100, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

**WAC 480-93-110 Corrosion control.**
Every gas company must ensure that all of its metallic gas pipelines, except cast iron and ductile iron, are protected by a recognized method or combination of methods of cathodic protection. Every gas company shall record and retain all cathodic protection test readings taken and complete remedial action within ninety days to correct any cathodic protection deficiencies known and indicated by the company's records. Whenever a gas company finds from investigation as required by 49 CFR, Part 192 in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999, that cathodic protection of gas pipelines is not needed, the company shall submit to the commission a report setting forth good and sufficient reasons why such protection is not required. The report shall include the results of soil tests and other supporting data.
WAC 480-93-111 Noncathodically protected gas facilities.
Every gas company that has metallic gas facilities which are not now, or have never been, under cathodic protection or are not under adequate cathodic protection, shall semiannually provide to the commission, upon request, drawings which show the location of such facilities, and a description of their size and material. The drawings and associated documentation will indicate the approximate date by which cathodic protection will be applied or the facilities will be replaced. If the gas company can prove, through electrical test data and other means, that the gas facilities are not in a corrosive environment, then neither cathodic protection nor replacement will be required.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-111, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

WAC 480-93-112 Corrosive condition investigation.
Whenever a gas company finds the presence of active corrosion; that the surface of the gas facility is generally pitted; or that corrosion has caused a leak, the company shall investigate further to determine the extent of the corrosion. Within ninety days after the discovery of a corrosive situation, action shall be taken to correct any unsafe condition. The company shall record the condition of all underground gas facilities each time such facility is exposed and retain those records for the life of that facility.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-112, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

WAC 480-93-115 Casing of pipelines.
Whenever a gas company is required by a governmental entity or railroad company to install pipeline casing, the casing shall be designed to withstand the superimposed load. Steel pipe shall only be encased in a bare steel casing. A separate test lead wire shall be attached to the casing and the steel gas pipeline to verify that no electric short exists between the two. Tests shall be performed annually on all encased gas pipelines. Whenever a short exists between a pipeline and its casing, the condition shall be evaluated within ninety days to determine whether a hazardous condition exists. Thereafter, leak tests shall be conducted on a ninety day schedule until the condition is corrected. Every gas company shall develop procedures to ensure that whenever plastic pipe is encased, suitable precautions shall be taken to prevent crushing or shearing of the plastic pipe where it exits the casing.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-115, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

WAC 480-93-120 Exposed pipelines.
Proper warning signs shall be placed and other adequate protective measures taken at any point where gas pipelines and any associated equipment and facilities are exposed, and where their location presents an unusually hazardous situation. All gas pipelines attached to bridges or otherwise spanning an area shall have proper warning signs at both ends of the suspended pipeline. The gas company shall keep these signs http://www.wutc.wa.gov/webdocs.nsf/2d5fa9f409e55886882563da0072c702/a926ada6cb4232ff8825647c00...: 5/19/2004
visible and readable, and inspect all signs annually; signs which are reported damaged and missing shall be replaced promptly.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-120, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-120, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-120, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

WAC 480-93-124 Pipeline markers.
All buried gas pipelines shall have pipeline markers placed and maintained as close as practical over each main and transmission line as required by 49 CFR, Part 192.707. Off-set pipeline markers may be used only if they indicate the distance from and direction to the pipeline. The pipeline markers shall be double-faced or single-faced signs. Single-faced signs may be used on posts of distinctive color and shall meet the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 192.707(d). Pipeline markers shall be placed at all railroad crossings, road crossings, irrigation and drainage ditch crossings, and at all fence lines where a pipeline crosses private property. Pipeline markers required by 49 CFR, Part 192.707(a), shall be placed approximately five hundred yards apart if practical and at points of deflection of the pipeline. Exceptions to this rule must conform with 49 CFR, Part 192.707(b). Information about 49 CFR regarding the version currently in effect and where to obtain it is set out in WAC 480-93-999.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.310. 01-20-061 (Docket No. A-010827, General Order No. R-491), § 480-93-124, filed 9/28/01, effective 10/29/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-124, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

WAC 480-93-130 Multistage pressure regulation.
Where gas pressures are reduced in two or more stages, the necessary regulations and auxiliary equipment will be installed in such a manner as to provide maximum protection between regulator systems. The purpose is to minimize the potential dangers from the failure of one stage of regulator equipment due to fire, explosion or damage of any kind from adversely affecting the operation of the other stage or stages of regulation. A minimum of fifty feet of separation will be provided between regulator systems when practical to do so.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-130, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-130, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

WAC 480-93-140 Meter regulators.
Gas companies that have customers with electronic ignition appliances shall have meter regulators with relief valves, monitors, or safety shut-off valves. Gas companies that have customers with standing pilots may use meter regulators that do not use relief valves, monitors, or safety shut-off valves, if responsible officers of the gas company certify to the commission that due consideration has been given to the possible existence of foreign matter in their distribution system and other factors that might interfere with the proper operation of service regulators and they believe that under such conditions relief valves, monitors, or safety shut-off valves are not required or appropriate for safe operation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-140, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-140, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-140, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]
**WAC 480-93-150 Station maintenance.**

