

BEFORE THE OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

IN THE MATTER OF CHANGES TO THE)	CAUSE NO. 1R
RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE OIL)	
AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION)	DOCKET NO. 0510-RM-03
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO)	

NOTICE OF RULE-MAKING HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

On August 19, 2005, the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado, representing cities and counties in the five county region of Garfield, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco and Routt, filed with the Commission a request to docket a rulemaking hearing to consider amendments to the Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission as described below:

DEFINITIONS
(100 SERIES)

FLOWLINES shall mean those segments of pipe from the wellhead downstream through the production facilities ending at:

- In the case of gas lines, the gas metering equipment; or
- In the case of oil lines, the oil loading point or LACT unit; or
- In the case of water lines, the water loading point, the point of discharge to a pit, or the injection wellhead.

GATHERING LINE(S) SHALL MEAN A PIPELINE WHICH TRANSPORTS NATURAL GAS BEYOND LEASEHOLD GAS METERING EQUIPMENT TO A COMPRESSOR FACILITY, PROCESSING PLANT OR INTERSTATE PIPELINE CONNECTION.

PIPELINE(S) SHALL MEAN FLOWLINE(S) AND GATHERING LINE(S) AS DEFINED HEREIN BY THE 100 SERIES DEFINITIONS.

FLOWLINE PIPELINE REGULATIONS

1101. INSTALLATION AND RECLAMATION

A. NOTICE. AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF RULE, AN OPERATOR OF A GATHERING LINE WHICH HAS SEGMENTS SUBJECT TO SAFETY REGULATION BY THE OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SHALL NOTIFY THE COMMISSION THIRTY (30) DAYS IN ADVANCE OF CONSTRUCTION BY FILING A PLAN OF CONSTRUCTION. SUCH PLAN SHALL ALSO BE PROVIDED TO EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION TRAVERSED BY SUCH GATHERING LINE. THE PLAN SHALL INCLUDE THE GENERAL DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE AND ROUTE, INCLUDING A MAP SHOWING ALL CROSSINGS OF PUBLIC BY-WAYS AND NATURAL AND MANMADE WATERCOURSES.

a-b. Material.

(1) ~~After June 1, 1996, m~~Materials for pipe and OTHER components OF PIPELINES shall be:

- A. Able to maintain the structural integrity of the ~~flowline~~ pipeline under temperature, pressure, and other conditions that may be anticipated;
- B. Compatible with the ~~material~~ SUBSTANCES to be transported.
- C. LOCATABLE BY a tracer line or location device ~~will be~~ placed adjacent to or in the trench of all buried nonmetallic ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES to facilitate the location of such pipelines.

~~b-c.~~ **Design.** Each component of a ~~flowline~~ PIPELINE shall be designed AND INSTALLED to prevent failure from corrosion and ~~be able~~ to withstand anticipated operating pressures and other loadings without impairment of its serviceability. The pipe shall have sufficient wall thickness or be installed with adequate protection to withstand anticipated external pressures and loads that will be imposed on the pipe after installation.

e-d. Cover.

(1) All installed ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES shall have cover sufficient to protect them from damage. On crop land, all ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES ~~installed after June 1, 1996~~ shall have a minimum cover of three (3) feet.

(2) Where an underground structure, geologic, economic or other uncontrollable condition prevents ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES from being installed with minimum cover, or when there is an WRITTEN agreement between the surface owner and the operator, the line may be installed with less than minimum cover or above ground.

d.e. Excavation, backfill and reclamation.

(1) When ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES cross crop lands, unless waived by the surface owner, the operator shall segregate topsoil while trenching, and trenches shall be backfilled so that the soils ~~will~~ SHALL be returned to their original relative positions and contour. This requirement to segregate and backfill topsoil shall not apply to trenches which are twelve (12) inches or less in width. Reasonable efforts shall be made to run ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES parallel to crop irrigation rows on flood irrigated land.

(2) On crop lands and non-crop lands, ~~flowline~~ PIPELINE trenches ~~will~~ SHALL be maintained in order to correct subsidence and reasonably minimize erosion. Interim and final reclamation, including revegetation, shall be performed in accordance with the applicable 1000 Series rules.

e.f. Pressure testing.

(1) Before operating a segment of ~~flowline~~ PIPELINE ~~installed after June 1, 1996~~ it ~~must~~ SHALL be tested to maximum anticipated operating pressure. In conducting tests, each operator shall ensure that reasonable precautions are taken to protect its employees and the general public. The testing may be conducted using well head pressure sources and well bore fluids, including natural gas. Such pressure tests shall be repeated once each calendar year to maximum anticipated operating pressure, and operators shall maintain records of such testing for Commission inspection for at least three (3) years.

