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## ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

December 29, 2022

### **Master Meter Operator Update**

Master meter systems are defined as "physical facilities for distributing gas within a definable area where the operator purchases metered gas from a provider to provide gas service to two or more buildings other than at a single family residence" (Arizona Administrative Code ("A.A.C.") R14-5-201 (17)). As of October 2022, there were nearly 850 master meter systems (master meter systems are commonly found in facilities such as: schools, hospitals, churches, prisons, apartments, mobile home parks, business facilities, and hotels) in Arizona, this number demonstrates that since the Arizona Corporation Commission (Commission) adopted and approved the Commission Policy Statement and Guidance for Gas Master Meter Operators on November 27, 2018, approximately 150 master meter operators decided to convert their master meter systems into individual meters to eliminate the need to comply with Federal and State requirements.

The Arizona Corporation Commission's Office of Pipeline Safety (AZOPS) encourages master meter operators to work with their gas provider with conversion to a non master meter system. For operators/owners that choose to continue to operate a master meter facility; keep in mind that within your master meter facilities the pipelines carry hazardous gas, that can pose various risks. As an operator/owner you are ultimately responsible to maintain a safe system that complies with all applicable state and federal regulations.

In order to help operator/owners comply with these state and federal regulations, the AZOPS has revised the master meter manual. The Annual Inspection Report utilized by AZOPS staff has also been revised. This letter is to inform Master Meter operators of some of the changes that have been made to the Master Meter Inspection Program. Additional information will be presented at the 2023 Master Meter Seminars starting in January of 2023.

1. A new manual (one per facility) will be distributed to all Master Meter facilities upon the next Annual Inspection or upon attendance of a master meter seminar. The updated manual will be available online at <http://azcc.gov/safety/pipeline/master-meter>.
2. An operator representative from each facility shall be required to attend a Master Meter Seminar held by AZOPS in order for the manual to be considered valid and approved for use by the operator, consequently the seminar must be attended every 3 years.

3. A new 12 item Annual Inspection Report with 134 sub-questions began to be used to conduct Annual inspections in 2022. The new items on the checklist and new information in the revised manual address the Integrity Management Plan, 2020 PIPES ACT Section 114 and new construction and repair provisions. Sub-questions are primarily procedural in nature, and the use of the new revised manual will satisfy the requirements of the sub-questions.
4. Some of the new additional maintenance items include:
  - **Procedure Evaluations** - every 2 years.
  - **Patrolling** - Priority 1 facilities, 4 times each calendar year not to exceed 4 ½ months. Priority 2 facilities, 2 times each calendar year not to exceed 7 ½ months.
  - **Regulator Station and/or Relief Valve Testing** – (If applicable) once each calendar year not to exceed 15 months.

Seminars will be limited to **20** participants and will be on a registration-received basis. Registration and Annual Report forms are also available on our website at [www.azcc.gov](http://www.azcc.gov). On the website, click on “Safety”, then click on “Pipeline Safety”, under “Pipeline Safety Programs” click on “Master Meter Systems”, scroll to the bottom of the page and you will find the links for the Seminar Schedule, Registration Form and the Annual Report Form.

Attendance of a Master Meter Seminar does not “Qualify” the attendees to perform covered tasks as outlined in the Master Meter Operator Qualification Plan. Participation in our seminars will assist Master Meter Operators and their employees in recognizing the requirements for qualifying the operator personnel or to verify the qualifications of contractors.

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