

**RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS  
GAS SERVICES DIVISION**

**GAS UTILITIES  
INFORMATION BULLETIN**

**No. 721**



**RAILROAD COMMISSION  
OF TEXAS**

**Michael L. Williams, Chairman  
Charles R. Matthews, Commissioner  
Victor G. Carrillo, Commissioner**

**Steve Pitner  
Director  
Gas Services Division**

**April 10, 2003**

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**SECTION 1**  
**NEW APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS FILED**

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9384  
**CAPTION** -- Inquiry into the Failure of West Texas Gas, Inc. to Comply with Safety Standards.  
**DATE FILED** -- 4/1/2003  
**FILED BY** -- Commission's Own Motion  
**EXAMINER** -- Barbara Epstein

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9385  
**CAPTION** -- East Texas Gas System, LP's Application Pursuant to Section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act, for Review of the Reasonableness of a Transportation Rate.  
**DATE FILED** -- 4/1/2003  
**FILED BY** -- Daniel R. Renner  
**EXAMINER** -- Mark Brock

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9386  
**CAPTION** -- Easttrans Limited Partnership's Application Pursuant to Section 311 of the Natural Gas Policy Act, for Review of the Reasonableness of a Transportation Rate.  
**DATE FILED** -- 4/1/2003  
**FILED BY** -- Daniel R. Renner  
**EXAMINER** -- Rose Ruiz

**CASES REFERRED TO SOAH**

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9291  
**CAPTION** -- Request of Texas General Land Office for immediate action to stay abandonment and for establishment of transportation rate on Panther Pipeline, LTD.  
**DATE REFERRED TO SOAH** -- 06/28/2002  
**SOAH DOCKET NO.** -- 455-02-3446  
**SOAH ALJ** -- Wendy Harvel

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9313  
**CAPTION** -- Petition for review of TXU Gas Distribution from the actions of the City of Arlington, et al.  
**DATE REFERRED TO SOAH** -- 08/21/2002  
**SOAH DOCKET NO.** -- 455-02-4058  
**SOAH ALJ** -- Kerry Sullivan

**SECTION 2**  
**APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS SET FOR HEARING OR PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

None at this time.

**SECTION 3**  
**STATUS OF PENDING CASES**

**DOCKET NO.** -- 9383  
**CAPTION** -- Statement of Intent Filed by Texas Gas Service to Change Rates Within the Environs of Port Arthur, Texas.  
**DATE OF ACTION** -- April 8, 2003  
**STATUS** -- Proposed rates were suspended for a period of one hundred fifty (150) days from the date the rates would otherwise have gone into effect.  
**EXAMINER** -- Michelle Lingo

**SECTION 4**  
**NOTICES OF DISMISSAL**

None at this time.

**SECTION 5**  
**ORDERS OF THE COMMISSION**

None at this time.

**SECTION 6**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

**STEVE PITNER, GAS SERVICES DIVISION DIRECTOR**

**1. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

**A. Publications**

1. Texas Utilities Code Titles 3 and 4. Special Rules of Practice and Procedure and Substantive Rules - \$15.00
2. a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2001 – Now available via the Commission’s website at:  
<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/tablecontents01.html>
  - a. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2000 - \$17.00 (includes statistical data for 1999)
  - b. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1999 - \$9.00 (includes statistical data for 1998)
  - c. Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1998 - \$7.00 (includes statistical data for 1997)
3. **2002 Pipeline Safety Rules - \$13.00, includes: 49 CFR 191 & 192 and 16 TAC Sections 7.70-7.74 (gas) 49 CFR 193 (LNG); 49 CFR 195 and 16 TAC Sections 7.80-7.87 (hazardous liquids); 49 CFR 40 and 199 (drug testing).**
4. Distribution and/or Gas Transmission Review forms for Adequacy of Operation, Maintenance and Emergency Manual - To obtain a copy of review forms at no charge, send a request with a self addressed envelope (10" x 13"preferably) with \$0.98 postage.
5. Six MCF Monthly Residential Gas Bill Analysis for Twenty-five Texas Cities - \$2.00 – Now available via the Commission’s website at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gs/rap/sixmcf.html>

Anyone who wishes to obtain a copy of any of the publications or maps listed in Section A should contact the Gas Services Division, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, (512) 463-7167.