All gas piping or other gas equipment in regulator and other stations no longer essential to the company's operation shall be removed to minimize hazards.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-150, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-150, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

**WAC 480-93-155 Increasing maximum operating pressure.**

Notwithstanding the requirements of any other section of this chapter, the commission shall be furnished complete written plans and drawings of each pressure uprating to a maximum operating pressure greater than sixty psig, at least thirty days prior to raising the pressure. The plan shall include a review of the following:

1. All affected gas facilities, including pipe, fittings, valves, and other associated equipment, with their manufactured design operating pressure and specifications;
2. Original design and construction standards;
3. All previous operating pressures and length of time at that pressure;
4. All leaks, regardless of cause, and the date and method of repair;
5. All upstream and downstream regulators and relief valves; and
6. All cathodic protection readings on mains for the past three years or three most recent inspections, whichever is longer, and the most recent inspection on each attached service line, which is electrically isolated.

The plan shall conform with the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 192 in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.310. 01-20-061 (Docket No. A-010827, General Order No. R-491), § 480-93-155, filed 9/28/01, effective 10/29/01. Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-155, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

**WAC 480-93-160 Reports of proposed construction.**

1. At least 30 days prior to the construction or major reconstruction (or reconditioning) of any gas pipeline intended to be operated at 20% or more of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used, a report shall be filed with the commission setting forth the proposed route and the specifications for such pipeline. The report shall include, but not be limited to, the following items:
   a. Description and purpose of the proposed pipeline.
   b. Pipe specifications and route map showing type of construction to be used throughout the length of the line and delineation of class location and incorporated boundaries along the route. Where Type A or B construction is planned, aerial photographs or other suitable means of verifying the applicability of Type A or B construction shall be furnished to the commission.
   c. Maximum allowable operating pressure for which the pipeline is being constructed.
   d. Location and construction details of all river crossings or other unusual construction requirements encountered en route; i.e., places where pipe will be exposed or it is impractical to provide required cover, bridge crossings, lines to be laid parallel to railroads or state highways and encroachments thereto, other areas requiring special or unusual design and construction considerations.
   e. Proposed corrosion control program to be followed including specifications for coating and wrapping.
   f. Type of fluid and test pressures to be used when proof strength testing the line. Terrain profile sketches indicating maximum and minimum elevations for testing purposes, if appropriate. Water will be used when feasible as the test medium on all lines 6" or greater in diameter and when the test pressure is to exceed 250
psig. If water is not to be used, briefly explain and list test medium to be used.

(g) Welding specifications and welding inspection methods and procedures to be followed during construction of the pipeline. Location of inspection records during and after construction. Name(s) and address(es) (while at the construction site) of authorized chief company inspector(s) and scope of responsibility, if appropriate. The 30-day advanced notification of name(s) and address(es) of chief inspector(s) is waived for this requirement and telephonic communication of such information will be acceptable. This information will, however, be furnished to the commission prior to the start of construction and will be kept current until construction is completed.

(h) Bending procedures to be followed.

(i) Location and specification of principal valves, regulators and other auxiliary equipment to be installed as a part of the pipeline system to be constructed.

(j) Any features of design or construction which do not meet or exceed the safety requirements of these rules and regulations will be explained and justified. Further, it will be necessary to certify that the proposed deviation meets all known safety requirements and in the opinion of the certifying officer for the company, the deviation, if granted, would not contribute to the development of an unsafe operating condition in the system. All waivers to office of pipeline safety, department of transportation, rules and regulations require 60-day advanced notification before approval.

(2) Every gas company shall on the fifteenth day of each month submit a report to the commission setting forth the progress of such construction or major reconstruction as of the end of the preceding month.


WAC 480-93-170 Tests and reports thereof for pipelines.

(1) When any gas pipeline intended to be subjected to pressures in excess of 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used is placed in operation a report shall be filed with the commission certifying the maximum pressure to which the line is intended to be subjected and also certifying that the pipeline has been constructed and tested in accordance with the requirements of the rules herein prescribed. The results of all tests made pursuant thereto shall be filed with the commission within 30 days of placing the facilities into service. No gas pipeline hereafter placed in service shall be operated at pressures in excess of the pressure for which it was certified to the commission.

(2) At least 30 days prior to an increase and not later than 30 days subsequent to a decrease in the maximum allowable operating pressure of a pipeline, on pipelines operating at pressures equal to or greater than 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe in use, a report shall be filed with the commission giving change in allowable operating pressure, and, if the pressure was increased, the steps taken to qualify the line for higher operating pressure.

