

CHAPTER 23 NATURAL GAS

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2300 COMMISSION AUTHORITY

2300.1 Under D.C. Code §43-1001 (1990 Repl. Vol.), the Commission shall maintain general supervision of all gas corporations having authority, under any general

or special law or under any charter or franchise, to lay down, erect, or maintain wires, pipes, conduits, ducts, or other fixtures in, over or under the streets, highways, and public places in the District of Columbia for the purpose of furnishing or distributing gas for light, heat, or power.

- 2300.2 The Commission shall maintain general supervision of all gas manufacturing and processing plants operating in the District of Columbia.

AUTHORITY: Unless otherwise noted, the authority for this chapter is Paragraph 21 of §8 of An Act Making appropriations to provide for the expenses of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and fourteen, and for other purposes, approved March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 977); as amended by §2 of the Public Utilities Amendment Act of 1989, D.C. Law 8-47, D.C. Code §43-501 (1990 Repl. Vol.).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625 (October 24, 1986); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 2381 (April 26, 1991).

2301 FEDERAL CODE PROVISIONS APPLICABLE

- 2301.1 The federal government's gas safety regulations for transportation of natural and other gas by pipeline, 49 CFR 190 (Pipeline Safety Program Procedures), 49 CFR 191 (annual Reports and incident Reports) 49 CFR 192 (Minimum Federal Safety Standards), and 49 CFR 199 (Drug Testing) shall be the natural gas pipeline safety standards for intrastate natural gas transmission and distribution facilities subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, except to the extent that the regulations in this chapter are more specific.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625 (October 24, 1986); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 2381 (April 26, 1991).

2302 ENFORCEMENT

- 2302.1 Whenever the Commission finds a particular facility to be hazardous to life or property, it shall require the person, firm, or corporation operating the facility to take all measures necessary to remove the hazards.

- 2302.2 The Office of Engineering of the Commission shall have responsibility for the enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

- 2302.3 The Office of Engineering shall investigate and report to the Commission, in writing, instances in which it appears that this chapter have not been complied with, and shall make recommendations for achieving prompt compliance.

- 2302.4 The plant, property, facilities, and records of gas corporations under the Commission's jurisdiction shall be made readily accessible to the Commission, its staff, or its authorized representatives in the administration and enforcement of this chapter, or in the investigation of violations or alleged violations of any of its provisions.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625 (October 24, 1986).

2303 - 2305 [RESERVED]**2306 INCIDENT REPORTS**

2306.1 Each gas corporation shall report to the Commission's Office of Engineering each incident that must be reported to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety.

2306.2 Each gas corporation shall report in writing within thirty (30) days to the Commission's Office of Engineering the following incidents:

- (a) An event that involves release of gas from a pipeline, or release of liquified natural gas (LNG) or gas from an LNG facility and one of the following:
 - (1) A death, or a personal injury necessitating hospitalization; or
 - (2) Estimated property damage, including the cost of gas lost, of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or more;
- (b) An event that results in an emergency shutdown of an LNG facility; or
- (c) An event that is significant in the judgment of the operator, even though the circumstances of §2306.2(a) or 2306.2(b) were not met.

2306.3 At the earliest practical time following discovery of incidents described in §2306.2, each operator shall notify the Commission's Office of Engineering and provide the following:

- (a) Name of the operator, person reporting, and their telephone number(s);
- (b) Location of the incident;
- (c) Time of the incident;
- (d) Nature of facilities and injuries, if any; and
- (e) All other significant facts that are relevant to the incident.

2306.4 A copy of each report filed with a federal agency regarding safety and service failures by a gas corporation under the Commission's jurisdiction shall be provided to the Director of the Commission's Office of Engineering.

2306.5 The Office of Engineering shall maintain a log of telephone reports of incidents involving natural gas safety.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6626 (October 24, 1986); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938 (November 4, 1988); and by Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 2381 (April 26, 1991).

2307 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLANS

2307.1 Each natural gas corporation subject to the Commission's jurisdiction shall have on file with the Commission the following information:

- (a) Plans covering operation and maintenance procedures in accordance with federal regulations; and
- (b) Modifications of such plans when issued by the gas corporation.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6627 (October 24, 1986).

2308 EMERGENCY PLANS

2308.1 Each natural gas corporation subject to the Commission's jurisdiction shall do the following:

- (a) Establish an emergency plan to be implemented in the event of facility failures or other emergencies;
- (b) Acquaint appropriate maintenance and operating employees with the operation of the applicable portions of the plan;
- (c) Establish a liaison with appropriate public officials with respect to this plan; and
- (d) File with the Office of Engineering the name, address, and telephone number of the employee(s) and official(s) of the gas corporation who may be called in an emergency. It shall be the responsibility of each gas corporation to keep this information current.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6627 (October 24, 1986).

2309 [RESERVED]

2310 INVESTIGATIONS AND INSPECTIONS

2310.1 The Commission, its staff, or agents, shall investigate and ascertain, periodically, the quality and quantity of natural gas supplied to consumers in the District of Columbia.

2310.2 The Commission, its staff, or agents periodically shall investigate the methods employed by natural gas corporations under its jurisdiction in manufacturing, distributing, supplying, and transmitting gas for light, heat, or power.