**B. Interest Rate on Customer Deposits**

We have been advised by the Public Utility Commission that the interest rate to be applied to customer deposits in calendar year 2003 is 6.00%. All gas utilities should use this rate.

**2. PIPELINE SAFETY SECTION**

A. Austin Headquarters - William B. Travis Building  
1701 North Congress, (78701)  
PO Box 12967  
Austin, Texas 78711-2967 Telephone (512) 463-7058

Mary L. McDaniel, P.E., Assistant Director  
William (Bill) Dase, Jr., P.E., Engineer  
Terry Pardo, P.E., Engineer  
K. David Born, Field Operations Manager  
Lee Thying, P.E., Engineer  
Maurice Curd, Program Administrator

Amarillo Region 1 - 7102 IH-40 West, Bldg. C., Amarillo, Texas 79106 Telephone (806) 468-7486

Alan Mann, Engineering Specialist

Midland Region 2 - Petroleum Building, 214 West Texas, Suite 803, Midland, Texas 79701 Telephone (915) 570-5884

Glenn Taylor, Area Supervisor (Midland/Amarillo)  
Larry Felio, P.E., Engineer  
Keith Smith, Engineering Specialist  
Tim Murray, Engineering Specialist (Abilene)

Kilgore Region 3 - 619 Henderson Boulevard, Kilgore, Texas 75662 Telephone (903) 984-8581

Bob Oldham, Engineering Specialist  
James Alexander, Engineering Specialist  
Jerry Hill, Engineering Specialist

Austin Region 4 - 1701 North Congress, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711 Telephone (512) 463-7050

Kendall Smith, Area Supervisor  
Johnny Burgess, Engineering Specialist  
Mark Arguelles, Program Administrator

Houston Region 5 -1706 Seamist Drive, Ste 501, Houston, Texas 77008-3135 Telephone (713) 869-8425

Danny Nichols, Area Supervisor  
Jerry Hoff, Engineering Specialist  
Jim Arnold, Engineering Specialist  
Randy Vaughn, Engineering Specialist  
Gregory Johnson, Engineering Specialist  
Frank Henderson, Engineering Specialist  
John Jewett, Engineering Assistant

Dallas Region 6 -1546 Rowlett Rd., Suite 107, Garland, Texas 75043 Telephone (972) 240-5757

Jody Kerl, P.E., Area Supervisor (Dallas/Kilgore)  
 M. Kathryn Williams-Guzman, Engineering Specialist  
 San Sein, Engineering Specialist  
 Terry Sullivan, Engineering Assistant

Corpus Christi Region 7 -10320 IH-37, P.O. Box 10307, Corpus Christi, Texas 78460-0307 Telephone (361) 242-3117

Don Gault, Area Supervisor  
 Steven Rios, Engineering Specialist  
 Jesse Cantu, Jr., Engineering Specialist  
 Ronda Lauderman, Engineering Assistant

**B. Monthly Summary (January)**

No. of distribution safety evaluations – 59  
 No. of transmission safety evaluations - 70  
 No. of liquid safety evaluations - 39  
 No. of leak/calls - 52  
 No. of accident investigations - 6  
 No. of special investigations – 15

**C. Reporting of Pipeline Accidents**

1) NATURAL GAS

Accidents on intrastate gas systems involving \$5,000 property damage, a fatality or injuries, gas ignition, or that are judged significant must be reported by telephone within two hours, and the written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

2) HAZARDOUS LIQUIDS

Accidents on intrastate hazardous liquid pipelines reportable under 49 CFR Sections 195.50 and 195.52 and 16 TAC Section 7.84(a) must be reported by telephone within two hours and the required written report filed within thirty (30) days. Call the 24-hour emergency phone number (512)463-6788 to report an accident. For your convenience this priority phone line is used only to report emergencies.

