



## APPLICANT PROVIDED TRENCH OPTION

### Changes to Installation Requirements for Gas Facilities

The extension of gas facilities to serve new customers is made in accordance with SCG's Rule 20 Gas Main Extensions and Rule 21 Gas Service Extensions. These rules have been approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and copies are available from their web site (<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/>), the SCG web site (<https://www.socalgas.com>) or from your Project Planner.

The Applicant Provided Trench Option allows customers to hire a qualified contractor to provide the trench for gas only or joint trench projects. The Applicant Provided Trench Option may be applied to Rule 20 (Gas Main Extensions) and Rule 21 (Gas Service Extensions). Where there is an applicant for a new line or service extension, applicant trenching may also be used for associated relocation or rearrangement work.

The State of California has adopted and issued a change to General Order Number 112 (GO 112-F) which governs the design, construction, testing, operation, and maintenance of Gas Gathering, Transmission, and Distribution Piping Systems. Their changes place qualification requirements on new construction work for the individuals that perform the backfilling and compaction of trenches containing gas pipelines. Backfilling and compaction of gas pipeline trenches, along with gas pipeline fitting, are "Operator Qualification Covered Tasks" under 49 CFR 192 Subpart N. The CPUC's GO 112-F requirements will now be applied to new construction of gas pipelines.

GO 112-F has adopted the requirement in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR) to require that operators of pipelines develop and conduct training and testing programs to annually qualify employees for correctly carrying out each assigned responsibility necessary for complying with Title 49 CFR. General Order Number 112-F has made these additional requirements effective by January 1, 2017. You may refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Subtitle B, Chapter I, Subchapter D, Part 192, Subpart N, Sections 192.801 – 192.809 to view the "Qualification of Pipeline Personnel". As a result of this change, any activity that is identified by the Utility as a Covered Task must be performed by a qualified individual.

The qualification requirements for individuals constructing gas pipelines apply to Applicant Installers, Applicant Trench providers as well as Utility employees. Applicant Installers include those individuals who are gas polyethylene fitters as well as those individuals who perform backfill and compaction tasks. The individuals who are gas polyethylene fitters are already required to be trained and qualified by SCG to perform the fusion work.

Starting January 1, 2017, the individuals (employees or contractors) you hire to perform backfill and compaction tasks must be qualified. SCG will assist you and your contractors in finding training to be qualified under these new requirements. SCG will be checking the qualification certificates of all individuals performing gas pipeline installation covered tasks. SCG will not accept or energize any gas pipeline that has had covered tasks performed by non-qualified personnel.

Please contact any contractors you might consider using for your gas pipeline applicant installation or trenching/backfill work and review these requirements with them. If they have not been Operator Qualified per SCG standards, they have until the end of December 31, 2016 to meet the requirements if they want to perform gas pipeline installation or backfill starting January 1, 2017. For more information on how to be Operator Qualified, contact Anthony Medina ([ATMedina@Semprautilities.com](mailto:ATMedina@Semprautilities.com)) or your project planner.