CITY OF TWO HARBORS

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Two Harbors Municipal Gas Distribution System

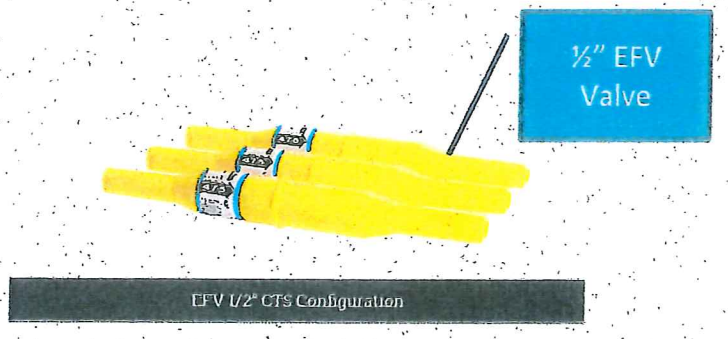
Customer's request for an Excess Flow Valves

An EFV is a safety device inside the service line that shuts off the flow of natural gas in the case of excess flow traveling through the line. Such excess flow could be caused by a number of factors, including damage to the line due to excavation or natural disasters. EFVs come in a variety of load capacities, and are designed for a specific range of gas flow, with some tolerance for additional load. The gas flow at the time of installation is determined by the number and efficiency of gas-fired appliances inside the home, as provided by the customer. Installation of an EFV will NOT protect against customer appliance gas leaks, small service line punctures or gas meter leaks.

Effective April 14, 2017, Two Harbors Municipal Gas are offering to customers their right to request the installation of an Excess Flow Valve (EFV) on an existing service line. These are installed on services that are served at 50 lbs. pressure and under 1000 Standard Cubic Feet per Hour (SCFH).

The estimated cost of an installed EFV is $300-500. The installation of the EFV is 3 feet from the main line following the Two Harbors Operator & Maintenance Manual definition. If the EFV needed to be replaced or maintained in the future that cost would be incurred by the customer.

Please contact the City Gas Department at 218-834-8812 if you have any questions.



Below is an excerpt from part 49 CFR Part 192.381 of PHMSA Pipeline Safety Regulations that the City of Two Harbors follows:

Service line serving single-family residence means a gas service line that begins at the fitting that connects the service line to the main and serves only one single-family residence **(SFR)**.

b) Installation required. An excess flow valve (EFV) installation must comply with the performance standards in §192.381. The operator must install an EFV on any new or replaced service line serving a single-family residence after February 12, 2010, unless one or more of the following conditions is present: **After April 17, 2016, each operator must install an EFV on any new or replaced service line serving the following types of services before the line is activated: 1) A single service line to one SFR;**

2) A branched service line to a SFR installed concurrently with the primary SFR service line (i.e., a single EFV may be installed to protect both service lines);

3) A branched service line to a SFR installed off a previously installed SFR service line that does not contain an EFV;

4) Multifamily residences with known customer loads not exceeding 1,000 SCFH per service, at time of service installation based on installed meter capacity, and

5) A single, small commercial customer served by a single service line with a known customer load not exceeding 1,000 SCFH, at the time of meter installation, based on installed meter capacity.

c) Exceptions to excess flow valve installation requirement. An operator need not install an excess flow valve if one or more of the following conditions are present: 1) The service line does not operate at a pressure of 10 psig or greater throughout the year;

2) The operator has prior experience with contaminants in the gas stream that could interfere with the EFV's operation or cause loss of service to a **customer residence;**

3) An EFV could interfere with necessary operation or maintenance activities, such as blowing liquids from the line; or

4) An EFV meeting the performance standards in § 192.381 is not commercially available to the operator.

d) Customer's right to request an EFV. Existing service line customers who desire an EFV on service lines not exceeding 1,000 SCFH and who do not qualify for one of the exceptions in paragraph (c) of this section may request an EFV to be installed on their service lines. If an eligible service line customer requests an EFV installation, an operator must install the EFV at a mutually agreeable date. The operator's rate-setter determines how and to whom the costs of the requested EFVs are distributed.

e) Operator notification of customers concerning EFV installation. Operators must notify customers of their right to request an EFV in the following manner: 1) Except as specified in paragraphs (c) and (e)(5) of this section, each operator must provide written or electronic notification to customers of their right to request the installation of an EFV. Electronic notification can include emails, Web site postings, and e- billing notices.

2) The notification must include an explanation for the service line customer of the potential safety benefits that may be derived from installing an EFV. The explanation must include information that an EFV is designed to shut off the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line breaks.

3) The notification must include a description of EFV installation and replacement costs. The notice must alert the customer that the costs for maintaining and replacing an EFV may later be incurred, and what those costs will be to the extent known.

4) The notification must indicate that if a service line customer requests installation of an EFV and the load does not exceed 1,000 SCFH and the conditions of paragraph (c) are not present, the operator must install an EFV at a mutually agreeable date.

5) Operators of master-meter systems and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) operators with fewer than 100 customers may continuously post a general notification in a prominent location frequented by customers.

f) Operator evidence of customer notification. An operator must make a copy of the notice or notices currently in use available during PHMSA inspections or State inspections conducted under a pipeline safety program certified or approved by PHMSA under 49 U.S.C. 60105 or 60106.

g) Reporting. **Each operator must, on an annual basis, report the number of EFVs installed pursuant to this section as part of the Except for operators of master-meter systems and LPG operators with fewer than 100 customers, each operator must report the EFV measures detailed in the** annual report required by § 191.11.