

220 CMR 107.00: ABANDONMENT OF GAS SERVICE LINES AND LEAKAGE SURVEY PROCEDURES

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107.01: Applicability

Notwithstanding any other provisions of regulations, 220 CMR 107.00 applies to any person engaged in the storage, transportation or distribution of gas and is not limited to gas corporations, gas companies or municipal gas departments.

107.02: Application for Exceptions from Provisions of 220 CMR 107.00

Any person engaged in the operation of a service line may make a written request to the Department for an exception to the provision of 220 CMR 107.00. The request shall justify why the exception should be granted and shall demonstrate why the exception sought does not derogate from the safety objective of 220 CMR 107.00.

The Department may deny the exception or grant the exception as requested, or as modified by the Department and subject to conditions. Any exception shall be issued in writing and may be made by the Director of the Pipeline Engineering and Safety Division of the Department. Any such person aggrieved by a decision of the Director regarding a request for an exception may appeal the Director's decision to the Commission. Any appeal shall be in writing and shall be made not later than ten business days following issuance of the written decision of the Director.

107.03: Definitions

As used in 220 CMR 107.00:

Abandoned means that:

- (a) The service line is disconnected or cut off at or as close as practical to the main; and
- (b) Any opening in the main or the open end of the segment of the service line left thereto is sealed; and
- (c) The service line is purged of gas, except when the volume of gas is so small that there is no potential hazard; and
- (d) The open end of the disconnected service line near the main and traversing to the premises is sealed.

Department means the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.

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

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

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

Operator means a person who engages in the transportation of gas.

Person means any individual, firm, joint venture, partnership, corporation, association, state agency, municipality, municipal department, cooperative association, or joint stock association, and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.

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

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

Purge means the act of removing flammable gas from a distribution line and replacing it with a noncombustible gas.

Service Line means a distribution line that transports gas from a common source of supply to:

- (a) a customer meter or the connection to a customer's piping, whichever is further downstream; or
- (b) the connection to a customer's piping if there is no meter.

107.04 Procedures for Abandonment of Service Lines

Each operator shall prepare and follow written procedures for the inactivation and abandonment of service lines. The procedures shall be included in the operator's procedural manual pursuant to 49 CFR 102.605.

107.05: Abandonment of Service Lines

- (1) Notwithstanding any provision of 220 CMR 107.05(2), (3), or (4), inactive

service lines which shall be abandoned promptly, with due consideration to public safety, are those:

- (a) Located in, or close to, excavations; or
 - (b) Located in, or close to, buildings being demolished; or
 - (c) Discovered to be leaking gas; or
 - (d) Unrecorded or previously unknown lines discovered in the course of leakage surveys, construction, maintenance or inspection of pipeline facilities.
- (2) All service lines inactivated on or before August 8, 1985, and not later reactivated, shall be abandoned on or before August 8, 1995.
 - (3) A service line which was installed on or before July 31, 1971, and which becomes inactive after August 8, 1985, shall be abandoned not later than five years after the most recent inactivation date, provided, however, that if the operator can demonstrate that such service line is plastic or, in the alternative, is cathodically protected in accordance with 49 CFR 192.463 and 49 CFR 192.455(a)(1) and (2), then such service line shall be abandoned in accordance with 220 CMR 107.05(4).
 - (4) A service line which was installed after July 31, 1971, and which becomes inactive after August 8, 1985, shall be abandoned not later than ten years after the most recent inactivation date.

107.06: Records and Reports For Inactive and Abandoned Service Lines

- (1) Readily accessible records of inactive service lines shall be maintained by the operator. Such records shall include the service line's location, the date the service line was installed, and the date the service line became inactive. If any information is unavailable to or unobtainable by the operator, it shall be listed on the record as "unknown."
- (2) Readily accessible records of the location of any service line that is abandoned after August 8, 1985 shall be maintained by the operator for at least five years after the date of abandonment or for such longer time as the operator deems appropriate.
- (3) Not later than March 15th of each year, each operator shall submit to the Department an annual report indicating the total number of inactive service lines in its distribution system on December 31st of the preceding calendar year, and the number of inactive service lines abandoned during the preceding year.

107.07: Leakage Survey of All Service Lines

- (1) Each operator of gas service lines shall conduct leakage surveys over all service

lines as frequently as experience and technology indicate are necessary, and in accordance with 49 CFR Part 192.

- (2) If any part of 220 CMR 107.07 conflicts with Department regulations contained in 220 CMR 101.06, 220 CMR 107.07 shall be controlling.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

220 CMR 107.00: M.G.L. c. 164, § 76C.