



**Keith Wall**  
Director of Regulatory Affairs

1111 Louisiana Street, 19th Floor  
Houston, Texas 77002  
(713) 207-5946  
keith.wall@centerpointenergy.com

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Via e-mail (rulescoordinator@rrc.texas.gov)

Rules Coordinator  
Office of General Counsel  
Railroad Commission of Texas  
P.O. Drawer 12967  
Austin, TX 78711

RE: Comments to Proposed Amendments to 16 TAC Chapters 13, 14, and 15, relating to  
Alternative Fuels Safety Regulations

Rules Coordinator:

CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Entex and CenterPoint Energy Texas Gas (the "Company") appreciates the opportunity to submit its comments in support of the proposed amendments to Chapters 13, 14, and 15 of the Railroad Commission of Texas ("Commission") Rules. The Company supports the proposed amendments, and the Company requests that the Commission consider the Company's proposed revisions to Section 13.36(a)(2) and Section 14.2049(a)(4) that would provide additional clarity to when an owner or operator of a compressed natural gas ("CNG") or liquefied natural gas ("LNG") facility is required to report an incident or accident to the Commission.

The proposed amendments to Section 13.36 and Section 14.2049 align with the incident and accident reporting procedures in Chapter 9 of the Commission's Rules. The Company agrees that the Commission should be notified when there is an incident or accident involving a CNG or LNG facility. Among the events that would require the owner of a CNG or LNG facility to notify the Commission is when the facility is taken out of service. The Company agrees that the Commission should be notified when a CNG or LNG facility is taken out of service due to events that are not in the ordinary course of operations. The Company believes that notification of when a CNG or LNG facility is taken out of service for routine maintenance or in the ordinary course of operations imposes an administrative burden on the owner or operator and the Commission's Alternative Fuels Safety Division without a corresponding benefit.

The Company proposes revisions to Section 13.36(a)(2) and Section 14.2049(a)(4) such that an owner or operator of a CNG or LNG facility would not be required to notify the Commission when a CNG or LNG facility is taken out of service for routine maintenance or in the ordinary course of operations. The Company's proposed revisions to Section 13.36(a)(2) and Section 14.2049(a)(4) are below:

§13.36. Report of CNG Incident/Accident.

(a) At the earliest practical moment or within two hours following discovery, a licensee owning, operating, or servicing equipment or an installation shall notify AFS by telephone of any event involving CNG which:

...

(2) required taking an operating facility out of service, except for routine maintenance or in the ordinary course of operations;

§14.2049. Report of LNG Incident/Accident.

(a) At the earliest practical moment or within two hours following discovery, a [~~If an incident or accident occurs during transport, as a result of a pullaway, or where LNG is or is suspected to be the cause, the~~] licensee [~~or nonlicensee~~] owning, operating, or servicing equipment or an [~~the~~] installation shall notify AFS [~~LPG Gas Operations~~] by telephone of any event involving LNG which [~~within two hours of discovery after the licensee or nonlicensee has knowledge of the incident or accident if any of the following occurs~~]:

...

(4) required taking an operating facility out of service, except for routine maintenance or in the ordinary course of operations;

Alternatively, the Company proposes revisions to Section 13.36(a)(2) and Section 14.2049(a)(4) such that only an “incident or accident,” as opposed to an “event,” be reported to the Commission. These proposed revisions would clarify that reporting obligations are for events outside the ordinary course of operations. The Company’s alternative proposed revisions to Section 13.36(a)(2) and Section 14.2049(a)(4) are below:

§13.36. Report of CNG Incident/Accident.

(a) At the earliest practical moment or within two hours following discovery, a licensee owning, operating, or servicing equipment or an installation shall notify AFS by telephone of any incident or accident ~~event~~ involving CNG which:

...

(2) required taking an operating facility out of service;

§14.2049. Report of LNG Incident/Accident.

(a) At the earliest practical moment or within two hours following discovery, a [~~If an incident or accident occurs during transport, as a result of a pullaway, or where LNG is or is suspected to be the cause, the~~] licensee [~~or nonlicensee~~] owning, operating, or servicing equipment or an [~~the~~] installation shall notify AFS [~~LPG Gas Operations~~] by telephone of any incident or accident event involving LNG which [~~within two hours of discovery after the licensee or nonlicensee has knowledge of the incident or accident if any of the following occurs~~]:

...

(4) required taking an operating facility out of service;

The Company appreciates the opportunity to submit its comments in support of the proposed amendments to Chapters 13, 14, and 15 of the Commission Rules. The Company requests that the Commission consider its comments and proposed revisions.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Keith Wall*

Keith Wall