(3) The commission shall be notified in writing at least two business days prior to the commencement of any pressure test of a gas pipeline to be operated at pressures in excess of 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used.

(4) The pressure tests of any such gas pipeline built in Class 3 or Class 4 locations shall be of at least 8 hours' duration.

(5) When the test medium is to be a gas or compressible fluid then every gas company testing pipelines to be operated in excess of 20% of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe used shall, prior to any tests, notify appropriate officials of all municipalities wherein such tests are to be made in order that adequate and proper police protection may be provided.

(6) The requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4) will be waived in an emergency where it is necessary to maintain continuity of service.

[Order R-28, § 480-93-170, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-170, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]
WAC 480-93-175 Moving and lowering gas pipelines.
A gas company shall prepare a study, prior to the moving or lowering of every gas pipeline, except service lines and plastic mains, to determine whether the proposed action will cause an unsafe condition. This study will be reviewed and certified by the gas company's senior engineer and retained in the gas company's files for the life of the pipeline. The study shall include, but not be limited to the following criteria:

1. The required deflection of the pipeline;
2. The diameter, wall thickness, and grade of the pipe;
3. The characteristics of the pipeline;
4. The terrain and class location;
5. The soil conditions, including the pH;
6. The current condition of the pipeline;
7. The safe stress of the pipeline; and
8. The toughness of the steel.

If the toughness of the pipe is unknown, it shall be considered to be brittle, and the pipeline shall not be moved.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-175, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92.]

WAC 480-93-180 Plan of operations and maintenance procedures; emergency policy; reporting requirements.
In compliance with the provisions and general intent of the federal "Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act," 49 CFR, Part 192 in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999, every gas company shall develop appropriate operating, maintenance, safety, and inspection plans and procedures and an emergency policy. Such plans and procedures, and all subsequent changes and amendments, initiated by the gas company or pursuant to changes in state and federal rules and regulations, shall be promptly filed with the commission, for review and determination as to their adequacy, when properly executed, to achieve an acceptable level of safety. The commission may, after notice and opportunity for hearing, require such plans and procedures to be revised. The plans and procedures required by the commission shall be practicable and designed to meet the needs of safety. In determining the adequacy of such plans and procedures to achieve an acceptable level of safety, the commission shall consider:

1. Relevant available pipeline safety data;
2. Whether the plans and procedures are appropriate for the particular type of pipeline operations being performed by the gas company, taking into consideration company size, geographical area of operation, and the public interest;
3. The reasonableness of the plans and procedures; and
4. The extent to which the plans and procedures, if properly executed, will contribute to an acceptable level of public safety being achieved by the company.

Furthermore, every gas company shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining such records, making such reports, and providing such information as the commission may reasonably require to enable it to determine whether the gas company has acted and is acting in compliance with these rules and regulations and the standards established thereunder. Every gas company shall, upon request of the commission and its authorized representatives, permit the commission and its authorized representatives to inspect books, papers, records, and documents relevant to determining whether the gas company and its agents have acted and are acting in compliance with these rules and regulations and the standards established thereunder. Such commission inspections shall be conducted at reasonable times, within reasonable limits, and in a reasonable manner, and each inspection shall be commenced and completed with reasonable promptness.
WAC 480-93-183 Pipeline and system pressure reporting.
All gas companies shall establish a maximum operating pressure for a pipeline or system, in accordance with this chapter, and notify the commission of the following pressure related changes:
(1) When a pipeline or system pressure exceeds the established maximum operating pressure, the commission shall be notified within six hours, to be followed by written explanation within thirty days;
(2) When a gas company proposes to raise any pipeline's pressure above two hundred fifty psig, the gas company shall petition the commission for a waiver of WAC 480-93-030, if applicable, before increasing the pressure;
(3) When a gas company proposes to raise any pipeline's pressure above five hundred psig, the gas company shall petition the commission for a waiver of WAC 480-93-020, if applicable, before increasing the pressure;
(4) When a pipeline or system operating at low pressure drops below the safe operating conditions of attached appliances and gas equipment; and
(5) When a pipeline, operating in excess of two hundred fifty psig, is taken out of service for any reason the commission shall be notified within six hours, followed by written explanation within thirty days.

WAC 480-93-184 Gas leak responsibility.
Each gas company shall designate personnel who shall be responsible for pipeline and service line patrolling; leak survey practices, procedures, and operations; and leak classification and repairs within its respective areas of operation (i.e. division, district, etc.).

