



# State Survey on Excess Flow Valves

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## Background

- Excess Flow Valves (EFV): auto shut-off safety device for gas service lines
- Federal rule has required operators to notify customers and install EFV if customer agrees to pay (1999)
- NTSB has recommended that OPS require installation where conditions permit
- OPS is considering treating under DIMP



## Background

- EFV Requirement is controversial
  - Low unit cost (~\$10)
  - Protects one residence – many “units” needed to prevent one accident
  - Cost-benefit sensitive to assumptions
  - Limited data on benefit, performance, costs
- NRRI tasked to survey states to try to identify current positions and gather data



## The NRRI Survey

- Ten-question survey
  - Commission policies on EFV installations and assessment of current federal regulations
  - Policies of gas operators regarding EFV installations
  - Operating performance of EFVs
  - Statistics on number of EFVs installed
- 49 States and DC responded



## Response Highlights

- **Thirty-nine** PUCs require gas operators only to comply with federal regulations, with **eleven** PUCs in addition encouraging voluntary EFV installations by gas operators
- In the vast majority of states, at least one gas operator voluntarily installs EFVs but, based on the information provided, less than **25%** of gas operators voluntarily install EFVs
- Most PUCs do not have information on the number of EFVs installed or their performance



## Highlights (cont'd)

- For privately-owned operators, capital costs for EFVs voluntarily installed by gas operators are generally recovered in rate base
- Inadequate line pressure and presence of contaminants in the gas stream are the most commonly reported operating conditions precluding EFV installations



## Highlights (cont'd)

- **Twenty-nine** PUCs reported satisfaction with current federal regulations with no suggested changes
- **Ten** PUCs are generally satisfied but offering areas of improvement
- **Seven** PUCs expressed support for mandatory EFV installations
- PUCs split on who should make the decision to install EFVs



## Extent of Voluntary Installation – Selected States

<b>State</b>	<b>Operators voluntarily installing/total operators</b>
Alabama	5 / 118
Georgia	8 / 87
Indiana	8 / 35
Iowa	4 / 55
Minnesota	34 / 39
Ohio	34 / 42
Tennessee	11 / 114



## Voluntary Installs vs. Customer Purchases

<b>State</b>	<b>Voluntary / Purchased</b>
Arkansas	182 / 92
Connecticut	35,000 / 0
Delaware	23,295 / 0
Maine	1,350 / 8
Minnesota	113,515 / 409
New Hampshire	30,000 / 0
Tennessee	67,729 / 4,681