

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



September 18, 2023

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

SUBJECT: Notice of Non-DOT Gas Incident Probable Violations for Southwest Gas Corporation in Q-2 2023

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 investigation completed in second quarter of 2023 (Q2-2023). This letter serves as notification that SED's investigations found Southwest Gas Corporation (SWG) in probable violations of the following:

1. Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192, §192.13(c) states in part:

“(c) Each operator shall maintain, modify as appropriate, and follow the plans, procedures, and programs that it is required to establish under this part.”

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

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

The summary of the identified probable violations 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 probable violations.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthewson Epuna".

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

4-3449, 3470

CC: Laurie Brown / SWG, Mohammad Ali / SED-GSRB, Jordan Neumayer/SED-GSRB,
Jesus Reyes/SED-GSRB, Terence Eng / SED-GSRB

ATTACHMENT: Incidents with Probable Violations

Attachment A
List of Incidents with Probable Violation(s)

CPUC ID	Date	Address	Utility	Third Party Entity	Investigative Findings	Code Violation(s)
G20211021-3449	10/21/2022	22221 Ottawa Road, Apple Valley, CA County: San Bernardino	SWG	Arizona Pipeline	On October 21, 2022, Southwest Gas (SWG)'s contractor, Arizona Pipeline, was performing an abandonment of a SWG gas main line when an unplanned under pressure event occurred and resulted in a service interruption. SED's investigation found that the incident was caused by SWG failing to provide an updated construction record, map, drawing, or operating history of its service line to its contractor when the contractor was connecting its existing service line to a new gas main. Therefore, SED found SWG in violation of General Order (G.O.) 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, §192.605(b)(3).	49 CFR Part 192, §192.605(b)(3)
G 20221220-3470	12/20/2022	16705 Joshua, Victorville, CA County: San Bernardino	SWG	N/A	On December 20, 2022, at approximately 1843 hours, a Southwest Gas (SWG) technician responded to an unplanned under-pressure event to a residential customer. SED's investigation found that the incident was caused by SWG's contractor, Arizona Pipeline Company, failing to follow SWG's procedures and connect an existing SWG riser to its newly installed 1-inch plastic service line during a pipeline replacement project. Therefore, SED found SWG in violation of G.O, 112-F, Reference Title 49 of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, §192.13(c).	49 CFR Part 192, §192.13(c)