- 2310.3** Upon presentation of appropriate credentials, the Commission's staff, or duly appointed agents, shall be authorized to enter upon, inspect and examine, at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, the records and properties of persons to the extent such records and properties are relevant to determining compliance with the provisions of this chapter.
- 2310.4** Inspections shall be conducted pursuant to one of the following:
- (a) Routine scheduling;
 - (b) A complaint received from a member of the public;
 - (c) Information obtained from a previous inspection;
 - (d) Pipeline accident or incident; or
 - (e) Whenever deemed appropriate by the Commission.
- 2310.5** An inspection shall include a thorough review of the operator's records concerning inspection, operation, maintenance, and emergency procedures.
- 2310.6** Field inspection shall include operational checks of corrosion control provisions, overpressure and regulating equipment, odorization, repaired leaks, emergency valves and any other components of the facility.
- 2310.7** The Commission's Office of Engineer shall create and maintain the records of such inspections for a period of five (5) years.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6628 (October 24, 1986).

2311 NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATIONS

- 2311.1** When an evaluation of an operator's records and facilities indicates that the operator apparently is not in compliance with a pipeline safety regulation, the investigator shall informally discuss the probable violation with the operator before concluding the inspection.
- 2311.2** Onsite corrective action may be taken by the operator of the facilities where the probable violation exists, thus correcting the violation.
- 2311.3** If an onsite corrective action is taken, the Director, Office of Engineering, shall confirm the action was taken by sending a letter to the operator specifying the violation and remedy.
- 2311.4** If no corrective action is taken, the investigator shall prepare a written report of the probable violation for the Director, Office of Engineering.
- 2311.5** The Director, Office of Engineering shall file the report of probable violation with the Commission and serve it upon the corporation.

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- 2311.6 The report of a probable violation shall cite specifically the gas pipeline safety regulation(s) in apparent violation.
- 2311.7 Service of the report of probable violation shall constitute formal notice of a probable violation.
- 2311.8 Each gas corporation and small gas operator shall file with the Director, Office of Engineering, the name, address, and telephone number of the person who will accept service of the report of a probable violation.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6628 (October 24, 1986).

2312 OPPORTUNITY FOR OPERATOR TO RESPOND

- 2312.1 A gas corporation that is the object of a formal notice of probable violation shall respond to the Director, Office of Engineering, in writing, within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice.
- 2312.2 A natural gas corporation may respond to a formal notice of probable violation by taking one of the following actions:
- (a) Submitting a written plan of action to the Office of Engineering outlining actions that will be taken to correct the violations, including a schedule and the date when compliance is anticipated; or
 - (b) Requesting an information conference with the Director, Office of Engineering.
- 2312.3 If the Director, Office of Engineering, accepts written plan of action, and that plan is executed, the matter shall be resolved.
- 2312.4 If a conference is requested, it shall be held within fourteen (14) days of the request.
- 2312.5 The conference shall be convened by the Director, Office of Engineering, and shall be attended by the investigator who filed the report.
- 2312.6 If the matter is not resolved at an informal conference or if the Director, Office of Engineering, rejects the plan of action submitted by the natural gas corporation, the Director, Office of Engineering, shall refer the matter within thirty (30) days of the conference or the rejection of the corporation's plan to the Commission for resolution.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6629 (October 24, 1986).

2313 COMMISSION ACTION

- 2313.1 Upon referral of the matter to the Commission for formal resolution, the Commission shall take any of the following actions:

- (a) Seek an injunction or mandamus in D.C. Superior Court in cases in which immediate action is necessary;
- (b) Issue a show-cause order or schedule a hearing requiring the operator to demonstrate why the operator should not be subject to the penalties set forth in the D.C. Code and this chapter; or
- (c) Pursuant to a hearing, order an operator to take corrective action.

2313.2 Failure to obey a Commission order can result in penalties prescribed in the D.C. Code and this chapter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6630 (October 24, 1986).

2314 RECORDS

2314.1 Each gas corporation shall organize, prepare, and maintain all necessary records and reports to insure and to demonstrate compliance with this chapter. All records and reports shall be available for inspection at all times by the Commission, its staff, or its authorized employees in the normal discharge of their duties.

2314.2 Each gas corporation shall maintain specifications for material and equipment, installation, testing, and fabricating.

2314.3 Each gas corporation shall maintain plans covering operating and maintenance procedures, including the maximum allowable operating pressures to which all lines are intended to be subjected.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6630 (October 24, 1986).

2315 GAS PROCUREMENT REPORT

2315.1 On November 1st annually, District of Columbia Natural Gas, a Division of Washington Gas Light Company (WGL or Company), shall file a Gas Procurement Report (GPR) setting forth the Company's gas procurement strategies and practices.

