

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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{PRIVATE }IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED NEW)
RULE 31 TO THE RULES FOR GAS UTILITIES OF)
THE COLORADO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,)
4 CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS 723-4,) DOCKET NO. 92R-270G
CONCERNING THE POTENTIAL FOR LOCAL GAS)
DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES TO USE EXCESS FLOW)
VALVES AND THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF EXCESS)
FLOW VALVES.)

**COMMISSION ORDER REGARDING POSTPONING
PUBLIC RULEMAKING HEARING
CONCERNING EXCESS FLOW VALVES ADDING RULE 31
TO THE COMMISSION'S RULES FOR GAS UTILITIES,
4 CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS 723-4**

Postponement of Rulemaking Hearing Date: September 2, 1992

On May 27, 1992, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission ("PUC" or "commission") gave a notice of proposed rulemaking. The commission stated that it would examine its Gas Utilities Rules, 4 Code of Colorado Regulations 723-4, for the potential for local gas distribution companies to use excess flow valves, and to study the safety aspects of excess flow valves.

An Excess Flow Valve is a device placed on a gas service line, a line which branches from the main gas line. The valve is designed to cut the supply of gas in the service line if the service line is ruptured (e.g., cut during excavation operations.)

On October 20, 1990, the commission established Docket No. 90M- 644G as a repository for information concerning the safety aspects of excess flow valves. A special open meeting was held on December 20, 1990.

As a result of that meeting Public Service Company of Colorado ("Public Service") began a pilot program in which they installed a minimum of 100 Excess Flow Valves. The purpose of the pilot program was to help identify the total cost of the device, and provide a basis for reliability under Colorado's field conditions.

On April 8, 1992, Public Service Company of Colorado filed a report with the commission.

To summarize, Public Service recommended:

1. Public Service should continue with the field pilot program. The objectives would be to prove the technology of other excess flow valves and subject the valves to cold weather.
2. Specific changes to engineering and operations need to be made.
3. Laboratory tests should be made.
4. Results of U. S. Department of Transportation cost-benefit study should be used in Public Service policy-making.
5. Discussion of cost allocation should be made with the commission.

On May 27, 1992, the commission set out the procedure for rulemaking. The commission ordered that public hearings would be held on October 19 and 20, 1992, and that all parties wishing to participate may file an Entry of Appearance to be on the commission's mailing list. Initial comments on the proposed rule were to be filed by October 9.

It now appears that it is in the best interests of all concerned that the commission delay the public hearings in this matter. The commission has other matters which appear to be of higher priority, plus the Public Service Company of Colorado will have additional time to conduct its pilot program through another winter.

THEREFORE THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

1. On May 27, 1992, the Commission gave a notice of proposed rulemaking. Public hearings on new Rule 31 to the Commission's Rules for Gas Utilities, 4 Code of Colorado Regulations 723-4 were scheduled to be held on October 19 and 20, 1992, at 9 a.m. at the commission offices.

2. Public hearings on new Rule 31 shall be postponed until early in 1993. Proper notice of the rulemaking hearing will be given.

3. The Public Service Company of Colorado shall file a comprehensive report with the Commission on _____.

ADOPTED IN OPEN MEETING ON September 2, 1992.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

Commissioners