

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition to initiate rulemaking to amend  
Rule 25-12.045, F.A.C., by Florida Natural  
Gas Association.

DOCKET NO. 120068-GU  
ORDER NO. PSC-12-0253-NOR-GU  
ISSUED: May 24, 2012

The following Commissioners participated in the disposition of this matter:

RONALD A. BRISÉ, Chairman  
LISA POLAK EDGAR  
ART GRAHAM  
EDUARDO E. BALBIS  
JULIE I. BROWN

NOTICE OF DEVELOPMENT OF RULEMAKING

BY THE COMMISSION:

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 120.54, Florida Statutes, that the Florida Public Service Commission has granted Florida Natural Gas Association's petition to initiate rulemaking to amend Rule 25-12.045, Florida Administrative Code, relating to inactive gas service lines.

The attached Notice of Development of Rulemaking will appear in the May 25, 2012 edition of the Florida Administrative Weekly.

A staff rule development workshop will be held at the following time and place:

July 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.  
Florida Public Service Commission  
Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

A copy of the draft amendments to Rule 25-12.045, as suggested by the Florida Natural Gas Association, and the agenda for the workshop are attached. One or more Commissioners may be in attendance and participate in the workshop. The person to be contacted regarding the rule development is Kathryn G. W. Cowdery, Office of the General Counsel, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850 at (850) 413-6216, [kcowdery@psc.state.fl.us](mailto:kcowdery@psc.state.fl.us).

DOCUMENT NUMBER-DATE

03295 MAY 24 2012

FPSC-COMMISSION CLERK

ORDER NO. PSC-12-0253-NOR-GU

DOCKET NO. 120068-GU

PAGE 2

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons requiring a special accommodation to participate at this workshop should contact the Office of Commission Clerk no later than five days prior to the workshop at 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard., Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, via 1-800-955-8770 (Voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD), Florida Relay Service.

By ORDER of the Florida Public Service Commission this 24th day of May, 2012.



---

ANN COLE  
Commission Clerk  
Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399  
(850) 413-6770  
[www.floridapsc.com](http://www.floridapsc.com)

Copies furnished: A copy of this document is provided to the parties of record at the time of issuance and, if applicable, interested persons.

KC

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

AGENDA

STAFF WORKSHOP

IN RE: Petition to initiate rulemaking to amend Rule 25-12.045,. F.A.C., by Florida Natural Gas Association

July 19, 2012, 9:30 a.m.  
Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850

1. Florida Natural Gas Association overview of its suggested changes to Rule 25-12.045
2. Discussion.
3. Time frame for next steps
4. Adjournment

Notice of Development of Rulemaking

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

RULE NO.: RULE TITLE:

25-12.045: Inactive Gas Service Lines

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of this rulemaking is to address the Petition to Initiate Rulemaking to amend portions of Rule 25-12.045, F.A.C., filed by the Florida Natural Gas Association.

Docket No. 120068-GU

SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED: Actions required to be taken by gas utilities for inactive gas service lines.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: 368.05(2), F.S.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: 368.05(2), F.S.

A RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD AT THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

DATE AND TIME: July 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Florida Public Service Commission, Betty Easley Conference Center, Room 148, 4075 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850. One or more Commissioners may be in attendance and participate in the workshop.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 days before the workshop/meeting by contacting: Office of Commission Clerk, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1(800)955-8771 (TDD) or 1(800)955-8770 (Voice).

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT AND A COPY OF THE PRELIMINARY DRAFT, IF AVAILABLE, IS: Kathryn G.W. Cowdery, Florida Public Service Commission, Office of the General Counsel, 2540 Shumard Oak Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850, (850) 413-6216, [kcowdery@fl.psc.state.us](mailto:kcowdery@fl.psc.state.us).

THE PRELIMINARY TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT IS AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE FROM THE CONTACT PERSON LISTED ABOVE.