WAC 480-93-185 Gas leak investigation.
Any notification of a leak, explosion, or fire, which may involve gas pipelines or other gas facilities, received from an outside source such as a police or fire department, other utility, contractor, customer, or the general public, shall be investigated promptly by the gas company. Where the investigation reveals a leak, the leak shall be graded pursuant to WAC 480-93-186 and appropriate action shall be taken in accordance with these rules.
When leak indications are found to originate from a foreign source or facility, such as gasoline vapors, sewer or marsh gas, or customer-owned piping, prompt action shall be taken at that time, where appropriate, to protect life and property. Leaks that represent an ongoing, potentially hazardous situation shall be reported promptly to the owner or operator of the source facility and, where appropriate, to the police department, or other appropriate governmental agency. In all cases, the property owner or the adult person occupying the premises shall be notified of the leak conditions. If no methane indication is found, the gas company employee on-site shall so inform the property owner or the adult person occupying the premises, and shall request the adult person occupying the premises sign the gas company work order indicating that a gas leak was not the source of the leak indication. The gas company employee shall provide the adult person occupying the premises an odor sniff card which identifies the odor of natural gas and indicates the name, address, and telephone number of the gas company representative to be contacted if the leak...
indications are again noticed. If the property owner or an adult person occupying the premises is not available, the gas company shall, within twenty-four hours of the leak notification, send by first-class mail addressed to the person occupying the premises, a letter explaining the results of the investigation. A copy of the letter shall be retained by the gas company and kept with the leak report. A leak investigation report form shall be maintained in the gas company's leak report files for all leaks investigated, indicating gas company employee making the initial leak evaluation.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-185, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-102, § 480-93-185, filed 5/18/77.]

WAC 480-93-186 Leakage classification and action criteria.

(1) Gas leak classification and repair.
(a) General. Each gas company shall establish a procedure by which leakage indications of flammable gas will be graded and controlled. When evaluating any leak indication a preliminary step is to determine the perimeter of the leak area. When this perimeter extends to a building wall the investigation shall extend inside the building.
(b) Leak grades. Based on an evaluation of the location and/or magnitude of a leak, one of the following leak grades shall be assigned, thereby establishing the leak repair priority. A gas company may utilize an alphabetical grade classification, i.e. Grade A for Grade 1, Grade B for Grade 2, and Grade C for Grade 3 if it has historically utilized such a grading designation.
   Grade 1 - Grade 1 means a leak that represents an existing or probable hazard to persons or property and requiring immediate repair or continuous action until conditions are no longer hazardous.
   Grade 2 - Grade 2 means a leak recognized as being nonhazardous at the time of detection but requiring scheduled repair based on probable future hazard.
   Grade 3 - Grade 3 means a leak that is nonhazardous at the time of detection and can reasonably be expected to remain nonhazardous.

Leakage classification and control requirements are provided in Table 1. The examples of leakage provided in the table are guidelines and are not exclusive. The judgment of the gas company personnel at the scene is of primary importance in determining the grade assigned to a leak.
(c) Follow-up inspections. The adequacy of leak repairs shall be checked by acceptable methods while the excavation is open. The perimeter of the leak area shall be checked with a CGI. In the case of repair of a Grade 1 leak, where there is residual gas in the ground, a follow-up inspection shall be made as soon as practical but in no case later than one month following the repair. In the case of Grade 2 or Grade 3 leaks which have been repaired, the need for a follow-up inspection shall be determined by qualified personnel employed or retained by the gas company.
(2) Regrading of leaks. Leaks are to be reinspected using the same criteria used to grade leaks when they are first detected and graded.

[Order R-103, § 480-93-186, filed 5/18/77.]

WAC 480-93-18601 Table 1--Leak classification and action criteria--Grade--Definition--Priority of leak repair--Examples.

| TABLE 1--LEAK CLASSIFICATION AND ACTION CRITERIA |
|------------- |----------------- |
| GRADE 1 | DEFINITION |
| A leak that represents an existing or probable hazard to persons or property and requires... | [http://www.wutc.wa.gov/webdocs.nsf/2d5fa9f409e55886882563da0072c702/a926ada6cb4232ff8825647c00...| 5/19/2004] |
immediate repair or continuous action until the conditions are no longer hazardous.

PRIORITY OF LEAK REPAIR EXAMPLES

Requires prompt action* to Leaks requiring prompt action:
protect life and property and
continuous action until the conditions are no longer hazardous. of operating personnel at the
scene, is regarded as an
*The prompt action in some immediate hazard.
instances may require one or more
of the following: 2. Escaping gas that has ignited un-
intentionally.
a. Implementation of company
emergency plan (192.615). 3. Any indication of gas which has
migrated into or under a
b. Evacuating premises. building or tunnel.
c. Blocking off an area. 4. Any reading at the outside wall
of a building or where the gas
d. Rerouting traffic. would likely migrate to the
outside wall of a building.
e. Eliminating sources of ignition.
5. Any reading of 80% LEL or
f. Venting the area, or greater in a confined space.
g. Stopping the flow of gas by 6. Any reading of 80% LEL, or
closing valves or other greater in small substructures
means. not associated with gas
facilities where the gas would
h. Notifying police and fire likely migrate to the outside
departments. wall of a building.

7. Any leak that can be seen, heard,
or felt and which is in a location
that may endanger the general public
or property.

