

# Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County

## Sulfur Hexafluoride Gas Handling Procedures

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District SF6 policy includes a commitment to establish a maintenance program for all SF6 equipment with a goal of reducing emissions. The following procedures will facilitate the tracking and reporting of SF6 gas.

### Proper Storage of Cylinders

An area must be designated and clearly marked for EMPTY, PARTIAL, and FULL cylinders. Only new, unused cylinders are to be stored in the FULL section. When a cylinder has been partially used it is to be stored in the PARTIAL area. A cylinder that has been used down to 40psi typically still contains 2-3 pounds of gas. No cylinder is to be placed in the EMPTY location until its contents have been pumped out and consolidated into another cylinder. It is anticipated that the contents of several PARTIAL cylinders will be consolidated just before they are returned to the supplier.

### Tracking SF6 Cylinders

The appropriate tracking forms are to be used whenever SF6 gas is used. A new form should be filled out whenever a new FULL cylinder is first used. That form will be used every time the cylinder is used to track all gas taken until it is emptied. Another form is to be used to track gas added to a consolidating cylinder when PARTIAL cylinders are emptied.

### Release of SF6 Gas to Atmosphere

Release of SF6 gas from equipment to the atmosphere is not allowed. The only acceptable release of gas is the very small quantity that is necessary for the operation of test equipment.

### Removing or Recycling SF6 Gas

When it is necessary to remove SF6 gas from equipment it is to be pumped into EMPTY or PARTIAL cylinders. A determination can then be made whether to return these cylinders to inventory for reuse or to send it to a processor for recycling, purification, or disposal. The appropriate form must be used to record these transactions.

### Identification of Leaks

Periodically the SF6 Tracking forms will be examined to determine which equipment has required the most "topping off". Once equipment with unacceptable leakage rates have been identified appropriate procedures will be used to locate and repair leaks. If repair is not practical appropriate equipment replacement plans will be considered.

### Safety and Training

Experienced users, equipment manufacturers, or others will provide training so that equipment will be used properly and safely and so that SF6 leaks will be virtually eliminated.

### Detailed Maintenance Procedures

Equipment manufacturer's procedures for each type of SF6 equipment should be followed as long as the District policy for reducing SF6 leakage can be achieved.