

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 14, 2017

GI-2017-06-SWG-31-02C

Jerry Schmitz
Vice President/Engineering
Southwest Gas Corporation
P.O. Box 98510, LVA-581
Las Vegas, NV 89193-8510

SUBJECT: General Order 112 Inspection of Southwest Gas Corporation, South and North Lake Tahoe and Truckee, Districts 14, 15 and 16

Dear Mr. Schmitz:

The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission conducted a General Order 112-F¹ inspection of Southwest Gas Corporation (SWG) from June 20 through 23, 2017. The inspection included a review of SWG's records for the period of 2014-2016, as well as a representative field sample of SWG's facilities. SED staff also reviewed SWG's operator qualification records, which included field observation of randomly selected individuals performing covered tasks.

SED staff identified no violations of General Order 112 or Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192 during the course of this inspection. A Summary of Inspection Findings (Summary), which contains one recommendation identified by SED staff, is included as an attachment to 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 recommendation noted in the Summary.

If you have any questions, please contact Aimee Cauguiran at (916) 928-2536 or by email at aimee.cauguiran@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dennis Lee".

Dennis Lee, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

Enclosure: Summary of Inspection Findings

cc: Laurie Brown, SWG Administrator/Staff Compliance, Kenneth Bruno, SED/GSRB,
Aimee Cauguiran, SED/GSRB, & Kelly Dolcini, SED/GSRB

¹ General Order 112-F was adopted by the Commission on June 25, 2015 via Decision 15-06-044.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTION FINDINGS

A. Areas of Concern, Observations, and Recommendations

1. On 6/21/2017 and 6/22/2017, SED observed SWG employees perform odorant sniff tests in each district of the SWG Division. On each occasion, the SWG employees did not leak check the supply line connection to the Odorometer instrument (instrument). A leak on or near the gas connection to the instrument could potentially influence the accuracy of the sniff test. SED recommends SWG consider soap testing the natural gas connection to the instrument to ensure no leaks are influencing the results of the sniff test.