



Description	This procedure establishes minimum requirements for the abandonment of natural gas pipeline facilities.
Regulatory Applicability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulated Transmission Pipelines <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type A) <input type="checkbox"/> Regulated Gathering Pipelines (Type B) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulated Distribution Pipelines
Frequency	As needed
Reference	49 CFR 192.727 <i>Abandonment or Deactivation of Facilities</i> LA Title 43 Part XIII 2927 <i>Abandonment or Deactivation of Facilities</i>
Forms / Record Retention	F-192.727 <i>Facility Abandonment Record / Life of Pipeline System</i>
Related Specifications	NPMS “Standards for Pipeline and Liquefied Natural Gas Operator Submissions”
OQ Covered Task	1801 <i>Purging, Abandonment, or Inactivation of Facilities</i> (In order to perform the tasks listed above; personnel must be qualified in accordance with West Texas Gas’s Operator Qualification program or directly supervised by a qualified individual.)



Procedure Steps

Abandonment

Prepare a step-by-step procedure for each pipeline to be abandoned. These procedures must consider the following:

1. Each pipeline abandoned in place must be disconnected from all sources and supplies of gas, purged of gas, and sealed at the ends.
 - a) When the volume of the pipeline is so small there is no potential hazard (less than 10% LEL), the pipeline need not be purged.
 - b) Filling with inhibited water is preferred if the line has future utility.
 - c) Offshore pipelines abandoned in place must be filled with water or inert materials.
2. Except for service lines, each abandoned pipeline that is not being maintained in accordance with DOT requirements must be disconnected from all input sources, purged with an inert medium and sealed at the ends. Offshore pipelines must be filled with water or inert materials. The pipeline need not be purged when the volume is so small that there is no potential hazard.
3. Whenever service to a customer is discontinued, the operator must comply with one of the following:
 - a) The valve that is closed to prevent the flow of gas to the customer must be provided with a locking device or other means designed to prevent the opening of the valve by unauthorized people.
 - b) A mechanical device or fitting that will prevent the flow of gas must be installed in the service line or in the meter assembly.
 - c) The customer's piping must be physically disconnected from the gas supply and the open pipe ends sealed.
4. If air is used for purging, operator must ensure that after purging a combustible mixture (less than 10% LEL) is not present.
5. Whenever a vault or valve box cover has been abandoned, WTG will do the following:
 - a) The vault or valve box cover must be removed or secured in a manner so the vault or valve box cover cannot be opened and/or:
 - b) Each abandoned vault or valve box must be filled with a suitable compacted material.
6. Documentation of abandonment using form F-192.727 or equivalent.

Inactivation

An inactivated pipeline is a pipeline that although not currently in use, will be maintained and serviced per 49 CFR Part 192 so the pipeline may be returned to service at a future date. Inactivating a pipeline does not require NPMS submission.

1. Methods to Inactivate Pipeline



- a) Isolate the pipeline segment from all gas sources by closing all valves. If accidentally pressuring up the pipeline will cause a safety problem, physically isolate the pipeline from all gas sources.
- b) Use either natural gas or inert gas in the pipeline to maintain a pressure of 10 to 20 psig to prevent groundwater from entering the pipe. After the pipeline has been inactivated, take a gauge reading to insure that positive pressure exists.
- c) Continue maintaining the pipeline as though it was in service (i.e., continue conducting and documenting all applicable O&M inspections).

2. Returning Inactivate Pipeline to Service

Inactivated pipelines that have been maintained per 49 CFR Part 192 may not be returned to service without Engineering Department review and following the Management of Change (MOC) process.

3. Reactivating Pipeline

Resolve any questions concerning safely operating the previously inactivated pipeline and appurtenances before reconnecting the pipeline to a gas source or installing a weld end cap. Verify that all isolation devices including pipes, valves and fittings are removed and that all pipe, valves, fittings, etc. that were installed during the inactivation process meet the design requirements or are removed before reconnecting the pipeline to a gas source or installing a weld end cap.

4. Discontinuing Customer Service

When discontinuing service to a customer, complete one of the following steps to guarantee the gas is stopped and ensure that gas will not accumulate within a building or residence:

- a) Lock the block valve or provide another means to prevent an unauthorized person from opening the valve
- b) Install a mechanical device that prevents gas flow to the meter or within the service line
- c) Physically disconnect the customer's piping from the gas supply and open pipe end seals

5. Documentation

- a) Maintain operating, inspecting, testing, maintenance and repair records of each inactivated pipeline for the life of the facility.
- b) Maintain records of each pipeline reactivation (e.g., MOC, investigations, test repairs, replacements and alterations, etc.) for the life of the facility.