TR 2016-22 – Abandonment

2022 – March 24 – Editorial Section
Approved additions and revisions to GM under §192.727. **Ready to Recirculate after Recirculation in LB6-2021.** TR 16-22 was recirculated in LB6-2021 with the Disapproved votes that had not been cleared by a subsequent approved vote. LB6-2021 was approved with 1 Disapproved vote (Paul Oleksa); changes have been approved to address that Disapproved vote as shown in the below Recircuation.

PRIMARY: 192.727
PURPOSE: Provide additional support for deciding when it is necessary to purge short, smaller diameter piping (e.g., service lines less than two inches in diameter and less than 500 feet in length).
ORIGIN/RATIONALE: Email from John Groot 6/9/2016.
Currently, the CFR states:

> §192.727(b) Each pipeline abandoned in place must be disconnected from all sources and supplies of gas; purged of gas; in the case of offshore pipelines, filled with water or inert materials; and sealed at the ends. However, the pipeline need not be purged when the volume of gas is so small that there is no potential hazard.

The GM for §192.727 includes:

> *1.2 Residual gas or hydrocarbons.*
> Abandonment should not be completed until it has been determined that the volume of natural gas or liquid hydrocarbons contained within the abandoned section poses no potential hazard. Generally, it is advisable to purge 8-inch and larger pipe and long segments of smaller diameter pipe.

Operators often need to weld end closures onto small diameter lines being abandoned. It might be helpful to have additional guidance on when the volume of gas is sufficiently small so as to have no potential hazard in the absence of purging. One suggestion is to add verbiage along the lines of checking for percent gas in the piping to be abandoned and using a threshold percentage that triggers the need to purge. Alternatively, operators could establish a maximum internal pipe volume above which purging would be advisable. A study might be needed to establish a safe maximum internal volume. A search of GPTC archives did not reveal the basis for the current GM language; it may be useful to establish and document the basis for the current or revised language.

LB Processing Note: The proposed changes from LB6-2021 to address the Disapproved vote are shown in yellow highlight. Disapproved vote from LB6-2021 is copied at the end of this document. {Note: Previous Disapproved votes that were not cleared by an Approved vote were recirculated in LB6-2021.}

Section 192.727

1 GENERAL

(a) The following procedural guidance covers the maintenance of pipelines (including service lines) not actively being used to transport gas and the permanent abandonment of transmission pipelines, distribution mains, and distribution service lines. See 5 below for information regarding inactive pipelines.

(b) For planned shutdown in connection with abandonment or deactivation, see Guide Material Appendix G-192-12.

(c) Abandonment should not be considered complete until the ~~volume of natural~~ gas or liquid hydrocarbons contained within the abandoned section poses no potential hazard. An operator should consider diameter, length, location, or other parameters when identifying piping to be abandoned that needs to be purged.

(d) Pipelines ~~or mains~~ may be purged using air, inert gas, or water. If air is used as the purging agent, precautions should be taken to ensure that no liquid hydrocarbons are present. See §192.629 and AGA XK1801, "Purging Manual" for purging of natural gas and liquid hydrocarbons.

2 ABANDONMENT OF TRANSMISSION PIPELINES AND DISTRIBUTION MAINS

2.1 Check prior to abandonment.

Office records should be checked and ….

~~*2.2 Residual gas or hydrocarbons.*~~

~~Abandonment should not be completed until it has been determined that the volume of natural gas or liquid hydrocarbons contained within the abandoned section poses no potential hazard. Generally, it is advisable to purge 8-inch and larger pipe and long segments of smaller diameter pipe.~~

~~*2.3 Purging.*~~

~~Pipelines or mains may be purged using air, inert gas, or water. If air is used as the purging agent, precautions should be taken to ensure that no liquid hydrocarbons are present. See §192.629 and AGA XK1801, "Purging Manual" for purging of natural gas and liquid hydrocarbons.~~

2.2~~2.4~~ Sealing.

Acceptable methods of sealing pipeline or main openings include, as applicable, the following.

(a) – (d) …

2.3~~2.5~~ Additional considerations in addition to purging and sealing.

In addition to purging and sealing, consideration should be given to the following.

(a) – (b) …

2.4~~2.6~~ Segmenting the abandoned sections.

All valves left in the abandoned segment should be closed. If the segment is long and there are few line valves, consideration should be given to plugging the segment at intervals.

2.5~~2.7~~ Removal of above-grade facilities and filling voids.

All above-grade valves, risers, and vault and valve box covers should be removed. Vault and valve box voids should be filled with suitable compacted backfill material.

3 ABANDONMENT OF DISTRIBUTION SERVICE LINES IN CONJUNCTION WITH MAIN ABANDONMENT

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4 ABANDONMENT OF SERVICE LINES FROM ACTIVE MAINS

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5 INACTIVE PIPELINES

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6 INACTIVE SERVICE LINES

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{End of LB6-2021 version of TR 16-22}

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LB6-2021: 32 approved, 1 disapproved

Disapproved – Oleska

Paragraph (c). Replace "volume of natural gas" with "amount of gas". The "volume" of the gas is the volume of the container, regardless of how much gas is in it. ALSO we should delete the word "natural" since the guide applies to many gases other than "natural".

Paragraph (d). Delete "or mains". A main is a pipeline.