2315.2 The GPR shall contain the following information:

- (a) Actual and projected annual and monthly gas supply, billing determinants and costs, including weighted average cost of gas, as allocated to major classes of service by jurisdiction;
- (b) Actual and projected margins for sales to flex rate interruptible and special contract customers;
- (c) An outline of the efforts made to obtain, and maintain, a reliable gas supply at reasonable costs; and

- (d) An outline and discussion of the decisionmaking basis and planning procedures utilized by WGL in its gas procurement activities.
- 2315.3 The GPR shall consist of at least four (4) sections which address the directives in Commission Order No. 9793, as well as other considerations agreed upon by the members of the Gas Procurement Working Group (GPWG). The GPWG, which shall consist of representatives from the Staff of the Commission (Staff), the Office of Peoples Counsel (OPC) and WGL, shall meet periodically to discuss and refine the GPR. However, WGL, not the GPWG, shall formulate the GPR.
- 2315.4 The GPWG shall review and discuss gas procurement planning activities and strategies. The GPWG shall transfer technical knowledge to the Staff which will ultimately assist in the Commission's review and evaluation of the Company's planning activities and strategies.
- 2315.5 OPC and the public may file comments not later than forty-five (45) days from the date of the GPR's submission to the Commission.
- 2315.6 The Staff shall review the proposed GPR and by February 1st shall submit a report to the Commission summarizing and evaluating the comments of public parties and OPC and providing its recommendations.
- 2315.7 Reply comments, if any, shall be submitted by WGL not later than fifteen (15) days from the submission of comments of OPC, Staff, or the public.
- 2315.8 The Commission shall review the GPR, along with any public comments, OPC's comments and Staff's comments, and any reply comments and thereafter make public its evaluation of the GPR by March 1st.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 41 DCR 202 (January 14, 1994).

2316 - 2319 [RESERVED]

2320 SMALL GAS OPERATORS

- 2320.1 Small gas operators subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission shall comply with the requirements, rules, and regulations of this chapter.
- 2320.2 In the event of an emergency or safety hazard, the Commission shall take either of the following actions:
- (a) Order service to the small gas operator interrupted; or
 - (b) Order the hazard remedied at the operator's expense.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6631 (October 24, 1986).

2321 - 2350 [RESERVED]**2351 GENERAL GAS METERING PROVISIONS**

- 2351.1 A representative of the Commission shall check the condition of meters in the meter shop of the utility from time to time by testing random samples of meters ready for installation.
- 2351.2 When any meter is inactive, whether installed in service or not, for a period of two (2) years or longer, it shall be tested, and adjusted if necessary, before being placed in service again.
- 2351.3 Meters shall measure cubic feet of gas and bills rendered for gas service shall contain the readings of the meter at the beginning and ending dates of the billing period and shall state clearly that the bill is based upon actual meter readings by the gas utility, a customer reading, or an estimate of usage.
- 2351.4 Care shall be exercised in the use and handling of test equipment to assure that the accuracy is not impaired.
- 2351.5 Each natural gas corporation which corrects meter readings to compensate for pressure shall have dead weight testers, test quality precision type bourdon tube spring gauges, mercury manometers, or field type dead weight pressure gauges as necessary for the proper testing of the pressure correcting devices.
- 2351.6 Each natural gas corporation shall maintain a proper record of the factor(s) used in compensating for pressure and temperature and the basis for computing such factor(s).
- 2351.7 Upon request, the gas corporation shall provide a record of the factor(s) and the basis for computing the factor(s) to the Commission's Office of Engineering.
- 2351.8 If these factor(s) are revised, the gas corporation shall immediately inform the Office of Engineering of these changes, in writing, and shall provide the basis for these changes.
- 2351.9 Each natural gas corporation which corrects meter readings to compensate for temperature shall have accurate the meters and other equipment as necessary for the proper testing of the temperature correcting devices.
- 2351.10 Meters to be tested shall be stored in a manner that the temperature of the meters is substantially the same as the temperature of the prover.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938 (November 4, 1988).

2352 METERING TESTS

- 2352.1 Only authorized representatives of a gas utility shall remove and set meters. Each gas utility shall keep a record of the dates that each meter is set in and removed from service.
- 2352.2 The test of any meter or associated devices, or both, shall consist of a comparison of its accuracy with the accuracy of the standards prescribed by the National Bureau of Standards or other methods specified in this chapter.
- 2352.3 Testing equipment shall be of sufficient capacity and ranges to test meters or associated devices, or both, under the conditions specified in §2360.
- 2352.4 Bell provers may be used to test diaphragm, rotary, and turbine type meters. A prover that is used to test rotary and turbine type meters shall be properly automated and have a satisfactory readout. The test shall consist of passing a specific volume of air through the prover and the meter. The accuracy or proof is either read or calculated from the prover scale or the readout.
- 2352.5 Approved working standards other than bell provers may be used to test diaphragm, rotary, and turbine type meters.
- 2352.6 The meter to be tested shall be connected to the approved working standard so that the same volume of air, either under pressure or vacuum, passes through both.
- 2352.7 The uncorrected accuracy shall be calculated or read directly from the readout on the working standard. Corrections shall be made for pressure and temperature differentials between the meter under test and the working standard to determine the corrected accuracy.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7939 (November 4, 1988).

