



Five Minute Meeting:

Topic: OQ-0502 “Standby Pipeline”

Date: November 21st, 2024

Audience: Gas employees and contractors who perform standby pipeline work and individuals responsible for preventing damage to PG&E gas pipelines.

The key thing you need to know:

OQ-0502, “Standby Pipeline” is required to perform a Standby on a pipeline. The qualified individual is required to know all facets of excavation, must verify the work is being performed safely, must ensure PG&E’s critical and priority facilities remain safe during excavation work and is responsible for completing documentation of the excavation. These individuals may also perform damage prevention.

This communication is intended to clarify as of October 3rd, 2024, the expiration Intervals for OQ-0502 have been changed from a 5-year span to 3-year span.

Prerequisites for OQ-0502 Standby Pipeline are:

- Formal training for Initial Qualifications (GAS - 0217 Standby).
NOTE: *Gas-0217 Standby is a PG&E employee training course only.*
- OQ-0501 (Locate and Mark Facilities) or OQ-0504 (Non-Production Locate and Mark).
- Contractors are responsible for providing similar training for its workforce.

Please note: (PGE Employees Only) that currently hold OQ-0502- “Standby Pipeline”, or have met functional area, OJT requirements, may not be required to attend GAS-0217 Standby class, with approval of **Superintendent or higher approval only.**

Work that Can be Performed

OQ-0502, “Standby Pipeline” qualifies an individual to observe and document the excavation of company facilities designated as critical or high priority facilities.

- Individuals holding this task are qualified to perform “Standby Pipeline” and damage prevention during excavation near PG&E critical facilities (i.e., excavations that require a standby).
- Directly observe the excavation taking place (i.e., the spotter duty) and take action to ensure prevention of damage to gas facilities during excavation.

Why it matters to you.

Persons who hold OQ-0502, “Standby Pipeline” can perform the work associated with their requirements. When scheduled for requalification, the employees requiring OQ-0502, “Standby Pipeline” must hold either OQ-0501 (Locate and Mark Facilities) or OQ-0504 (Non-Production Locate and Mark).

Key discussion points

The current expiration date for coworkers who currently hold OQ-0502 will not change until the coworker retests on OQ-0502. At the time of successful completion of the OQ-0502 written test, the expiration will be adjusted to 3 years, which is closest to the end of the current quarter from the day of testing.

Questions to ask for understanding.

Q- What OQ(s) do I have to take/possess to be qualified to perform a Standby?

A- OQ-0502, “Standby Pipeline” will be required to successfully pass. In addition, you must hold either OQ-0501 (Locate and Mark Facilities) or OQ-0504 (Non-Production Locate and Mark).

Q- What if I have held OQ-0502, “Standby Pipeline” in the past, but have never been formally trained at the Academy?

A- At this time, With Superintendent or higher approval, if you successfully have held the OQ or currently hold, you may not be required to attend formal training. An email from your Superintendent would be required to the OQ Scheduling Analyst in your area, letting them know you do not need formal training.

Q- Are contractor coworkers required to complete the listed PGE training criteria?

A- Contractor’s are required to have a similar training requirement for their employees, and their companies are responsible for providing their training criterion.

Q- I failed my locate and mark OQ, but I know how to perform a Standby. Can I still perform?

A- NO. You cannot perform a Standby without holding a Locate & Mark OQ. (Always scan your QR Card and check the OQ’s you are qualified for before performing your daily gas related work)

Q- I currently and successfully hold OQ-0502. Will there be any adjustments to the current expiration date?

A-No. The current expiration date will remain the same. At the time of retesting for OQ-0502, the new interval expiration date will take effect.

Q- If my OQ-0504 expires in 2025, and my OQ-0502 expires in 2026, would I be able to retest on both in 2025 so the expiration intervals will be in alignment?

A- Yes.

Span of Control: OQ-0502, “Standby Pipeline”:

- **SOC 1:0**
- **Interval: 3- Year**

For additional information

To obtain help with qualifications, call the Gas Qualifications Helpdesk at: 1-885-85-GO-CAP, Option 4. Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday

Or email OQPgmMgr@pge.com with any questions.

Who do I contact with questions?

Email OQPgmMgr@pge.com with any questions.

Approver: Ronda Shupert-Fink, Manager Gas Qualifications

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