

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 8, 2020

Jerry Schmitz
Vice President, Engineering
Southwest Gas Corporation
5241 Spring Mountain Road
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8510

GI-2020-06-SWG-30-07

SUBJECT: General Order (GO) 112-F Gas Inspection of Southwest Gas Company's Operator Qualification Program

Dear Mr. Schmitz:

The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission conducted a G.O. 112-F review and inspection of Southwest Gas Company's (SWG) Operator Qualification (OQ) Program on June 1-5, 2020. SED staff reviewed SWG's written OQ Program pursuant to G.O. 112-F, Reference Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192 and used Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration's (PHMSA) Inspection Assistant (IA) as a reference guide to conduct the inspection.

SED's findings are noted in the Post-Inspection Written Preliminary Findings (Summary) which is enclosed with this letter.

Within 30 days of your receipt of this letter, please provide a written response indicating the measures taken by SWG to address the findings noted in the Summary.

If you have any questions, please contact Joel Tran at (415) 515-3442 or by email at Joel.Tran@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Terence Eng".

Terence Eng, P.E.
Program Manager
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

Enclosure: Post-Inspection Written Preliminary Findings

cc: Laurie Brown, SWG
Joel Tran, SED/GSRB
Dennis Lee, SED/GSRB
Claudia Almengor, SED/GSRB

Post-Inspection Written Preliminary Findings

Dates of Inspection: 6/1/2020 – 6/5/2020

Operator: SOUTHWEST GAS CORP

Operator ID: 18536

Inspection Systems: Operator Qualification Program

Assets (Unit IDs): Main Office (Specialized Inspections) (88373)

System Type: GT

Inspection Name: Southwest Gas Operator Qualification

Lead Inspector: Joel Tran

Operator Representative: Laurie Brown

Unsatisfactory Results

Generic Questions : Generic Questions (GENERIC.GENERIC)

Question Text Generic question

References 192.805

Assets Covered Main Office (Specialized Inspections) (88373 (30))

Issue Summary 192.805 states "Each operator shall have and follow a written qualification program."

While reviewing qualification records for Corrosion Specialists, SED noted one employee, Jeff E Shurley (OQ/PJQ Number: SWG12832), who was not re-qualified in 2016 for the *OQ-Damage Prevention During Excavation* covered task. Although Mr. Shurley did not perform any excavation activities during the calendar year 2016, Southwest Gas' Operator Qualification Plan requires Corrosion Specialists to be qualified once a year for this covered task. Mr. Shurley was qualified on 4/21/2015 with a subsequent re-qualification on 5/3/2017, missing the 2016 re-qualification.

Concerns

No Preliminary Concerns.