2353 METER TESTING FACILITIES

- 2353.1 Each natural gas corporation subject to the Commission's jurisdiction shall maintain or designate a meter shop for the purpose of inspecting, testing, and repairing meters.
- 2353.2 The shop shall be open for inspection by authorized representatives of the Commission at all reasonable times, and the facilities and equipment, as well as the methods of making the measurements and test employed, shall be subject to the approval of the Commission.
- 2353.3 The area within the meter shop used for the testing of meters shall be designed so that the meters and meter testing equipment are protected from draft and excessive changes of temperature.
- 2353.4 The meter shop shall be air-conditioned, if necessary, in order to achieve satisfactory temperature control.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7940 (November 4, 1988).

2354 BELL PROVERS

2354.1 Each natural gas corporation testing meters with bell provers shall do the following:

- (a) Own and maintain, or have access to, one or more approved bell type meter provers of appropriate size, and all other equipment necessary to test meters, which shall be installed in the meter room;
- (b) Provide the means to maintain the temperature of the liquid in the bell provers at substantially the same level as the air temperature in the prover room. The maximum difference in temperature shall not be more than two degrees Fahrenheit (2° F.);
- (c) Maintain each bell prover in good condition and correct adjustment and shall be accurate within plus or minus three tenths of one percent ($\pm 0.3\%$) at each point used in testing meters; and
- (d) A bell prover shall be calibrated at least once every three (3) years. If moved or disassembled, the accuracy of a bell prover shall be determined by using one or more of the methods as follows:
 - (1) By comparison to a one (1) cubic foot standard calibrated by the National Bureau of Standards;
 - (2) By strapping with a calibrated tape whose accuracy is traceable to the National Bureau of Standards; or
 - (3) By comparison to an approved transfer standard for a bell in excess of five cubic feet (5 ft.³).

2354.2 Each natural gas corporation testing meters by standards other than bell provers shall do the following:

- (a) Gas corporations having meters which are too large for testing on a five cubic foot (5 ft.³) bell prover may test the meters by other approved methods and by use of approved working standards;
- (b) The approved working standards shall be maintained in good condition and correct adjustment, shall have a high degree of repeatability, and shall be capable of determining the actual proof of the meter under test to within plus or minus five tenths of one percent ($\pm 0.5\%$) at rates of flow between fifteen percent (15%) and one hundred percent (100%) of rated capacity of the meter under test; and
- (c) The approved working standards shall be tested for accuracy by comparison with an acceptable standard at least once every three (3) years.

- 2354.3** Each standard shall be accompanied at all times by a certificate or calibration card, duly signed and dated, on which are recorded the corrections required to compensate for errors found at the customary test points at the time of the last previous test.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7940 (November 4, 1988).

2355 TEST OF TURBINE METERS

- 2355.1** Turbine meters for which the manufacturer has established minimum spin times, may be spin tested to determine their in-service condition.
- 2355.2** Turbine meters shall be given a spin test at least once every twelve (12) months unless covered under an approved in-service performance testing program.
- 2355.3** Any meter found to have a spin time less than the manufacturer's recommended minimum and which cannot be brought up to the minimum by cleaning and lubrication shall be changed and replaced with an accurate meter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7942 (November 4, 1988).

2356 PREINSTALLATION TESTS OF ROTARY METERS

- 2356.1** Rotary meters on which an original test record of the differential pressures is established, as soon as practicable after installation, may subsequently be tested by comparing the new differential pressures with the original test record. This subsequent test may be in place of normal testing with a bell prover or other approved working standard.
- 2356.2** In establishing the original test record, the pressure differential shall be recorded at two (2) or more load levels, with the minimum being no less than twenty percent (20%) of the rated capacity at the operating pressure of the meter.
- 2356.3** The meters shall be given a differential pressure test at least once every twenty-four (24) months unless covered under an approved in-service performance testing program.
- 2356.4** When the test differential pressure differs from the original test record by more than fifty percent (50%), the meter shall not be used for measurement for revenue billing purposes until, by cleaning or repairing, the differential pressure is not more than fifty percent (50%) in excess of the original test record.
- 2356.5** If the differential pressure cannot be brought within the above limits by cleaning or repairing, the meter shall be removed from service and replaced with an accurate meter.
- 2356.6** The differential pressure test shall not be used as a periodic test on rotary meters having a rated capacity of less than eight hundred (800) cfh, or on rotary meters on which the results of a differential pressure test would not be conclusive, such as meters connected to the following:

- (a) Loads which are less than twenty percent (20%) for the rated capacity of the meters; or
- (b) Rapidly fluctuating loads.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7942 (November 4, 1988).

2357 PREINSTALLATION TESTS OF PRESSURE CORRECTING DEVICES

- 2357.1 While the pressure element is actuated, the mechanism may be driven either manually or by a motor. A dead weight tester or regulated air or gas pressure may be used to actuate the pressure element. If regulated air or gas pressure is used, a pressure gauge having an accuracy of plus or minus one fourth of one percent ($\pm 0.25\%$) of full scale shall be used to indicate the pressure on the element.
- 2357.2 Each gas corporation shall apply a specific pressure to the pressure element and the uncorrected counter or calibrating mechanism shall be advanced a predetermined number of counts. The number of counts by which the corrected counter or calibrating mechanism has been advanced shall be recorded. The accuracy shall be calculated by comparing the number of counts that the corrected counter or calibrating mechanism has been advanced with the actual number of counts required for the pressure at which the test was made.
- 2357.3 Electronic pressure correcting devices shall be calibrated following the manufacturer's recommended procedures.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7943 (November 4, 1988).

