

6.3 Abandonments

6.3.1 Policy

A main abandonment project is any project where the existing main is being abandoned. A main abandonment can be completed on its own or as part of a main and service replacement project, refer to Section 6.3.4 Main and Service Replacement Projects.

Abandoned pipe must be purged of natural gas, be physically separated from the live system, and the ends must be securely capped or plugged.

The final decision to abandon plant is made by the Distribution Asset Management department.

Where a portion of the gas piping system is abandoned, this pipeline must be separated into as many parts as will render these abandoned portions safe. In general, the length of each section of abandoned pipeline must be determined as the most practical length for the individual area. The term practical refers to using a pipe length (e.g. City block, 2 kilometres, etc) that avoids capping the pipe at inconvenient locations such as middle of road or close to buildings. This is so that the abandonment work reduces the impact on the surroundings. Secure caps, cement and waste plugs are considered acceptable materials to sectionalize an abandoned pipeline.

For all main and service replacement projects Section 6.3.4 Main and Service Replacement Projects must also be followed.

Services lines connected to an abandoned main must have all piping that is exposed above ground or inside buildings removed and any pipe openings must be capped or plugged outside the building, within one year of the main abandonment. This is in accordance with Section 6.3.2.1 General Procedures. If the work to be completed is part of a main and service replacement project then Section 6.3.4 Main and Service Replacement Projects must be followed.

Low pressure inactive services that are not part of a replacement project and run directly into a building must be cut-off at main and abandoned or the main must be abandoned within one year that the service became inactive. If the work to be completed is part of a main and service replacement project then Section 6.3.4 Main and Service Replacement Projects must be followed.

If a LP system is to be pressure elevated, any inactive services that run directly into a building must be abandoned before the pressure elevation.

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6.3.2 Main Abandonment

6.3.2.1 General Procedures

Approval must be obtained from the Distribution Asset Management department before abandonment work. A records check and field/building check must be completed to determine that affected customers are connected to an alternate main. Secondary checks are required on all corner property lots and properties that are adjacent to the project area to confirm the status of the service and any pending abandonment. It must be verified that the main to be abandoned is not the only source of supply to other mains. An abandonment package must be prepared by the Distribution Asset Management department for abandonment projects. The instructions contained in the abandonment package must be followed in addition to the procedures included in this Manual.

When abandoning a main with services attached to it, the following must be completed to the attached services within one year of the main being abandoned:

1. All Company owned piping and equipment that is exposed above ground or inside buildings must be removed and all piping must be capped or plugged before the piping enters the building (450mm (18 in) past the outside wall surface). If the riser or standpipe cannot be removed a section of the service line on the outside of the building must be cut-out. Both ends of the service line must be plugged or capped using cement and waste or another approved method. Refer to Section 6.3.3.10 Service Riser (Outside) Removal, and Section 6.3.3.11 Standpipe (Inside) Removal, for the removal procedures.

Note: If the main abandonment is part of a main and service replacement project, refer to Section 6.3.4 Main and Service Replacement Projects, for further details.

2. Remove valve boxes, preferred method, or cut to 100 mm (4 in) below grade and backfill to grade.
3. Remove pipeline markers and test points if applicable.

6.3.2.2 Records

A field note or equivalent record must be used to record all abandonments. All applicable documents and records must be returned to the Distribution Asset Management department or Work Management Centre within the timeline outlined in the Construction Manual, Section 43.1 – General. Distribution Asset Management must plot the abandonment information on the Atlas Plates / GIS System.

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