199—19.8(476) Safety.

19.8(1) *Acceptable standards.* As criteria of accepted good safety practice, the commission will use the applicable provisions of the standards incorporated by reference in subrule 19.5(2).

19.8(2) *Protective measures.* Utilities will exercise reasonable care to reduce hazards inherent in connection with utility service to which its employees, its customers, and the general public may be subjected and shall adopt and execute a safety program designed to protect the public, fitted to the size and type of its operations. Utilities will give reasonable assistance to the commission in the investigation of the cause of failures and in the determination of suitable means of preventing failures and will maintain a summary of all incidents that require notification pursuant to subrule 19.16(1) arising from its operations.

19.8(3) *Turning on gas.* Each utility upon the installation of a meter and turning on gas or the act of turning on gas alone shall take the necessary steps to assure itself that there exists no flow of gas through the meter, which is a warning that the customer's piping or appliances are not safe for gas turn on (Ref: Sec. 8.2.3 and Annex D, ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54-2018).

19.8(4) *Gas leaks.* A report of a gas leak shall be considered an emergency requiring immediate attention.

19.8(5) *Odorization.* Any gas distributed to customers through gas mains or gas services or used for domestic purposes in compressor plants, which does not naturally possess a distinctive odor to the extent that its presence in the atmosphere is readily detectable at all gas concentrations of one-fifth of the lower explosive limit and above, shall have an odorant added to it to make it so detectable. Odorization is not necessary, however, for such gas as is delivered for further processing or use where the odorant would serve no useful purpose as a warning agent. Utilities will test the gas to ensure the odor meets the standards of subrule 19.5(2). Prompt remedial action shall be taken if odorization levels do not meet the prescribed limits for detectability.

19.8(6) *Burial near electric lines.* Each pipeline will be protected from damage or introduction of current from an electrical fault by installing it with at least 12 inches of clearance from buried electrical conductors or by other means if the clearance is not possible.

19.8(7) *Compliance.* Utilities are to correct all identified instances of noncompliance no later than 12 months from receiving a notice letter from the commission. If such corrective actions cannot be taken within that time frame, the utility shall notify the commission and provide a reasoning as to why such actions will take longer and the additional steps, if any, the utility is undertaking to maintain public health and safety in the meantime. If the utility disputes the commission's findings, the utility shall file a response with the commission within 30 days of such notification, explaining its belief why the findings have not occurred.

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