2358 PREINSTALLATION TESTS OF TEMPERATURE CORRECTING DEVICES

- 2358.1 Each gas corporation shall test temperature correcting devices by driving the mechanism while the temperature sensor is immersed in a temperature bath containing a precision thermometer that has an accuracy of plus or minus one half of one degree Fahrenheit ($\pm 0.5^\circ \text{F}$).
- 2358.2 Each gas corporation shall apply specific, reasonably constant temperatures to the temperature sensor. The temperatures used may be the operating (flowing gas) temperature, ambient temperature, or an ice bath (32°F). The temperature sensor shall be tested at not less than two (2) points, preferably with temperatures at least twenty degrees Fahrenheit (20°F) apart.
- 2358.3 At each temperature test point, the counter or calibrating mechanism shall be advanced a predetermined number of counts. The number of counts by which the corrected counter or calibrating mechanism has been advanced shall be recorded. The accuracy shall be calculated by comparing the number of counts that the corrected counter or calibrating mechanism has been advanced with the actual number of counts required for the temperature at which the test was made.

- 2358.4 Electronic temperature correcting devices shall be calibrated following the manufacturer's recommended procedures.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7943 (November 4, 1988).

2359 PREINSTALLATION TESTS OF TIMING DEVICES

- 2359.1 The test of a timing device shall consist of precisely synchronizing the timing device and the working standard at the start of the test time interval. At the end of the test time interval, the working standard shall be stopped and the reading recorded. The accuracy shall be calculated by comparing the actual time elapsed with the test time interval.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7944 (November 4, 1988).

2360 PREINSTALLATION ACCURACIES

- 2360.1 All tolerances shall be interpreted as maximum permissible variation from the condition of zero error. In making adjustments, no advantage of the prescribed tolerance limits shall be taken to set meters fast.

- 2360.2 In the reading and recording of data the following standards shall apply:

- (a) In any test or calibration, the devices or instruments used in the test or calibration shall be read to the maximum degree of readability;
- (b) The degree of accuracy achieved in the calculations involved in determining the accuracy of a meter, prover, device, or instrument in any test or calibration shall be consistent with the purpose for which the resultant accuracy is to be used; and
- (c) The final accuracy or proof shall be recorded to the nearest one half of one percent (0.5%).

- 2360.3 The overall accuracy or proof of a meter and an associated device, which affects the meter readings for billing purposes, shall not be more than one half of one percent (0.5%) fast or more than one and one half of one percent (1.5%) slow.

- 2360.4 Diaphragm meters shall not be placed or left in service unless found upon testing to comply with the following:

- (a) The meter shall not be more than one half of one percent (0.5%) fast nor more than one and one half of one percent (1.5%) slow at check flow or at full rated flow;

- (b) The proof at full rated flow shall not differ from the proof at check flow by more than one percent (1%); and

- (c) When air is used for testing meters, the rate of flow shall be adjusted to compensate for the difference in the specific gravity of air and the specific gravity of gas.

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- 2360.5 Rotary tube meters shall be tested at not less than fifteen recent (15%) of full rated flow. A utility shall not install a rotary meter which is more than one half of one percent (0.5%) fast or more than one and one half of one percent (1.5%) slow at the points of test.
- 2360.6 Turbine type meters shall be tested at not less fifteen percent (15%) of full rated flow. The meters shall not be more than one half of one percent (0.5%) fast or more than one and one half of one percent (1.5%) slow at the points of test.
- 2360.7 Pressure correcting devices shall not be more than one half of one percent (0.5%) fast or more than one and one half of one percent (1.5%) slow in the pressure range for which the instrument is intended to be used.
- 2360.8 Temperature correcting devices shall not be more than one half of one percent (0.5%) fast or more than one and one half of one percent (1.5%) slow at the points at which they are tested.
- 2360.9 Timing devices shall not have an error of more than one fourth of one percent (0.25%).
- 2360.10 Before a meter may be installed for revenue billing purposes the utility shall inspect and test the meter, and adjust it if necessary, so that its proof is within the tolerances specified in this section.
- 2360.11 New meters in Group I, as specified in §2370.4, may be sample tested for proof in accordance with a utility's sample plan of testing, acceptable to the Commission.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7944 (November 4, 1988).

2361 [RESERVED]

2362 LEAK TESTS

- 2362.1 The meter shall not leak when subjected to pressure and shall be checked for leaks in the following manner:

- (a) Immersion;
- (b) Soap test; or
- (c) A pressure drop test of a type acceptable to the Commission's Office of Engineering.

- 2362.2 Tinned steel case meters shall be subjected to an internal pressure of at least two pounds per square inch (2 lbs./in.²) gauge (psig) when testing for leaks.

- 2362.3** Iron or aluminum case meters shall be tested at a pressure at least fifty percent (50%) above operating pressure. The meters may be sample tested in accordance with the plan described in §2360.11. If one (1) or more meters in the sample is found to leak, additional testing shall be done as described in §2360.11.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7946 (November 4, 1988).