GRADE 2
DEFINITION

A leak that is recognized as being nonhazardous at the time of detection but justifies scheduled
repair based on probable future hazard.

PRIORITY OF LEAK REPAIR EXAMPLES
Leaks should be repaired or A. Leaks requiring action ahead of
cleared in one year but shall ground freezing or other
not exceed fifteen months from adverse changes in venting
the date reported. If a Grade conditions:
2 leak occurs in a segment of
pipeline which is under 1. Any leak, which under frozen
consideration for replacement, or other adverse soil
an additional 6 months may be conditions, would likely
added to the 15 months maximum migrate to the outside of a
time for repair noted above. In building.
determining the repair priority,
criteria such as the following B. Leaks requiring action within
should be considered: six months:
a. Amount and migration of 1. Any reading of 40% LEL or
gas, greater under a sidewalk in
b. Proximity of gas to a wall-to-wall paved area buildings and subsurface that does not qualify as a structures, Grade 1 leak and where gas
c. Extent of pavement, and is likely to migrate to the
d. Soil type and conditions, outside wall of a building.
such as frost cap, moisture
and natural venting. 2. Any reading of 100% LEL or
greater under a street in a
Grade 2 leaks shall be re-walled paved area that
evaluated at least once every six months does not qualify as a Grade
months until cleared. The 1 leak and where the gas is
frequency of reevaluation should be likely to migrate to the
determined by the location and outside wall of a building.
magnitude of the leakage
condition. 3. Any reading less than 80%
LEL in small substructures
It should be recognized that not associated with gas
Grade 2 leaks will vary greatly facilities where gas would
in degree of potential hazard. likely migrate creating a
There will be some Grade 2 probable future hazard.
leaks, which when evaluated by
the above criteria, will justify 4. Any reading between 20% LEL
scheduled repair within the next and 80% LEL in a confined
5 working days. Others will space.
justifying repair within 30 days.
These situations shall be brought 5. Any reading on a pipeline
to the attention of the operating at 30% SMYS or
individual responsible for greater in Class 3 or 4
scheduling leakage repair at the locations that does not
end of the working day. qualify as a Grade 1 leak.

On the other hand, there will be 6. Any leak which in the
many Grade 2 leaks, which because judgment of operating
of their location and magnitude, personnel at the scene is of
can be scheduled for repair on a sufficient magnitude to
normal routine basis with justify scheduled repair.
periodic reinspection as
necessary.

GRADE 3
DEFINITION

A leak that is nonhazardous at the time of detection and can reasonably be expected to remain nonhazardous.

PRIORITY OF LEAK REPAIR EXAMPLES

Grade 3 leaks should be re-valued at
scheduled survey, or within 15
months of the reporting date. 1. Any reading of less than 80%
whichever occurs first, until LEL in small gas associated
the leak is regraded or no substructures such as small
longer results in a reading. meter boxes or gas valve boxes.

2. Any reading under a street in
areas without wall-to-wall paving
where it is unlikely the gas could
migrate to the outside wall of a
building.

3. Any reading of less than 20% LEL
in a confined space.
WAC 480-93-187 Records and self audit.

(1) Gas leak records. Every gas company shall prepare and maintain permanent gas leak repair records. Sufficient data and information shall be included in leak repair records to permit the commission to assess the adequacy of the company maintenance programs and to provide the data and information needed to complete every required RSPA F-7100.1, F-7100.1-1, F-7100.2, and F-7100.2-1 leak report.

(2) The following data and information shall be recorded and maintained. Every gas company which by law must report leaks to a regulatory agency charged by law with environmental protection shall file copies of those reports with the commission. Data and information which cannot reasonably be expected to be available under the particular circumstances of a leak situation need not be reported, but at a minimum will include the following:

(a) Date and time detected, date and time reported, date and time and name of employees dispatched, and the date and time the leak was investigated;
(b) Date and time the leak was reevaluated before repair, and the name of the employee involved;
(c) Date and time of repair, when a Grade 1 leak is involved, and the name of the employee in charge of the repair;
(d) Date and time the leak was rechecked after repair and the employee involved;
(e) If leak was reportable to an environmental agency, date and time report made to regulatory authority and name of reporting employee;
(f) Location of leak (sufficiently described to allow ready location by other competent personnel);
(g) Leak grade;
(h) Line use (distribution, transmission, etc.);
(i) Method of leak detection (if reported by outside party, list name and address);
(j) Part of system where leak occurred (main, service, etc.);
(k) Part of system which leaked (pipe, valve, fitting, compressor or regulator station, etc.);
(l) Material which leaked (steel, plastic, cast iron, etc.);
(m) Origin of leak;
(n) Pipe description;
(o) Type repair;
(p) Leak cause;
(q) Date pipe installed (if known);
(r) Whether under cathodic protection; and
(s) Magnitude of CGI readings at appropriate locations which are a part of the classification procedures contained in Table 1 of WAC 480-93-186 (codified as WAC 480-93-18601).

