

Public Utilities Commission

State of California

July 22, 1982

File No. 112-D

Material Transportation Bureau
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Attention: Chief, Pipeline Safety Enforcement Division
Office of Operations and Enforcement

Gentlemen:

Transmitted herewith is this Commission's Resolution No. 2476, which authorizes a deviation for Pacific Gas and Electric Company from General Order 112-D, Section 192.619(a)(2)(ii). It is our understanding that your concurrence on this deviation becomes effective 60 days after notification absent further action by your agency.

If there are any questions on any of the enclosed material, please contact this office at (415) 557-3109.

Very truly yours,

(signed)

JOSEPH E. BODOVITZ
Executive Director

Attachment

cc: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Jack C. Overly, Chief
Western Region, Pipeline Safety
Office of Operations and Enforcement
Materials Transportation Bureau

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. G-2476
UTILITIES DIVISION/BRANCH:
Energy Service & Safety Branch
DATE: July 21, 1982

RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: Deviation for Pacific Gas and Electric Company from G.O. 112-D, Section
192.619 (a) (2) (ii).

FINDINGS: The Commission finds the following:

1. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) plans to uprate the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 3,028 feet of eight-inch diameter gas distribution main to 338 pounds per square inch, gauge pressure (psig). The uprating will require a pressure test. PG&E has requested a deviation from General Order 112-D in connection with the pressure test. The main is located between the Viera Avenue Regulating Station and Wilbur Avenue, in the City of Antioch.

2. Section 192.619(a)(2)(ii) of General Order 112-D provides that the test pressure for a segment of steel pipe installed after June 30, 1961, and operated at a pressure of over 100 psig in a Class 3 or 4 location, should be divided by a factor of 1.5 to determine the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP). The pipe in question was installed in December, 1970, 11 1/2 years ago.

3. If the pipe in question had been installed in June 1961, twenty-one years ago, a factor of only 1.4 would be required. This would provide a lower margin of safety while staying within the General Order requirements.

4. A test performed with water or inert gas would require physically detaching the pipe segment to be tested from the distribution system. It would cost from \$25,000 to \$30,000. A test performed with a natural gas would not require detaching the segment, and would cost about \$3,000.

5. The maximum test pressure allowed by G.O. 112-D in this pipe, using natural gas, is 502.5 psig. Using a factor of 1.5 would allow a MAOP of only 335 psig rather than the required 338 psig. Use of a factor of 1.486 (in Section 192.619(a)(2)(ii) of G.O. 112-D) would allow the required MAOP.

6. This deviation would allow an increase in MAOP of 3 psig to 338 psig which would be an increase of less than one percent. The additional operating pressure would not significantly affect the safety of the public or of PG&E employees, and would result in more economical operation by PG&E.

7. In addition to Commission authority, PG&E is subject to U.S. Department of Transportation regulations through the Materials Transportation Bureau's Office of Pipeline Safety Regulations (OPSR). Therefore, a deviation from G.O. 112-D should be conditional upon U.S. DOT concurrence.

IT IS ORDERED that:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company may deviate from Section 192.619(a)(2)(ii) of General order 112-D and use a factor of 1.486 instead of 1.5 in uprating 3,028 feet of eight-inch gas distribution main in the City of Antioch, conditional upon the concurrence of the U.S. DOT/MTB OPSR, and

The Executive Director shall notify the Office of Pipeline Safety Regulations of this Commission's action in accordance with the attached letter.

Attachment

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a regular conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California, held on July 21, 1982, the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

JOHN F. BRYSON
President
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE
VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
Commissioners

Joseph E. Bodovitz (*signature*)
Executive Director

August 5, 1982

Mr. Joseph E. Bodovitz
Executive Director
California Public Utilities Commission
California State Building
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Bodovitz:

We have reviewed the Commission's Resolution No. G-2476, granting a waiver to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The waiver permits 3,028 feet of 8-inch gas main in the City of Antioch to be uprated using a test pressure factor of 1.486 instead of 1.5, as required by Section 192.619(a) (2) (ii) of General Order 112-D and the comparable Federal regulation.

We have no objection to the waiver, and in accordance with 49 USC 1672(d), it may take effect as scheduled.

Sincerely,

Original signed by
Richard L. Beam

Richard L. Beam
Associate Director for
Pipeline Safety Regulation
Materials Transportation Bureau

cc:
DMT-30, 31, 10, 13, 18
DCC-1, BRF

DMT-31/LMFurrow:bas:x62392:8-3-82
FILE: State Waiver File (California)
OPSR Control No. 68

MEMORANDUM

US Department
of Transportation

**Research and
Special Program
Administration**

Date: July 29, 1982

Reply to Attn. of: DMT-13

Subject: ACTION: Request for Evaluation of California PUC Waiver

From: Robert L. Paullin
Associate Director, Office of Operations
and Enforcement, DMT-10

To: Associate Director, Office of Pipeline Safety
Regulations, DMT-30

Attached is a request from the California PUC for concurrence with a waiver granted by the PUC to Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Will you please evaluate the request and take appropriate action as prescribed by Section 3(b) of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968, as amended.

Please keep me advised of your action.

Attachment