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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the
Commission's Own Motion to Adopt new
Safety and Reliability Regulations for Natural
Gas Transmission and Distribution Pipelines
and Related Ratemaking Mechanisms

**Rulemaking 11-02-019
(Filed February 24, 2011)**

**CALIFORNIA SAFETY PLAN
OF
SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION
(U 905 G)**

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9 **Introduction and Brief Background**

10 1. Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest Gas or Company) respectfully submits to
11 the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) its California Safety Plan (Plan) in
12 compliance with the Decision Amending Scope of Rulemaking 11-02-019 and Adding
Respondents, dated April 20, 2012 (D.12-04-010).

13 2. In February 2011, the Commission opened Rulemaking 11-02-019 to coordinate
14 pipeline safety efforts, obtain public input, and propose any necessary rule and/or policy
15 changes.¹

16 3. In October 2011, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 705, which
17 was subsequently codified as Sections 961 and 963 of the California Public Utilities Code. The
18 regulations require, among other things, that each gas corporation operating in California
19 develop a plan for the "safe and reliable operation of its commission-regulated gas pipeline
20 facilities. . .subject to approval, modification and adequate funding by the commission."² The

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¹ D12-04-010. at pg.8-9.

² Pub. Util. Code §961(b)(1).

1 Commission must review and accept, modify or reject each utility’s plan by December 31,
2 2012.³

3 4. In D.12-04-010, the Commission addressed the requirements of Public Utilities
4 Code §§961 and 963 by requiring all California gas system operators to file a safety plan no later
5 than June 29, 2012. Through the safety plans, operators must demonstrate how they address
6 each element of Public Utilities Code §§961 and 963.⁴

7 **Southwest Gas’ California Safety Plan**

8 5. Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit “A” is Southwest Gas’
9 California Safety Plan.

10 6. In accordance with Public Utilities Code §961(e) and D.12-04-010, the Company
11 distributed the Plan to applicable employees and contractors, and provided an opportunity for
12 questions, comments and feedback. Attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit “B” is a
13 log reflecting the questions and comments received by the Company, along with information on
14 the Company’s disposition of the questions and comments, and the Company’s rationale for such
15 disposition.

16 **Summary and Conclusion**

17 7. Based upon the foregoing, and in response to D.12-04-010, Southwest Gas
18 respectfully requests that the Commission approve its Plan on or before December 31, 2012.

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23 ³ Id. at §961(b)(2).

24 ⁴ D12-04-010. at p.17.

Exhibits A & B

To be filed:

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