(2) ~~Flowline~~ PIPELINE segments operating at less than fifteen (15) psig are excepted from pressure testing requirements.

G. INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT. IN ORDER TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY, OPERATORS OF GATHERING LINES WITH SEGMENTS SUBJECT TO SAFETY REGULATION BY THE OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, SHALL COMPLY WITH THE INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT STANDARDS OF SUCH AGENCY.

1102. OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND REPAIR

a. Maintenance.

(1) Each operator shall take reasonable precautions to prevent failures, leakage and corrosion of ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES.

(2) Whenever an operator discovers any condition that could adversely affect the safe and proper operation of its ~~flowline~~ PIPELINE, it shall correct it within a reasonable time. However, if the condition is of such a nature that it presents an immediate hazard to persons or property, the operator shall not operate the affected part of the system until it has corrected the unsafe condition.

b. ~~Flowline~~ Repair.

(1) Each operator shall, in repairing its ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES, ensure that the repairs are made in a safe manner and are made so as to prevent injury to persons and damage to property.

(2) No operator shall use any pipe, valve, or fitting in repairing ~~flowline~~ PIPELINE facilities unless the components meet the installation requirements of this section.

c. ~~Flowline~~ Marking.

(1) In designated high density areas, and where crossing public rights-of-way or utility easement, a marker shall be installed and maintained to identify the location of ~~flowlines~~ PIPELINES ~~installed after June 1, 1996~~.

(2) The following ~~must~~ SHALL be written legibly on a background of sharply contrasting color on each line marker:

"Warning", "Caution" or "Danger" followed by the words "gas (or name of natural gas or petroleum transported) pipeline" in letters at least one (1) inch high with one-quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) inch stroke and the name of the operator and the telephone number where the operator can be reached at all times.

d. One Call participation. As to ~~flowlines~~, and any other pipelineS over which the Commission has jurisdiction, ~~installed after June 1, 1996~~, each operator shall participate in Colorado's One Call notification system, the requirements of which are established by §9-1.5-101., C.R.S. et seq.

E. EMERGENCY RESPONSE. AS TO GATHERING LINES WITH SEGMENTS SUBJECT TO SAFETY REGULATION BY THE OFFICE OF PIPELINE SAFETY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, THE OPERATOR SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN TO THE COMMISSION AND TO EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT JURISDICTION TRAVERSED BY SUCH PIPELINE SEGMENT.

1103. ABANDONMENT

Each ~~flowline~~ PIPELINE abandoned in place ~~must~~ SHALL be disconnected from all sources and supplies of natural gas and petroleum, purged of liquid hydrocarbons, depleted to atmospheric pressure, and cut off three (3) feet below ground surface, or the depth of the ~~flowline~~ PIPELINE, whichever is less and sealed at the ends. This requirement shall also apply to compressor or gas plant feeder pipelines upon decommissioning or closure of a portion or all of a compressor station or gas plant.

Minor modifications to other Commission rules may be necessary to conform with the amendments to the rules proposed above.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission of the State of Colorado, pursuant to the above, has scheduled the above-entitled matter for hearing on:

Date: Monday, October 31, 2005
Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Ramada Inn, Aspen and Birch Rooms
124 W. 6th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

Copies of the current Rules and Regulations are available on the Commission Internet homepage or at the office of the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, 1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, Colorado 80203, for \$10.00 or by mail upon the receipt of a check or money order for \$15.00, at the same address.

Written comments on the proposed rule amendments to be considered are requested to be submitted to the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Attn: P.C. Beaver, 1120, Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, CO 80203 by October 25, 2005 for more complete consideration by the Commission. Opportunity for testimony from any interested party will be provided at the hearing, however the time in which to present testimony may be limited and parties sharing similar viewpoints are requested to appoint a spokesperson to present their testimony at the hearing.

Pursuant to said hearing, in the above-entitled matter at the time and place aforesaid, or at any adjourned meeting, the Commission will enter its order adopting such rules and regulations as in its judgment the facts may justify.

In accordance with Rule 509., any interested party desiring to protest any of the proposed rule amendments, or to intervene, should file with the Commission a written protest or a notice to intervene no later than October 17, 2005 briefly stating the basis of the protest or intervention. Such interested party shall, at the same time, file an original and nine (9) copies of the protest/intervention with the Commission (Rule 503.f.).

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

OIL AND GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

By _____
Patricia C. Beaver, Secretary

Dated at Suite 801
1120 Lincoln Street
Denver, Colorado 80203
August 19, 2005

Representative for Applicants:
Jim Evans, Executive Director
Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado
P. O. Box 351
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