 TRANSCANADA O&M MANUAL – U.S. NATURAL GAS PIPELINES				C
192.727 Abandonment or Deactivation of Facilities				
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192.727 Abandonment or Deactivation of Facilities

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1.0 Purpose

This procedure describes the minimum requirements for in-place abandonment of natural gas pipeline facilities and the requirements for isolating gas containing facilities from a customer's facilities when gas service is discontinued for other than routine operation or maintenance needs. This procedure is used to comply with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) 49 CFR §§ 192.727(b), (c), (d), (e) and (g).

2.0 Scope


This procedure applies to all natural gas pipeline facilities in the United States that are operated by TransCanada.

3.0 References

- *Deactivation or Abandonment of Pipeline Procedures* ([EDMS # 003864117](#))
- 49 CFR 195.450 (*Definition of navigable waterways*)

4.0 General

1. Abandoned transmission facilities are disconnected from all sources of gas, purged, and removed from service in accordance with this procedure and are handled on an individual basis.
2. Inactivated facilities are inspected and maintained as required by this and other O&M procedures.
3. Records and necessary field checks are made to ensure that pipelines scheduled for abandonment are disconnected from all sources and supplies of gas such as other pipelines, crossover piping, meter stations, and control lines.
4. Abandonment is not completed until it has been determined that the volume of natural gas or liquid hydrocarbons contained within the abandoned section is of no potential hazard. If air is used as the purging medium, precautions are taken to ensure that a combustible mixture is not present after purging.
5. Abandoned offshore pipelines are filled with water or inert materials and the ends are sealed.
6. All valves left in an abandoned pipeline segment are closed and blinded, if practical.
7. Abandoned pipe left underground has the ends adequately sealed with a cap, foreman's plug, or equivalent after purged of gas, or is filled with an inert material.

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8. Abandoned compressor stations suction and discharge valves are closed and blinded or capped. Vent valves inside the station are left open to prevent the build up of gas vapors.
9. For abandoned pipelines:
 - When practical, all above-grade valves, risers, piping, vaults, and valve box covers are removed.
 - Each underground pit for valves, pressure relieving/limiting stations which is abandoned is filled with a suitable compacted material.
 - For offshore and onshore natural gas pipeline facilities that cross over, under, or through a commercially navigable waterway, a report must be filed to the PHMSA upon abandonment of the facility. Information in the report must contain all reasonably available information related to the facility, including information in the possession of a third party. The report contains the location, size, date of abandonment, method of abandonment, and a certification that the facility has been abandoned in accordance with all applicable laws.
10. If practical, all abandoned meter risers and headers are dismantled and removed from the site.
11. When service to a customer is discontinued, one of the following must occur:
 - If a valve is closed to prevent flow to the customer, it must be locked to prevent unauthorized opening.
 - The customer's piping must be physically disconnected from the gas supply and the open ends sealed.
12. All abandonments are conducted in accordance with all environmental procedures.
13. Deactivated facilities are handled as stated in Paragraphs 3 and 4 above, except that if water is used, the water contains a corrosion inhibitor. If the facility is presently cathodically protected, it continues to be cathodically protected while inactive.
14. Local one-call laws may require operators to maintain maps, drawings, diagrams, or other records of underground facility abandoned or out-of-service. In these cases, information about the approximate location of abandoned and out-of-service facilities is provided to an excavator in response to a one-call notification.

5.0 Documentation/Reporting Requirements

Abandonment documentation is retained for five years if TransCanada gives up the right-of-way; this documentation is otherwise kept for the life of the facility, until TransCanada relinquishes rights to the right-of-way

6.0 Definitions

Commercially navigable waterway means a waterway where a substantial likelihood of commercial navigation exists.

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7.0 Responsibilities

The location management or project manager submits proper documentation requesting facilities to be abandoned to the rates and regulatory affairs or legal groups, as applicable.

The area manager ensures compliance with this procedure.

The rates and regulatory affairs or legal groups, as applicable, provide authorization to area office(s) and operating departments for abandonment of facilities.

Compliance files a report, as required, for the offshore and onshore natural gas pipeline facilities that cross over, under, or through a commercially navigable waterway. The report is submitted to the National Pipeline Mapping System or PHMSA information officer.