

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
OF DEACTIVATION OF PIPELINE  
SERVICE FOR FIVE VALLEYS GAS CO.  
AT SEELEY LAKE, MT

UTILITY DIVISION  
Docket No. D2015.3.31

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**FIVE VALLEYS GAS COMPANY'S RESPONSE TO DATA REQUESTS PSC-001  
THROUGH PSC-002**

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PSC-001

Regarding: Requirements of LP Gas Tank Locations  
Witness: Thorstad

Has Five Valleys Gas Co. explored future tank locations for current customers of the utility to insure individual customer tanks have a suitable location for tank placement and this tank placement meets current NEPA code requirements?

RESPONSE:

Five Valleys Gas Co. has surveyed the pipeline and has determined that all tanks placed will meet NFPA 58 codes. This can be accomplished with different size tanks.

PSC-002

Regarding: Abandonment of LPG Distribution System Per Title 49, Part 192

Witness: Thorstad

a. Current System and Operation

1. Please provide a map of the current system, including location of tank farm, mains, and services.
2. Please provide a current list of customers being supplied by the pipeline distribution system.

b. Proposed System and Operations

1. Please provide an abandonment procedure per Part 192.727.
2. Please provide a timeline for abandonment and deactivation. In what order or sequence will the system transition from the pipeline to bottles? Include possibility of not completing work during the 2015 construction season. If weather prevents completion, what are the contingency plans to suspend work and resume the following season?
3. Please provide a map of final, proposed system and configuration: location of tanks and any mains or service lines used to distribute gas to more than one building.
4. Please provide a description of fuel metering and billing and process, e.g., meters/no-meters, customer owned vs. leased tanks or and any other information pertaining to this.
5. Please provide any other impact to customers. Such as are tanks provided? What are the options or requirements to purchase tanks?
6. Please provide any safety concerns identified by Five Valleys Gas Co. for the construction phase and abandonment process and also for the completed system, post change over. Please detail identified concerns and proposed actions to address these. List any safety codes, building standards, or others that are applicable.

RESPONSE

PSC-002a.1. Please see the attached map. Five Valleys Gas Co. is submitting two identical maps: one is a large map that detailing the system. However, due to the size of the paper, it is not possible to e-file this map. Therefore, Five Valleys Gas Co. has prepared a reduced size map which will be e-filed with these responses. The reduced size map is identical to the large map, but it may be more difficult to read.

PSC-002a.2. Five Valleys Gas Co. has approximately 100 residential customers and 17 commercial customers. Five Valleys Gas Co. believes it must protect the privacy of its customers and therefore does not wish to file the names and contact information of its customers with this Commission as part of a public record. Five Valleys Gas Co. will make its customer list available for inspection by the Commission Staff and parties to this Docket in the offices of its Helena counsel during normal business hours. Five Valleys Gas Co. is also willing to file the requested information pursuant to a protective order and confidentiality/nondisclosure agreement should that be necessary or required.

PSC-002b.1. Five Valleys Gas Co. will follow Part 192.727 with respect to its abandonment procedure. Generally, Five Valleys Gas Co will use the following procedure: First, all service lines will be capped, as close as possible to the 4" main or the 2" lateral at the time of the switch out. After all services have been decommissioned or switch out, the pipeline will be burned off and purged with air. This will be accomplished over 2 days. The main line will then be disconnected from the fuel source and capped or plugged. After the purge has been completed all curb boxes will be filled with gravel and line markers removed.

PSC-002b.2. The time line estimate for the transition will be 60 – 90 days from authorization date weather permitting. Five Valleys Gas Co. will start with our businesses and schools. We will then start with our residential services at the furthest point from our supply source. We will continue to change out services going from South to North on the pipeline. If completion cannot be accomplished in the construction season, Five Valleys will suspend the switch outs. We will continue in the next construction season. The services that left on the pipeline will continue on the pipeline until they are switched out in the next construction season.

PSC-002b.3. After the deactivation takes place no mains or laterals will be in service. Service lines will be in place from the customer's tank to the residence or business. The final map will follow the existing pipeline but all services will be provided by tanks.

PSC-002b.4. Five Valleys Gas Co. proposes that all tanks will be leased. The customers will have the option to purchase a tank or get gas and a tank from another competitor. All propane will be metered off of our Energy Partners state certified delivery truck. An invoice will be left at the time of delivery. A monthly statement will be mailed at the end of each month. Our current thought is not to have any meters in the final system.

PSC-002b.5. The tanks will be provided for a yearly lease. The customer will also have the option to purchase a new tank. If the tank is purchased the customer would have the option to purchase propane from another company.

PSC-002b.6. A safety concern would be that fact that we will have to expose the service line at the business / residence to cap the line before the tank placement. A small release of gas is possible. Our procedure for purging is to have an open flame to burn the excess gas off. When performing all the duties listed above all personnel will be trained and wearing personnel protective equipment. NFPA 58 will be followed when dealing with tank placement and hook ups.

DATED this 5th day of June, 2015.

BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C.

By   
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Kimberly A. Beatty  
Attorneys for Five Valleys Gas Company

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

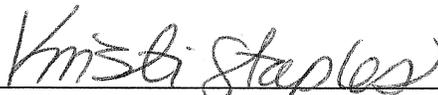
I hereby certify that on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2015, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was this day e-filed and served as follows:

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BROWNING, KALECZYC, BERRY & HOVEN, P.C.

DVLV0501 - FIVE VALLEYS GAS COMPANY Utility Notification Center (Page 1 of 1)		
Hydrographic Road Rail TRSO Grid SVLV0501 County Boundary Interstate Highways Major Roads Secondary Roads	<p><b>VALVES</b></p> <p>A Main / Plant SHUTS down, system</p> <p>B 2 1/2" valve Feeds creek school</p> <p>B+1 2" valve - Feeds 2nd Branch Line (School home + part of Juniper)</p> <p>C 2" valve Feeds - olden + pine Branch</p> <p>D 2" valve Feeds Tam o' Shan Branch</p> <p>E-1 2" valve Feeds Reservoir down to pool</p> <p>E-2 2" valve Feeds - mountain church</p> <p>E-3 3/4" valve Feeds main lodge</p>	