**EERC Rules and Regulations:** None at this time.

**AUDIT SECTION**

**A.** Maintains headquarters and three district offices as follows:  
 Headquarters - William B. Travis Building  
 1701 North Congress, P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78701  
 Ed Abrahamson, Assistant Director

Telephone (512) 463-7022

Dallas District- 1546 Rowlett Rd., Suite 107, Garland, Texas 75043

Telephone (972) 240-5757;  
 Fax (972)303-1897

Stephen Cooper, Auditor  
 Josh Settle, Auditor

Austin District- P. O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711-2967

Telephone (512) 463-7022

Houston District- 1706 Seamist Drive, Suite 501, Houston, Texas 77008-3135

Telephone (713) 869-8425;  
Fax (713)869-3219

Dale Francis, Auditor  
Margie Stoney, Auditor  
Konata Uzoma, Auditor  
Lekisha Churchwell, Auditor  
Larry Alcorn, Auditor

**B. Gas Utility Tax, Annual Reports and Audit Reports**

Questions relating to gas utility tax, annual reports and audit reports, call Shannon L. Miller at (512) 463-7022.

**C. Available Information**

Copies of company annual reports (1994 to present), as well as information relating to any of the above, A through C, are available for review at the William B. Travis Building, Gas Services Division, 9th Floor, 1701 North Congress. All requests for copies must be made in writing and should be addressed to the Audit Section. Copies will be provided for a fee, depending on the volume of copy work desired, allow a minimum of five days for completion of requests. Inquiries regarding copies should be directed to the Audit Section at (512) 463-7022, or Fax your request to (512) 475-3180.

**4. REGULATORY ANALYSIS AND POLICY**

**A. Maintains the following office to assist you:**

Headquarters - William B. Travis Building  
1701 North Congress, P.O. Box 12967, Austin, Texas 78711  
Karl Nalepa, Assistant Director

Telephone (512) 463-7164

**B. Gas Utilities Information Bulletin**

Published on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gsap/rapbls.html>.

**C. Proposals For Decision**

Published on the Commission's web site at: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/gsap/pfds.html>.

**D. Tariff Filings**

Questions pertaining to the filing of tariffs and/or quality of service rules should be directed to Kathy Arroyo, Yolanda Lovelace or Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164.

**E. Curtailements**

Curtailement questions should be referred to Sandra Soto at (512) 463-7164. Curtailement reports made Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., should be made to (512) 463-7164. Curtailement reports made during hours other than those specified above and holidays, should be made to (512) 463-6788, (512) 896-3863 (digital pager), (512) 892-1772 or (512) 280-5949.

**F. Compliance Filings**

Questions regarding gas utilities docket compliance filing requirements should be referred to Jackie Standard at (512) 463-7164.

**G. Complaints and Inquiries**

All complaints and inquiries relating to the gas utility industry should be directed to the Regulatory Analysis and Policy section at (512) 463-7164.

**H. Pending RRC Rules and Regulations:**

GUD No. 9221 Amendments to Quality of Service Rules

GUD No. 9253 New Rule for Relocation Cost Recovery Factor

GUD No. 9257 Amendments to §7.450 Gas Distribution in Mobile Home Parks, Apartment Houses and Apartment Units.

GUD No. 9275 Amendments to §7.512 NGPA Section 311 Rate Review

GUD No. 9276 Amendments to §7.511 TUC Section 102.054 Sale, Transfer, Merger Reviews

GUD No. 9277 Amendments to §7.305 Curtailment Rule

GUD No. 9303 Amendments to §7.465 Abandonment Rule

GUD No. 9334 Amendments to §7.310 System of Accounts

**5. HEARINGS AND LEGAL ANALYSIS**

**A. Miscellaneous**

Anyone wishing to obtain copies of appendices to Orders appearing in Section 5 of this Bulletin should contact the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.

**B. Status of Pending Cases**

The status of all pending cases listed in Section 3 of this Bulletin is for informational purposes only and is complete up to the time of printing of this Bulletin. For a more accurate status of pending cases, please call the Legal Division at (512) 463-7017.