2363 - 2366 [RESERVED]

2367 REQUEST TESTS

- 2367.1** Upon request by a customer and at no charge, the gas utility shall make a test of the accuracy of the meter serving the customer; Provided, that the meter has not been tested within twelve (12) months prior to such request.
- 2367.2** The gas utility shall also test the accuracy of the following:
- (a) The pressure device;
 - (b) The temperature correcting device, if any;
 - (c) The index; and
 - (d) Any other device or instrument used in measuring gas consumption.
- 2367.3** The customer, or his or her representative, may be present when the meter is tested but shall not interfere with the testing.
- 2367.4** A report of the results of the test shall be made to the customer within a reasonable time after the completion of the test, and a record of the report, together with a complete record of the test, shall be kept on file at the office of the utility for at least three (3) years.
- 2367.5** If a consumer complaint hearing is held at the Commission pertaining to meter accuracy, all relevant documentation shall be made part of the official record.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7946 (November 4, 1988).

2368 REFEREE TESTS

- 2368.1** Upon written application to the Commission by a customer or a utility, a test shall be made of the customer's meter as soon as practicable that shall be witnessed by a representative of the Commission.
- 2368.2** A one dollar (\$1.00) fee shall be paid at the same time of the application by check or money order made payable to the utility.

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- 2368.3 On receipt of the request from a customer, the commission shall notify the utility, and the utility shall not knowingly remove or adjust the meter until instructed by the Commission.
- 2368.4 The customer, or his or her representative, may be present when the meter is tested but shall not interfere with the testing.
- 2368.5 Included in the referee test of the meter shall be a test for the accuracy of the following:
- (a) The pressure device;
 - (b) The temperature correcting device, if any;
 - (c) The index; and
 - (d) Any other device or instrument used in measuring gas consumption.
- 2368.6 A written report of the results of the test shall be sent to the customer.
- 2368.7 If a consumer complaint hearing is held at the Commission pertaining to the meter accuracy, all relevant documentation shall be made a part of the official record.
- 2368.8 If the meter is found to over-register or under-register consumption by more than two percent (2%), the utility shall credit the customer for the one dollar (\$1.00) testing fee.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7947 (November 4, 1988).

2369 AS FOUND TESTING

- 2369.1 Meters or associated metering devices, or both, shall be tested in place or after they are removed from service. These tests shall be made before the meters or associated metering devices, or both, are adjusted, repaired, or retired.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7948 (November 4, 1988).

2370 PERIODIC AND PERFORMANCE TESTING

- 2370.1 Each gas corporation shall periodically test its meters, associated devices, and instruments to assure their accuracy unless otherwise authorized or required by the Commission.

- 2370.2 Each gas corporation may elect to test all meters in each group in accordance with the Periodic and Performance Testing Program, as set forth in this section, or in accordance with §2371, the In-Service Performance Testing Program.

- 2370.3 Each gas corporation shall notify the Commission's Office of Engineering within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this section, which method it will follow for each group, and the election shall then be effective for at least five (5) years.

2370.4 Meters shall be grouped as follows:

- (a) Group I - Up to and including four hundred and fifty (450) cf./hr. rated capacity;
- (b) Group II - Over four hundred and fifty (450) cf./hr. capacity and up to and including eighteen hundred (1800) cf./hr. rated capacity; and
- (c) Group III - Over eighteen hundred (1800) cf./hr. rated capacity.

2370.5 The meter test schedule for the respective groups shall be as follows:

- (a) Group I meters shall be tested at least once in fourteen (14) years;
- (b) Group II meters shall be tested at least once in ten (10) years; and
- (c) Group III - meters shall be tested at least once in five (5) years.

2370.6 Pressure compensating devices and pressure recording devices shall be tested at least once in every twenty-four (24) months.

2370.7 Temperature compensating devices and temperature recording devices shall be tested at least once in every twenty-four (24) months.

2370.8 Regulators associated with meters shall have the same interval between tests as its associated meter.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7948 (November 4, 1988).

2371 IN-SERVICE PERFORMANCE TESTING

2371.1 The Commission's in-service performance testing program is designed to adjust automatically the number of meters required to be tested by a utility based solely on the performance of the utility's meters, as determined by §2371.3.

2371.2 For the purpose of the in-service performance testing program, meters within Groups I, II, III, as described in §2370.4, shall be further subdivided into homogeneous sub-groups. A typical sub-group shall include all meters of the same manufacturer and type. The requirements of this chapter shall be applied separately to each sub-group.

2371.3 The In-Service Performance Test required each year shall be computed from the following formulas:

- (a) Group I Meters (less than 450 cfh capacity)

$$r = .02 + .3d$$

where r = ratio of meters to be tested
d = ratio of meters tested in previous year and found to have a check proof less than 98% or more than 102% as reported to the nearest 1/2%

- (b) Group II (450 - 1800 cfh)

$$r = .03 + .5d$$

(r and d defined as above)

- (c) Group III (more than 1800 cfh)

$$r = .05 + .85d$$

(r and d defined as above)

2371.4 Test results accumulated on meters tested in one calendar year shall be reported to the Commission by April 1st of the following year. The required percentage as calculated in §2371.3 shall be used to determine the number of meters to be tested during the succeeding calendar year. The report to the Commission shall include for each subgroup the following:

- (a) The number of meters tested as part of the in-service testing program during the last year;
- (b) The number of meters that failed;
- (c) The ratio of meters to be tested in the current year by applying the appropriate formula;
- (d) The number of meters in-service over one year as of January 1 of the current year; and
- (e) The number of meters to be tested in the current year.

