

CHAPTER 6 GAS SERVICE

Authority

N.J.S.A. 48:2-13 and 48:10-5.

Source and Effective Date

R.2001 d.306, effective August 1, 2001.
See: 33 N.J.R. 1891(a), 33 N.J.R. 3041(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1c, Chapter 6, Gas Service, expires on January 28, 2007. See: 38 N.J.R. 3245(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 6, Gas Service, was adopted and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Pursuant to Executive Order 66(1978), Chapter 6, Gas Service, expired on March 3, 1991. See: 18 N.J.R. 486(a).

Chapter 6, Gas Service, was adopted as new rules by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Subchapter 5, Master Meter Systems, was adopted as R.1993 d.247, effective June 7, 1993. See: 24 N.J.R. 4494(a), 25 N.J.R. 2490(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 6, Gas Service, was readopted as R.1996 d.411, effective August 7, 1996. See: 28 N.J.R. 2830(a), 28 N.J.R. 4106(a).

Chapter 6, Gas Service, was readopted as R.2001 d.306, effective August 1, 2001. As part of R.2001 d.306, effective September 4, 2001, Subchapter 1, Plant, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 14:6-2; Subchapter 1, Scope, was adopted as new rules; Subchapter 2, Service, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 14:6-3; Subchapter 3, Meters, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 14:6-4; Subchapter 4, Uniform System of Accounts, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 14:6-5; and Subchapter 5, Master Meter Systems, was recodified as N.J.A.C. 14:6-6. See: Source and Effective Date. See, also, section annotations.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. SCOPE

14:6-1.1 Scope

The rules in this chapter shall apply to gas public utilities, as that term is defined in N.J.S.A. 48:2-13, to other operators of gas pipelines and underground gas facilities and excavators, and to owners or operators of gas master meter systems.

SUBCHAPTER 2. PLANT

14:6-2.1 Plant construction

(a) The construction and installation of plant and facilities of gas utilities must be in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:3-2.1 (Plant construction). In addition, plant construction and operation, including design, maintenance, security requirements, operator training, must meet the specific requirements of this subchapter.

(b) As a portion of this subchapter on utility plant, and all aspects of construction and operation thereof, and as a portion of all other subchapters under N.J.A.C. 14:6, Gas, the Board hereby adopts, by reference, as though set out in full, the following:

1. The current edition (and amendments as issued) of Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Federal Safety Standards: Part 192, Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Federal Code).

2. The current edition (and amendments as issued) of Liquefied Natural Gas Facilities: Federal Safety Standards: Part 193, Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Federal Code).

(c) Any such plant and its facilities which were designed and constructed prior to March 3, 1986 shall be subject to all the provisions of the Federal Code herein adopted by

reference, including effective dates set forth in the Federal Code. When existing facilities are replaced, relocated or significantly altered, the siting, design and construction requirements of the Federal Code sections cited above in (b)1 and 2 shall apply.

(d) The Natural Fuel Gas Code (ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54) shall apply to the construction, maintenance and all phases of operation of gas utility plant facilities which are beyond the scope of the Federal Code sections cited above in (b)1 and 2.

Amended by R.1986 d.46, effective March 3, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 2740(a), 18 N.J.R. 486(a).

Added (b)-(e).

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 31 N.J.R. 3537(d).

Amended by R.2001 d.306, effective September 4, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1891(a), 33 N.J.R. 3041(a).

Deleted former (d) and recodified former (e) as new (d).

14:6-2.2 Tests of service

Each gas utility shall perform a leak test on each new or renewed service line prior to activating or restoring service to a customer.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

Amended by R.1996 d.411, effective September 3, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2830(a), 28 N.J.R. 4106(a).

14:6-2.3 Inspection of property

Prompt investigation of gas leaks shall be made by each gas utility and such corrective action taken as is required by the facts and circumstances disclosed. A sufficient number of reliable portable devices for detecting the presence of combustible gas in the atmosphere shall be maintained as well as sufficient number of reliable devices which assure a substantially accurate knowledge at all times of the pressure existing in the system. Regulator stations shall be inspected for gas leaks with a combustible gas indicating device. These regulators shall be inspected at least once a year and repaired as necessary. Individual district regulators shall be inspected in such manner and with such frequency as may be necessary to maintain these regulators in condition to render safe and adequate service. A complete record shall be kept for two years of all such inspections, tests, conditions found and the corrective measures taken, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:3-6.2, Plant and operating.

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Prompt inspection of leaks required.

14:6-2.4 Service line valves

Each gas utility shall install an outside shutoff valve on every new and every renewed service line and on any existing service line that does not have such a valve when repairs are

made that require excavation and the installation can be accomplished without further excavation.