The data to be recorded on leaks which have been appropriately classified as "Grade 3" may be at the company's discretion, but must include, at a minimum, information necessary to allow for proper follow-up action to be accomplished.

(3) Self audits. In order that the effectiveness of the leak repair program may be evaluated, the following self audits shall be performed by every gas company:

(a) Repair scheduling - assure that repairs are made within the time specified;
(b) Repair effectiveness - assure that leak repairs are effective; and
(c) Check adequacy of records.
WAC 480-93-188 Gas leak surveys.

(1) Types of gas leak surveys and test methods. Every gas company shall have a leak control program, which shall be determined by the nature of the gas company's system and by existing physical and operating conditions, and which must meet the following minimum requirements. During a gas leak survey, a gas detection instrument shall be conducted over all mains and services, including the testing of the atmosphere in gas, electric, telephone, sewer, water, and other underground structures; at cracks in paving, and in wall-to-wall paved areas, the cracks in sidewalks; at building walls; and at other opportune locations for discovering gas leaks.

(2) Maintenance and calibration of instruments. All instruments used in leak detection and evaluation shall be maintained, calibrated, and operated in accordance with the latest applicable manufacturers' specifications, methods, and procedures unless alternative specifications, methods, and procedures have been approved by an appropriate governmental agency.

(3) Frequency of surveys in designated areas. Gas leakage surveys shall be conducted according to the following specified frequencies:
   (a) Business areas - at intervals not exceeding fifteen months, but at least once each calendar year;
   (b) Residential areas - as frequently as necessary, but at intervals not exceeding five years;
   (c) Buildings of public assembly - at intervals not exceeding fifteen months, but at least once each calendar year;
   (d) Special surveys - as required; and
   (e) Where the gas system has cast iron, wrought iron, or ductile iron, or noncathodically protected bare steel, galvanized steel, or coated steel pipe - at intervals not exceeding eight months, but at least twice each calendar year.

(4) Business areas and buildings of public assembly. Leakage surveys of business areas and public buildings shall be conducted on the following basis:
   (a) All business structures and buildings of public assembly within 100 feet of an active pipeline, whether or not served with gas, shall be considered for survey;
   (b) Where gas service lines exist, a survey shall be conducted at the building wall at the point of entrance, using a bar hole if necessary;
   (c) Surveys shall be conducted within all buildings where leakage has been detected at the outside wall at all points where escaping gas could be expected to penetrate into and accumulate inside the building; and
   (d) Service piping, riser piping and meter(s) shall be checked with soap solution or by use of a gas detection instrument.

(5) Special surveys. Special leakage surveys shall be conducted in the following circumstances:
   (a) Prior to paving or resurfacing, following street alterations or repairs, where gas facilities are under the area to be paved, and where there is a substantial probability that damage could have occurred to the gas facilities, an appropriate gas survey, including manholes and other street openings, shall be made;
   (b) In areas of sewer, water, or other substructure construction adjacent to underground gas facilities, where there is a substantial probability that damage could have occurred to the gas facilities, an appropriate gas detection survey shall be made following the completion of installation but prior to paving;
   (c) Unstable soil areas where active gas lines could be affected;
   (d) Special surveys shall be made annually of places of public congregation when an active gas service line serves the building or where active gas service lines or mains are located with such close proximity as to present a possible hazard should leakage occur, for example, churches; schools; and hospitals;
   (e) Special surveys shall be made of abnormal areas. Special surveys shall be conducted in areas of unusual activity, including, but not limited to, foreign construction, possible ground movement, flooding, earthquake, and explosions.

(6) Leak survey records. For the most current and immediately preceding survey of an area, the following information shall be maintained:
   (a) Description of system and area surveyed (this could include maps and leak survey logs);
(b) Survey results;
(c) Survey method;
(d) Names of those making survey;
(e) Survey dates; and
(f) In addition to the above, the following records shall be kept for pressure drop test:
(i) The name of the gas company, the name of the gas company employee responsible for making the test, and the name of any test company used;
(ii) Test medium used;
(iii) Test pressure;
(iv) Test duration;
(v) Pressure recording charts, or other record of pressure readings; and
(vi) Test results.

7) Self audits. In order that the effectiveness of the leak detection and repair program may be evaluated, the following self audits shall be performed as frequently as necessary, but at intervals not exceeding three years:
(a) Leak survey schedule - assure that it is commensurate with the Minimum Federal Safety Standards for gas lines, Subpart M-Maintenance, and the general condition of the pipeline system as required by other applicable regulations;
(b) Survey effectiveness - evaluate survey results to assure that a consistent evaluation of leaks is being made throughout the system; and
(c) Check adequacy of records.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-188, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-105, § 480-93-188, filed 5/18/77.]