2371.5 The meters required to be tested as a result of the application of the proper formula in §2371.3 shall include those meters removed for cause. The additional meters which shall be tested to meet the required percentage as calculated in §2371.3 shall be those meters in service longest without being tested including:

- (a) Meters removed from fire;
- (b) Meters removed from damage or hung;
- (c) Meters removed for failure to register;
- (d) Meters in-service less than one year; or
- (e) Meters damaged in transit and cannot be tested.

2371.6 The tests of the meters listed in §2371.5 shall not be used in determining the following year's ratio and may not be counted as fulfilling the current year's requirement.

2371.7 The utility may review the meter performance of each sub-group annually. Based on this review, the utility may take the following actions:

- (a) If two (2) sub-groups in the same capacity class show similar test results for two (2) consecutive years, they may be considered as a single sub-group for reporting purposes; or
- (b) If a sub-group can be shown to have one or more parts that have similar test results from the remainder of the sub-group, each part may be reported and treated as a separate sub-group.

2371.8 Analysis of meter tests shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Commission shall review the annual reports of meter test results and shall consult with each gas utility concerning the percent of meters to be tested in each sub-group during the succeeding calendar year; and
- (b) Each utility shall analyze its meter test results for the purpose of identifying the meter types which have poor accuracy characteristics.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7949 (November 4, 1988).

2372 - 2373 [RESERVED]

2374 CHARACTERISTICS OF GAS SUPPLIED TO CONSUMERS

2374.1 The determination of the characteristics of gas supplied to consumers may be made at any of the Commission's testing stations, or at any testing station designated by the Commission, at any hour by the use of standard gas testing devices or instruments.

2374.2 Each natural gas corporation shall apply the following standards:

- (a) The daily heating value for any day shall be the average heating value of all gas distributed on that day;
- (b) The monthly average heating value for any calendar month shall be the average of all the daily heating values of that calendar month weighted in proportion to the daily sendout; Provided, that this value shall be based on not less than twenty (20) daily heating values during that calendar month; and
- (c) Delivered natural gas is defined as a natural gas with a heating value of not less than nine hundred sixty-seven B.t.u. per cubic foot (967 B.t.u. ft.³) and a specific gravity as determined by the gas utility at the

commencement of deliveries or arithmetically averaging the hourly specific gravity record obtained from a recording gravitometer or other method.

- 2374.3** All gas transmitted or distributed by any gas corporation in the District of Columbia shall have a distinctive odor to serve as a warning to the consumer in the event of the escape of any unburned gas.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7951 (November 4, 1988).

2375 SUPPLEMENTAL GAS PROVIDED BY STANDBY PLANT

- 2375.1** Mixtures of natural gas and the supplemental gas as provided by the standby plant shall be of heating value and burning characteristics as near as practicable to that of the currently used natural gas.

- 2375.2** On each day that supplemental gas is delivered to mains for the use of customers, the daily average heating value of gas distributed shall be the weighted value for the supplemental gas and the natural gas sent out on such day.

- 2375.3** The supplemental gas shall be mixed with the maximum natural gas available and practicable before being delivered to the distribution system.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7952 (November 4, 1988).

2376 IMPURITIES OF GAS

- 2376.1** The gas supplied by any gas utility shall not show the presence of any hydrogen sulphide at levels greater than twenty-five hundredths (0.25) grains per one hundred (100) standard cubic feet (SCF) of gas and shall not contain more than twenty (20) grains of total sulphur in one hundred (100) SCF of gas as measured at the custody transfer point of gas utility and its supply source.

- 2376.2** The test for hydrogen sulphide, or such test as may be approved by the Commission, shall be made by the methylene blue test as defined in American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) #D2725. This method covers the determination of hydrogen sulphide in natural gas for not more than 1.0 grain of hydrogen sulphide/100 SCF (Standard x Cubic Feet) (23 mg/m³).

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7952 (November 4, 1988).

2377 PRESSURE OF GAS SUPPLIED TO CONSUMERS

- 2377.1** The gas supplied by any gas utility shall be maintained at a pressure of not less than three inches (3 in.) or more than eight inches (8 in.) of water pressure. Certain customers, however, require higher pressures which may be mutually agreed upon by the customer and the company.

- 2377.2** The daily variation in the low pressure network system, during any day at any gauge station, shall not exceed two and one-half inches (2½ in.) of water pressure.

