

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 11, 2021

Mr. Jerry Schmitz, Vice President
Southwest Gas Corporation
P.O. Box 98510, LVA-581
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8510

SUBJECT: Notice of Gas Incident Violation for Southwest Gas Corporation in Q-3 2021

Dear Mr. Schmitz:

The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) submits the following Notice of Probable Violations (NOPV) for non-DOT reportable incident investigations completed in third quarter of 2021 (Q3-2021). This letter serves as notification to you that as a result of our investigations, SED found Southwest Gas Corporation (SWG) in violation of the following:

1. Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, §192.605(a) states in part:

“(a) General. Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response.”

2. Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192, §192.605(b)(3) states in part:

“(b) Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to provide safety during maintenance and operations.

(3) Making construction records, maps, and operating history available to appropriate operating personnel.”

3. General Order 112-F, Subpart B – Reports, § 122.2(b)(1) states in part:

“(b) In the event of an incident listed in 122.2(a) above, an Operator shall go to the Commission’s website, select the link to the page for reporting emergencies and follow the instructions thereon. If internet access is unavailable, the Operator may report using the backup telephone system.

1. If the Operator is notified of the incident during its normal working hours, the report should be made as soon as practicable but no longer than 2 hours after the Operator is aware of the incident and its personnel are on the scene.”

The summary of the identified violation is listed in Attachment A of this letter. Please provide a written response within 30 days of the date of this letter indicating the measures taken by SWG to address the violation.

For any questions, please contact Mohammad Ali at (916) 928-2109 or by email at ma5@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Matthewson Epuna
Program and Project Supervisor
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

CC: Laurie Brown / SWG
Mohammad Ali / SED-GSRB
Terence Eng / SED-GSRB

ATTACHMENT: List of Incidents with Probable Violations

Attachment A
List of Incident(s) with Probable Violation(s)

CPUC ID	Date	Address	Utility	Third Party Entity	Investigative Findings	Code Violation(s)
G20201120-3146	11/20/2020	█ 1 st Street, Barstow, San Bernardino County	SWG	N/A	On November 19, 2020, at approximately 0925 hours, a Southwest Gas (SWG) construction inspector reported no gas pressure in its service line when revisiting its recent construction project. SED's investigation found that the incident was caused by a malfunctioned SWG's 2-inch PE EFV installed on a new service line. This subsequently led to an unplanned service outage to one commercial customer. Additionally, since SWG failed to report the incident to SED in a timely manner, SED finds SWG in violation of General Order (GO) 112-F, §122.2(b)(1).	GO 112-F §122.2(b)(1)
G 20201121-3147	11/21/2020	█ Kendall Road, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County	SWG	N/A	On November 21, 2020, at approximately 2054 hours, a Southwest Gas (SWG) customer's natural gas service was interrupted. SED's investigation found that the incident was caused by SWG's contractor, Arizona Pipeline, failing to follow SWG's procedures in purging a SWG service line at the end of an installation. This resulted in the unplanned service outage. Therefore, SED finds SWG in violation of General Order (GO) 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192, Section 192.605(a).	49 CFR §192.605(a)
G20201215-3159	12/15/2020	█ Kendall Road, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County	SWG	N/A	On December 15, 2020, at approximately 1720 hours, Southwest Gas Corporation (SWG) received a call of no gas at █ Kendall Road, Lucerne Valley. There were no injuries, fatalities, fire, or third-party damage reported as a result of this incident. Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) investigation found that the incident was caused by SWG failing to follow its Operations Manual, Posting Procedure, Section 1.4.2.1 by not placing the service on the construction plans provided to its contractor, Arizona Pipeline Company (APL). Therefore, SED finds SWG in violation of General Order (GO) 112-F, Reference Title 49 of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, §192.605(b)(3) for failure to make construction records available to appropriate operating personnel.	49 CFR §192.605(b)(3)

G 20210413-3207	4/13/2021	████ Chateau Way, Barstow, San Bernardino County	SWG	N/A	On April 13, 2021, at approximately 0905 hours, Southwest Gas Corporation (SWG) received a call of no gas at █████ Chateau Way, Barstow. There were no injuries, fatalities, fire, or third-party damage reported as the result of this incident. Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) investigation found that the incident was caused by SWG's contractor, Arizona Pipeline Company (APL) failing to follow SWG's Operations Manual, Abandonment Procedure, Section 1.1.2, confirming feed location. Therefore, SED finds SWG's contractor, APL in violation of General Order (GO) 112-F, Reference Title 49 of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, §192.605(a) for failure to follow SWG's Operation Manual, Abandonment Procedure.	49 CFR §192.605(a).
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