WAC 480-93-190 Being aware of construction work near gas company facilities.
All gas companies shall subscribe to the available "one call locating service" in every area their facilities are located. Every gas company shall establish procedures for obtaining prompt notice and full information concerning the commencement and progress of all construction work in areas in close proximity to gathering lines, mains, service lines, transmission lines, and other gas facilities. The object of such a program will be to lessen the probability of incurring damage to the company's underground facilities.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-190, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-190, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-190, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

WAC 480-93-200 Reports associated with gas company facilities and operations.
(1) Every gas company shall give prompt telephonic notice to the commission, within six hours of occurrence, of every accident, incident, or hazardous condition, arising out of its operations which:
(a) Results in a fatality or personal injury requiring hospitalization;
(b) Results in damage to the property of the company and others of a combined total exceeding five thousand dollars (automobile collisions and other equipment accidents not involving gas or gas handling equipment need not be reported under this rule);
(c) Is significant, in the judgment of the company, even though it does not meet the criteria of (a) and (b) of this subsection;
(d) Results in the taking of a high pressure supply or transmission pipeline or a major distribution supply pipeline out of service or lowering its pressure fifty percent or more below its normal operating pressure; and
(e) Results in the news media reporting the occurrence, even though it does not meet the criteria of (a)
through (d) of this subsection.

(2) Such reports shall be verified in detail in writing if not so reported initially and shall include at least the following:

(a) Name(s) and address(es) of any person or persons injured or killed or whose property was damaged;
(b) The extent of such injuries and damage;
(c) A description of the accident, incident, or hazardous condition to include date, time, and place;
(d) A description of the gas facilities implicated in the accident, incident, or hazardous condition and the system operating pressure at that time, and the maximum operating pressure of the facilities implicated;
(e) The date and time the gas facility was made safe;
(f) The date, time, and type of any temporary or permanent repair made; and
(g) A report shall be available to the commission within three months, upon request, of the failure analysis of any accident, incident, or hazardous condition which was due to construction or material failure.

Routine or planned maintenance and operational activities of the company which result in company controlled plant and equipment shut downs, reduction in system pressures except as noted above, flaring or venting of gas, and normal leak repairs are not to be considered reportable items under this section.

(3) Every gas company shall file a copy of every required RSPA F-7100.1-1 and F-7100.2-1 leak report with the commission. Names and telephone numbers of commission personnel authorized to take telephonic leak reports will be furnished and kept current under a separate letter to every company.

(4) All gas companies shall file with the commission, and with appropriate officials of all municipalities within which such gas companies have facilities, the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of responsible officials of such gas companies who may be contacted in the event of an emergency. In the event of any changes in gas company personnel, immediate notification thereof shall be given to the commission and municipalities.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-200, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-200, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-200, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

**WAC 480-93-210 Interruptions to service.**

Interruptions to the service furnished by any gas company to an industrial customer, a master meter customer, or twenty-five or more distribution customers, or the failure of any gas facilities, shall be reported to the commission within six hours. When service has been restored, a written report shall be submitted promptly to the commission detailing the cause of the interruption or failure and steps taken to prevent any recurrence.

This requirement shall not apply to interruptions to service made by gas companies in accordance with the provisions of contracts between such companies and their customers or other planned interruptions carried out in conjunction with normal operational and maintenance requirements of the company.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-210, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-210, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-210, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

**WAC 480-93-220 Rule of precedence.**

Where there is any conflict between the provisions of CFR 49, Part 192 (Minimum Federal Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Standards) in effect on the date specified in WAC 480-93-999 and any rule specifically set forth herein, the former shall govern.

These rules shall take precedence over all orders, heretofore made by the commission, insofar as said orders may be inconsistent with these rules.
These rules shall take precedence over all rules filed or to be filed by gas companies insofar as inconsistent therewith. Rules of the gas companies now on file and inconsistent with the rules herein established shall be properly revised and refiled within sixty days from the effective date of this order.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.310. 01-20-061 (Docket No. A-010827, General Order No. R-491), § 480-93-220, filed 9/28/01, effective 10/29/01; Order R-28, § 480-93-220, filed 7/15/71.]

WAC 480-93-223 Civil penalty for violation of RCW 80.28.210 or regulations issued thereunder--Maximum amount.

(1) Any gas company which violates any public safety provision of RCW 80.28.210 or regulation issued thereunder is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed twenty-five thousand dollars for each violation for each day that the violation persists. The maximum civil penalty under this subsection for a related series of violations is five hundred thousand dollars. This subsection applies to violations of public safety requirements including WAC 480-90-101 and including chapter 480-93 WAC except for WAC 480-93-160 and 480-93-200 (1)(e).

(2) Any gas company violating any other provision of RCW 80.28.210 or regulations promulgated thereunder, including WAC 480-93-160 and 480-93-200 (1)(e), shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation for each day that the violation persists, but the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars for a related series of violations.