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2377.3 There shall be supplied, installed, and maintained by each gas corporation pressure gauges which shall furnish an accurate record of the pressure maintained throughout the District of Columbia. The records shall include the following:

- (a) The type, number and locations of pressure gauges shall be approved by the Commission;
- (b) The gauges shall be subject to inspection and test by the Commission at any time;
- (c) The original record of each and every gauge shall be available for inspection by the Commission and shall be preserved for at least one (1) year;
- (d) The maximum and minimum pressures measured at each gauge during all gauge periods, and the number and magnitude of daily variations in excess of the daily variation provided for in §2377.2, shall be reported to the Commission monthly, on or before the tenth (10th) day of each month; and
- (e) Additional gauges shall be installed whenever and wherever ordered by the Commission.

2377.4 In cases where it is necessary to install a pressure regulator or governor on the consumer's premises ahead of the consumer's meter, the regulator shall be installed in accordance with the Gas Fitting Regulations for the District of Columbia.

2377.5 The Gas Company shall inspect the regulator and vent pipes when installed, and thereafter at intervals not greater than the time of the periodic test for the meter it supplies, to determine that they are in safe operating condition. If found faulty in any respect, the fault shall immediately be corrected.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7952 (November 4, 1988).

2378 - 2397 [RESERVED]

CHAPTER 23 NATURAL GAS

2398 PENALTIES

- 2398.1** Failure to comply with this chapter may result in the penalties described in D.C. Code, 2001 Ed. §§ 34-706 and 34-731, for failure to comply with Commission rules and regulations.
- 2398.2** In accordance with D.C. Code, 2001 Ed. § 34-706 (b), any person who violates any regulation issued by the Commission governing safety of pipeline facilities and the transportation of gas shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) or a greater maximum penalty established by federal laws and regulations at the time of the violation for each violation for each day that the violation persists.
- 2398.3** The maximum civil penalty shall not exceed Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) or a greater maximum penalty established by federal laws and regulations at the time of the violation for any related series of violations.
- 2398.4** Any person who refuses to provide natural gas safety records upon proper request of the Commission shall be subject to the penalties set forth in D.C. Code, 2001 Ed. § 34-705.

2399 DEFINITIONS

2399.1 The terms used in this chapter shall have the meaning ascribed to the definitions appearing in 49 CFR §§190.3, 191.3, 192.3, and 199.3 except as otherwise defined in this chapter.

2399.2 When used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the meaning ascribed:

ASTM - the American Society for Testing Materials.

British thermal unit (B.t.u.) - the British Thermal Unit represents the quantity of heat necessary to raise one (1) pound of water one degree Fahrenheit (1° F.).

Cfh - cubic feet per hour.

Conversion Factor - the conversion factor is the factor which converts the British Thermal Units in one hundred cubic feet (100 ft.³) of gas into therms.

Gas Corporation - every corporation, association, joint-stock corporation or association, partnership, or person manufacturing, making, distributing, or selling gas for light, heat or power, or for any public use in the District of Columbia, their leasees, trustees, or receivers, appointed by any court, who own, operate, control, or manage any gas plant except where the gas is made or produced and distributed by the maker on or through private property solely for its own use or the use of its tenants and not for sale to or for the use of others.

Gas Plant - buildings, easements, real estate, mains, pipes, conduits, service pipes, services, pipe galleries, meters, boilers, water-gas sets, retorts, fixtures, condensers, scrubbers, purifiers, holders, materials, apparatus, personal property, and franchises, and property of every kind used in the conduct of the business operated, owned, controlled, used or to be used for or in connection with or to facilitate the manufacture, distribution, sale, or furnishing of gas (natural or manufactured) for light, heat, or power.

Heating Value - the "total heating value," as this term is used in the gas industry and as it is defined in the Bureau of Standards Circular No. 405 - STANDARDS FOR GAS SERVICE.

Intrastate - within the District of Columbia.

Master Meter System - a pipeline system for distributing gas within, but not limited to, a definable area, such as a housing project, apartment complex, or mobile home park, where the operator purchases metered gas from an outside source for resale through a gas pipeline

distribution system. The gas distribution pipeline system supplies the ultimate consumer who either purchases the gas directly through a meter or by other means, such as by rents.

PSIG - pounds per square inch gauge.

Proof of Meter - the ratio expressed in percent of the volume of gas passed through the meter to the volume registered by the meter under standard testing conditions.

Referee Test - a test conducted by a utility and witnessed by a representative of the Commission upon written application by a customer and for a fee.

Request Test - a test conducted by a utility upon request by a customer and at no charge, provided the meter has not been tested within twelve (12) months prior to such a request.

Small Gas Operator - one who operates a master meter system with fewer than one thousand five-hundred (1,500) services and who has two (2) additional characteristics: (1) distributes gas by using underground or exterior piping serving multiple buildings in the District of Columbia; and (2) resells gas (metered or unmetered) to ultimate gas consumers for use in consumers' appliances.

Volume of Gas - the volumes of gas specified in this chapter for testing purposes shall be understood to be at a temperature of sixty degrees Fahrenheit (60° F.) and under a pressure of 14.74 PSIA.

SOURCE: Final Rulemaking published at 33 DCR 6625, 6631 (October 24, 1986); as amended by Final Rulemaking published at 35 DCR 7938, 7953 (November 4, 1988); and by Final Rulemaking published at 38 DCR 2381, 2382 (April 26, 1991).