I:\FAW-notices\120068gu.doc

1 25-12.045 Inactive Gas Service Lines

2 (1) ~~The following actions shall be taken for inactive gas service lines that have been~~  
3 ~~used, but have become inactive without reuse:~~

4 (a) ~~If there is no prospect for reuse, the service line shall be retired and physically~~  
5 ~~abandoned within three months.~~ One of the following actions shall be taken with regard to  
6 customer service lines that are inactive for a period of two years, unless there is a prospect for  
7 reuse of the line within the subsequent twelve-month period. Within twelve months, the  
8 operator must:

9 (a) Provide the valve that is closed to prevent the flow of gas to the customer with a  
10 locking device or other means designed to prevent the opening of the valve by persons  
11 other than those authorized by the operator;

12 (b) Install a mechanical device or fitting that will prevent the flow of gas in the  
13 service line or in the meter assembly; or

14 (c) Disconnect the customer's piping from the gas supply and seal the open pipe ends.

15 (2) Inactive service line shall be monitored and maintained in accordance with all  
16 survey and repair requirements applicable to active customer service lines.

17 (3) Unrecorded inactive service lines discovered in the course of leakage surveillance,  
18 construction, maintenance or inspection of facilities shall be abandoned as soon as practicable  
19 but not more than 120 days after discovery, unless abandonment is otherwise required  
20 consistent with subsection (4) of this Rule.

21 (4) If a building is to be demolished or if there will be a major excavation of property  
22 on which there is an active or inactive service line, and if there is no reasonable prospect of  
23 future use, the service line shall be abandoned at the main. If there is a reasonable prospect of  
24 future use, the service line may be abandoned at the curb or property line and its status shall be  
25 reviewed annually, at periods not exceeding 15 months. The service line shall be

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck through~~ type are deletions from existing law.

1 | disconnected either at the main or property line prior to demolition or excavation.

2 |       (5) If there is no prospect for reuse, the service line shall be physically abandoned and

3 | disconnected from all sources of gas. Companies subject to Chapter 25-7, Florida

4 | Administrative Code, shall retire any physically abandoned facilities.

5 |       (b) ~~After a service line has been inactive for a period of two years, if there is a prospect~~  
6 | ~~for reuse of the line, one of the following actions shall be taken within six months:~~

7 |           1. ~~Disconnect the service line from all sources of gas and abandon or remove;~~

8 |           2. ~~A valve on the service line shall be locked in the closed position and the service line~~  
9 | ~~plugged to prevent the flow of gas;~~

10 |           3. ~~Remove the meter and plug the end of the service line to prevent the flow of gas.~~

11 |       (c) ~~After five years of inactivity, service lines shall be retired and physically~~  
12 | ~~abandoned within six months.~~

13 |       (6)(2) ~~To physically abandon a service line, the operator must disconnect the service~~  
14 | ~~line from all sources of gas at the nearest point to the gas main. Where the service line is to be~~  
15 | ~~physically disconnected from the gas supply and the appropriate governmental authority~~

16 | ~~prohibits cutting pavement, the service line shall be disconnected at the nearest point to the~~  
17 | ~~main not under a paved surface. The stub of the service line, the short section of the~~

18 | ~~remaining service line to the main, shall be disconnected closer to the main or at the main, if at~~  
19 | ~~some later date it becomes accessible during normal operations.~~

20 |       (7)(3) ~~Records must be kept of the size, material and location of all remaining service~~  
21 | ~~line stubs. These records must be readily available to personnel assigned to pipeline locating~~  
22 | ~~activities.~~

23 | *Specific Authority 368.05(2), 366.06 FS. Law Implemented 368.05(2) FS. History-New 9-21-74, Repromulgated*  
24 | *10-7-75, Amended 10-2-84, Formally 25-12.45, Amended 1-7-92*

25 |

CODING: Words underlined are additions; words in ~~struck-through~~ type are deletions from existing law.