R.1974 d.87, eff. April 1, 1974.

See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

Amended by R.1996 d.411, effective September 3, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2830(a), 28 N.J.R. 4106(a).

14:6-2.5 Emergency shutdown

Each gas utility shall provide a sufficient number of valves, in addition to inlet and outlet valves at regulator stations, in its high-pressure distribution system to allow the shut-down of any section of its high-pressure distribution system in an emergency. In addition, each gas utility shall train all employees in the procedures to follow when it is necessary to reduce the flow of gas because of an emergency.

R.1974 d.87, eff. April 1, 1974.

See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

Amended by R.1996 d.411, effective September 3, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2830(a), 28 N.J.R. 4106(a).

Amended by R.2001 d.306, effective September 4, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1891(a), 33 N.J.R. 3041(a).

Inserted "in addition to inlet and outlet valves at regulator stations" following "number of valves", and "gas" preceding "utility".

14:6-2.6 Gas detectors

(a) Combustible gas detecting instruments shall be assigned to all service and other personnel who may be involved in the detection of gas leaks. The instruments shall be properly maintained and periodically calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. Records shall be kept of such calibrations.

(b) A combustible gas detecting instrument shall be used by gas company personnel, in conjunction with other means of detection, in the investigation of any suspected gas leak. Any employee who may be called upon to investigate a suspected gas leak shall have adequate training in the use of gas detection instruments as well as other methods of leak detection.

R.1974 d.87, eff. April 1, 1974.

See: 5 N.J.R. 122(a), 6 N.J.R. 201(d).

Amended by R.1991 d.456, effective September 3, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 944(a), 23 N.J.R. 2652(a).

Stylistic changes.

Amended by R.1996 d.411, effective September 3, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2830(a), 28 N.J.R. 4106(a).

14:6-2.7 Underground facility protection; 24 inch rule

(a) Operators of gas pipelines and other underground gas facilities and excavators shall comply with the Board's rules pertaining to the protection of underground facilities as set forth in N.J.A.C. 14:2.

(b) Mechanical equipment shall not be used within 24 inches of a gas pipe or facility unless the pipe or facility has

Amended by R.1996 d.411, effective September 3, 1996.
See: 28 N.J.R. 2830(a), 28 N.J.R. 4106(a).

14:6-6.3 Service to master meter systems

No gas utility in this State shall provide gas service to any newly developed master meter system as defined in N.J.A.C. 14:6-6.2.

Amended by R.2001 d.306, effective September 4, 2001.
See: 33 N.J.R. 1891(a), 33 N.J.R. 3041(a).

Substituted "No" for "After June 7, 1994, no", and "6.2" for "5.2".

14:6-6.4 Inspection and compliance

(a) Except as provided in (b) and (c) below, after June 7, 1994, no gas utility in this State shall continue to provide gas service to any residential or commercial master meter system unless the utility is provided by the owner or operator of the master meter system with an annual certification, on a form, supplied by the Board, reflecting Federal Code specifications, from a licensed professional engineer, that the system has been inspected within the last six months and that it complies with all applicable safety requirements. The owner or operator may request from the servicing utility a list of those licensed professional engineers known to the utility who are qualified to perform such services. A copy of such certification shall be submitted to the Board by the owner or operator. In the event that the owner or operator can demonstrate that the services of a licensed professional engineer could not be obtained after utilization of the list provided by the utility, then, alternatively, the owner or operator of the master meter system may make arrangements with the servicing utility to provide the re-

quired inspection and certification at the expense of the owner or operator.

(b) If the results of the inspection reveal that the master meter system does not satisfy the requirements of the Federal Code, the owner or operator of the system shall furnish the utility, in the event that the utility did not perform the inspection, and the Board with a copy of the inspection report and shall submit a detailed plan of action to bring the system into compliance with the requirements of the Federal Code within 12 months. The owner or operator shall submit to the utility proof of compliance with the requirements of the Federal Code within the 12 month period. A copy of such compliance shall be forwarded to the Board by the owner or operator. Should the inspection uncover a condition that constitutes an immediate safety hazard, the owner or operator shall immediately notify the servicing utility. Until repairs can be made to the system that will either sufficiently abate or eliminate the hazardous condition, service to the system may be subject to discontinuance as provided in N.J.A.C. 14:3-3.6a3x.

(c) If the owner or operator of the master meter system does not comply with (a) and (b) above, the owner or operator shall attempt to arrange with the utility to take over the master meter system and make corrections to bring the system into compliance with all applicable safety standards at the expense of the owner or operator. If such an arrangement cannot be effected within one year, the utility shall promptly petition the Board for permission, upon notice and hearing, to discontinue service to the master meter system.