CODE GUIDE

OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

TOPIC: **Gas Meter Location - UBC/16/#1**

CODE: **Mechanical Specialty Code - 1996 Edition**

APPROVED: **July 1, 1996**

REFERENCE: **Section 1311 – Mechanical Specialty Code**

SUBJECT: **Gas Meter Locations for Buildings without Yards**

QUESTION: Shat alternatives are acceptable for the location of gas meters for buildings in downtown and other locations which do no have yards or setbacks? What procedures must be followed?

RESPONSE: The Fire Marshal, Northwest Natural Gas (NNG) and the Bureau of Buildings each have concerns regarding the placement of gas meters. Alternative locations meeting the following criteria may be approved without having to follow an appeal procedure:

In buildings without yards or setbacks, gas meters shall be:

A. Located at the front of a building bordering on a public street, or adjacent to the building at the side or rear.

B. Located so as not to obstruct any building entrance or exit. Meters shall not be recessed in alcoves used for exiting.

C. Located so as not to encroach more than 18 inches into the public right-of-way. Encroachments that are 12 inches or less will be allowed outright; encroachments between 12 and 18 inches require the approval of the City Engineer. Encroachments over 18 inches are prohibited.

D. Not placed in any location prohibited by Section 1311.6 of the Mechanical Code. Meters are prohibited from being literally “under” as show window. However, meters may be located in front of window.

E. Located in an alternative location specifically approved by Northwest Natural Gas, Supervising Engineer, Field Section, or designated representative. The following are general requirements of NNG for alternate locations:

For a Basement Meter Set or Sets

A. Meters shall be located in a meter room of concrete block wall construction with an airtight door. The room shall be located on the outside wall of the basement. The room shall have sufficient area to support the meter installation as specified by NNG engineers. The room shall be limited in use to the installation of the gas meter sets. The meter room shall be appropriately vented to the outside atmosphere, including provisions for regular venting.

B. The meter room shall be equipped with explosion proof lighting.

C. NNG personnel shall have free and ready access to the meter room 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

For an Exterior Wall Vault

An exterior wall vault may be used as a meter location provided the wall vault is inset in the outside wall of the building at sidewalk grade and is airtight to the building interior. The vault shall have a door which provides venting to the outside atmosphere. The vault shall have sufficient area to support the meter installation as specified by NNG engineers. The vault shall be limited in use to the installation of the gas meter sets.

Appeals

Variances from the above location standards may only be granted through the Bureau of Buildings' administrative appeal procedure or the Mechanical Code Board of Appeals. Alternative locations shall receive approval from NNG prior to consideration of a variance. Input of the Fire Marshal shall be obtained by the body considering the appeal.

Replaces Code Guide UMC/22/#1 which replaced Policy & Procedure # D-72.