(3) The commission may compromise any civil penalty pursuant to RCW 80.28.210.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 95-19-057 (Order R-433, Docket No. UG-950625), § 480-93-223, filed 9/15/95, effective 10/16/95.]

WAC 480-93-230 Modification/waivers.

If a gas company determines that an undue hardship or an unsafe condition may result from the application of any rule in this chapter, application may be made to the commission to deviate from the rule. Every request for a deviation shall be accompanied by full and complete justification for such requested deviation. The petitioning company shall describe how it will meet the requirements of this chapter in the absence of the waived rule, which may include proposed amendments to this chapter. Requests for waiver will be written, properly documented, and submitted to the commission. A gas company shall concurrently submit to the commission all petitions for waiver of any gas safety rule filed with the federal government or other governmental authority.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040. 92-16-100 (Order R-375, Docket No. UG-911261), § 480-93-230, filed 8/5/92, effective 9/5/92; Order R-28, § 480-93-230, filed 7/15/71; Order R-5, § 480-93-230, filed 6/6/69, effective 10/9/69.]

WAC 480-93-240 Annual pipeline safety fee methodology. (1) Every gas company and every interstate gas pipeline company subject to inspection or enforcement by the commission will pay an annual pipeline safety fee as established in the methodology set forth in section (2) below.

(2) The fee will be set by general order of the commission entered before July 1 of each year and will be collected in four equal installments payable on the first day of each calendar quarter, beginning July 1, 2001.

(a) The total of pipeline safety fees will be calculated to recover the costs of the legislatively authorized workload represented by current appropriations, less the amount received in federal funds through the Federal Department of Transportation's Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Program base grant. Federal grants, http://www.wutc.wa.gov/webdocs.nsf/2d5fa9f409e55886882563da0072c702/a926ada6cb4232ff8825647c008... 5/19/2004
other than the federal base grant, received by the commission for additional
activities not included or anticipated in the legislatively directed workload
will not be credited against company pipeline safety fees, nor will the work
supported by such grants be considered a cost for purposes of calculating such
fees.
(b) Total pipeline fees as determined in subsection (a) will be divided between
gas companies and interstate gas pipeline companies based on two components:
(i) The first component is direct assignment of average costs associated with a
company's standard inspections, including the average number of inspection days
per year, which will be determined annually. Standard inspections are conducted
to comply with the state's participation requirement under the "Guidelines for
States Participating in the Pipeline Safety Program" of the Federal Department of
Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety.
(ii) The second component is an allocation of the remaining program costs that
are not directly assigned in (i). Distribution of these costs between gas
companies and interstate gas pipeline companies will be based on miles of
transmission lines as defined in WAC 480-93-005(18) and miles of main as defined
in WAC 480-93-005(12) operated within Washington state.
(c) The commission general order setting fees pursuant to this rule will detail
the allocation of program costs between gas companies and interstate gas pipeline
companies, and the specific calculation of each company's pipeline safety fee.
(3) By April 1 of each year every gas company and every interstate gas pipeline
company subject to this section must file an annual report as prescribed by the
commission that is necessary to establish the annual pipeline safety fee. By June
1 of each year the commission staff will mail to each company subject to this
section an annual invoice showing an estimate of the quarterly amounts.
(4) All funds received by the commission for the pipeline safety program will be
deposited to the pipeline safety account. For those companies subject to RCW
80.24.010, the portion of the company's total regulatory fee applicable to
pipeline safety will be transferred from the public service revolving fund to the
pipeline safety account.
(5) Any company wishing to contest the amount of the fee imposed under this
section must pay the fee and, within 6 months of the due date of the fee, file a
petition in writing with the commission requesting a refund. The petition must
state the name of the petitioner; the date and the amount paid, including a copy
of any receipt, if available; the amount of the fee that is contested; and any
reasons why the commission may not impose the fee. The commission may grant the
petition administratively or may set the petition for adjudication or for brief
adjudication.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160 and 2001 c 238 § 2. 02-
03-016 (Docket No. UG-010522, General Order No. R-497), § 480-93-240, filed
1/4/02, effective 2/4/02.]

WAC (12/17/01 9:18 AM) [ ]

WAC 480-93-999 Adoption by reference. In this chapter, the commission adopts by reference all or
portions of regulations and standards identified below. They are available for inspection at the commission
branch of the Washington state library. The publications, effective dates, references within this chapter, and
availability of the resources are as follows:
Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, cited as 49 CFR, including all appendices and amendments is
(1) The commission adopts the version in effect on July 1, 2001.
(2) This publication is referenced in WAC 480-93-005, 480-93-010, 480-93-015, 480-93-110, 480-93-124,

[Statutory Authority: RCW 80.01.040, 80.04.160, 81.04.160, and 34.05.310. 01-20-061 (Docket No. A-010827, General Order No. R-491), § 480-93-999, filed 9/28/01, effective 10/29/01.]

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