

# Excess Flow Valves

Beginning April 14, 2017, new federal regulations require the City of Chanute Gas Department to notify existing residential or small commercial natural gas customers of their option to request the installation of an excess flow valve (EFV) on their existing service lines.

**What is an Excess Flow Valve?** An EFV is a safety device installed below ground inside the natural gas service line between the main and meter. It is designed to restrict uncontrolled release of natural gas by automatically closing if the service line is completely severed or severely damaged. These uncontrolled release events are primarily the result of excavation damage to service lines that occurs between the gas main and the customer's residence or building.

EFVs have been installed as required by federal regulation on new or replaced single family residential service lines since February 1998. Services installed prior to February 1998 may have an EFV due to construction maintenance activities, or as a result of pilot programs in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

**Please note:** EFVs are **not** designed to protect against an appliance or other leak in your home or business, meter leaks or partial damage to your service line. EFVs activate only when damage creates a high flow of escaping gas above the normal pass rate for your service line.

For example, if an excavator is digging in your yard and hits your service line and completely severs the line, the excess flow valve should restrict the flow of gas escaping from the damaged line until the company can arrive and make repairs. While EFVs may help limit the effects of some accidental line strikes, the best prevention is for excavators to call 811 two full business days before digging for proper below-ground utility line locating and marking.

**What is the criteria to have an EFV installed?** Most residential and small commercial customers are eligible to have an EFV installed, if their natural gas system meets certain criteria including:

- Operates at a continuous pressure greater than 10 pounds per square inch gauge (psig); and
- Has no history of contaminants, such as liquids or debris in the natural gas system.

**Am I required to have an EFV installed?** You are not required to have an EFV installed, and the City of Chanute Gas Department will install one in the future **at no cost to you** when, during the normal course of business, any eligible service line is replaced or the service tap connection is exposed.

## **How do I request an EFV?**

At this time, we are not accepting requests for installation of excess flow valves. You may inquire about additional information through the Contact Us section of our website. Requests for installation will begin in January 2018, and additional updates will be posted on this website in the coming months. Once installation requests are available, customers who request installation will be scheduled at a time that is mutually agreeable to the company and the customer.

## **What is the cost of requesting installation of an EFV?**

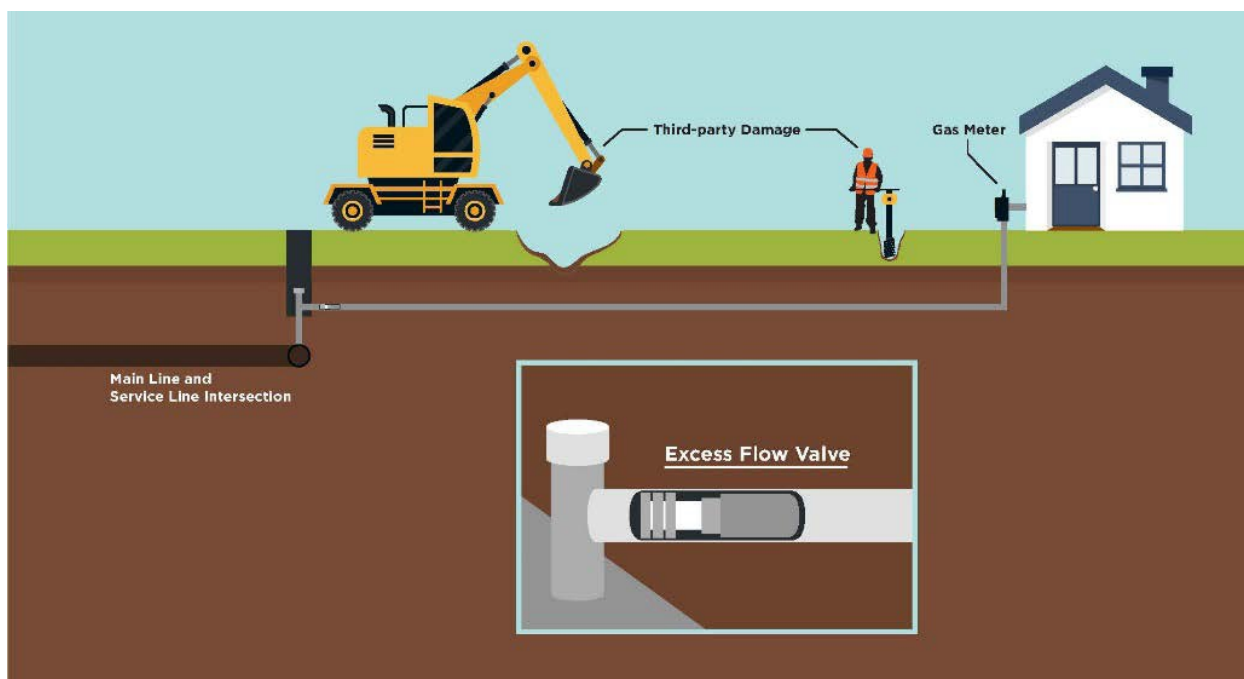
If you choose to request installation of an EFV, you **will be** responsible for a portion of the installation costs, which will be determined in the near future and are subject to regulatory approval. These costs may vary depending on installation requirements.

### ***Where is an EFV typically located?***

EFVs are installed inside the natural gas service line between the main and meter. Some customers may have a metal tag on their meter similar to the one below indicating an EFV was previously installed, but you would not be able to see the valve.



You also may see a diagram below to get a general idea about location of an EFV. Each meter is located at different areas of a residence or small commercial property so this graphic should only be used as an example.



### ***What is a main line?***

A pipeline that serves as a common source of supply for more than one service line. They are usually located at either the front of or back of your property in the road right of way, alley or utility easement.

### ***What is a service line?***

The pipe that carries natural gas from the main to the customer's meter.

### ***How do I know if my business is categorized as small commercial?***

Small commercial customers are non-residential customers who have an installed natural gas meter with a capacity of 1,000 cfh or less. The capacity of the meter is generally printed on a tag

on the front of the meter. If the meter tag reads AL-1000 or shows a smaller number, then you are considered small commercial.

***May I request an EFV if I receive service from a “farm tap” located on a transmission line not owned and operated by Kansas Gas Service?***

A limited number of customers receive gas service from a “farm tap” located on a transmission line owned and operated by another company. We may not own, operate or maintain the piping related to the EFV installation. In these instances, we cannot install the EFV, as we are not allowed to install facilities on other company’s pipelines. You should receive notice from that company about their options related to EFVs.

A “farm tap” provides natural gas service from a high-pressure or transmission line to a farmer or landowner through a customer-owned pipeline. Generally, the pipeline and equipment from the utility-owned meter to the residence or structure is owned and maintained by the landowner.

You may see a diagram below about a “farm tap” scenario in which we would not be owner of your pipe or service lines.

