



NOTICE TO OPERATORS STATEWIDE

FLOWLINES OR PIPELINES – 1100 SERIES RULES

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This Notice to Operators (“NTO”) requires all operators to inspect systematically their inventory of existing Flowlines and verify that any existing Flowline not in active use, regardless of when it was installed or taken out of service, is abandoned pursuant to Rule 1103, including being cut off below grade at the lesser of three feet below ground surface or at the depth of the Flowline, and sealed as described in this NTO. In addition, operators are required to document the location of all existing, active Flowlines located within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit and ensure and document that these lines have integrity. These actions are required to be completed in two phases, as described below.

As used in this NTO, “Flowlines” encompasses any conduit for gas, oil, condensate, or other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons that meet the 100-Series Definition of “Flowlines.” Flowlines may be known by different names, including but not limited to well site flowline, return line, sales line, dump line, process piping, fuel gas supply line, and non-well site flowline.

COGCC Pipeline Regulations (1100 Series) do not recognize an “idle” status for Flowlines or pipelines. Under the regulations, Flowlines and pipelines are active and subject to all relevant parts of the 1100 Series until they have been abandoned pursuant to Rule 1103.

Phase I – to be completed by May 30, 2017.

1. Operators are required to re-inspect any existing Flowlines and pipelines located within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit and identify the well API number and tank battery (location ID number) associated with each line. Operators

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must provide the following Flowline and pipeline inventory and location data to the COGCC in Excel spreadsheet or Access database format:

- a. The location ID number for the associated tank battery;
- b. Well API numbers; and
- c. GPS location data for the endpoints of all Flowline risers and the riser status (active or scheduled for abandonment).

Pursuant to Phase 2 below, operators are required to ensure and document that all Flowlines within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit have integrity by June 30, 2017.

2. All operators are required to inspect all existing Flowlines and pipelines, regardless of distance to a Building Unit, to verify that any existing Flowline or pipeline not in use, regardless of when it was installed or taken out of service, is abandoned pursuant to Rule 1103. Any existing Flowline or pipeline riser not in use must be clearly marked using fluorescent paint; have all operating valves removed, and be capped until it can be cut-off below grade and sealed pursuant to Rule 1103 and this statewide NTO.

Phase 2 – to be completed by June 30, 2017.

1. Operators are required to ensure and document that all Flowlines within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit have integrity. The exception from pressure testing requirements for low pressure Flowlines or pipelines in Rule 1101.e.(2) does not apply. A documented integrity test for a Flowline completed after November 1, 2016 will satisfy this requirement.
2. Operators must complete abandonment of any Flowline or pipeline not actively operated, regardless of distance to a Building Unit and regardless of when it was installed or taken out of service, pursuant to Rule 1103 and this statewide NTO.

An operator wishing returning an inactive Flowline or pipeline to active status must do so prior to June 30, 2017 and only after:

- a. Identifying the well API number and tank battery (Location ID number) associated with each line and providing COGCC with this location information; and
- b. Pressure testing the Flowline or pipeline as required by Rule 1101.e(1), regardless of the operating pressure of the line. The exception from pressure testing requirements for low pressure Flowlines or pipelines in Rule 1101.e.(2) does not apply.

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COGCC Rule 1103 sets forth the requirements for Flowline and pipeline abandonment in place. These requirements include disconnection from all sources and supplies, purged, depleted to atmospheric pressure, cut off below ground surface, securely and permanently sealed at each end (i.e., welded), and both the COGCC and local government notified that the line has been permanently abandoned. To further understand abandonment standards, refer to ASME pipeline standards.

Removal of the entire Flowline or pipeline is also an acceptable method of abandonment and is the recommended practice for facilities located within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit. An alternative for pipes within 1,000 feet of a Building Unit is to fill the abandoned pipe with backfill material: sand, or controlled density fill (CDF) such as flowable fill, controlled low-strength material (CLSM), flowable mortar, plastic soil-cement, soil-cement slurry, or K-Krete. CDF must have unconfined compressive strength of 100 psi or less to allow for future excavation of the area. If sand is used to fill abandoned pipe, securely close each pipe end by installing a watertight plug of concrete, controlled density fill (CDF), controlled low-strength material (CLSM), flowable mortar, plastic soil-cement, soil-cement slurry, or K-Krete not less than two feet in length.

A Flowline or pipeline that has not been abandoned with all risers removed and the line sealed and buried at both ends is active and must comply with rules 1101, 1102, and 605.d.

An operator must use signage, lock-out/tag-out procedures, and fencing pursuant to Rules 604.c.(2)M. and 605.c.(3) when a Flowline or pipeline is undergoing abandonment to ensure the line cannot be reactivated inadvertently.

Document Change Log

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