

Docket No. SA-534

Exhibit No. 2-AB

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Washington, D.C.

NTSB_035-018
HOW WAS WELDED PIPE ENTERED
AS SEAMLESS INTO THE RECORDS

(1 Pages)

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
San Bruno Gas Transmission Line Incident
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	NTSB_035-018		
PG&E File Name:	San Bruno GT Line Incident_DR_NTSB_035-018		
Request Date:	December 9, 2010	Requesting Party:	NTSB
Date Sent:	December 20, 2010	Requestor:	Operations (Gunther/Chhatre)

QUESTION 18

If during Line 132 construction some, if not all, welded pipe was used, how it was entered in the records/books as seamless?

ANSWER 18

During the creation of PG&E's GIS program, many forms of data were utilized to populate the data fields associated with pipe specifications. A majority of the information was populated off of Pipeline Survey Sheets which were created in the 1970s time period to meet the requirement of part 192 SubPart L 192.603 (b) "Each operator shall keep records necessary to administer the procedures established under 192.605." These Pipeline Survey Sheets were drawn to scale and presented information regarding the pipe. In the cases where Pipeline Survey Sheets did not have all of the required information, PG&E personnel researched the project folders, which contained all of the documents of record for that particular segment of pipe. When the GIS system was populated in the mid 1990's, it is believed that PG&E personnel utilized a Journal Voucher that listed the pipe as 30" x .375" wt sml pipe to populate the unknown pipe specification. The "sml" contained in the product description was taken to mean "seamless".

It bears noting that the engineering documents utilized for the installation of this pipeline clearly denote a material code that specifies 30" x .375 wt DSAW DW, and 30" x .375" wt DSAW bare not seamless pipe. As such, PG&E personnel who populated the data fields of GIS should have properly researched the material code documents to verify the pipe type and not relied on the Journal Voucher. Journal Vouchers are specifically created by the accounting department to reflect the transfer of materials from one project to another. They are not the document of record for pipe specifications.