

To: Developers, Homebuilders, Owners, Contractors, Subcontractors, etc.

From: Jane Hermsen, P.E.
Long Beach Energy Resources, Engineering Bureau 

Subject: **SEISMIC SHUT-OFF EARTHQUAKE VALVE POLICY**

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the installation of a Seismic Shutoff (Earthquake) Valve on your gas service. The policy for City of Long Beach Energy Resources Department (LBER) is neither to require nor endorse the installation of an Earthquake Valve of any specific type, brand, or model.

A natural gas seismic shut off valve, or “earthquake valve”, shuts off flow to your gas service when an earthquake of a sufficient magnitude occurs at where the valve is located. If you choose to have a seismic gas shut off valve installed or are mandated to have one by your insurance company or lien holder the valve must be installed on the customer houseline (See Standard Drawing A 1069).

All gas piping and appurtenances from the gas main in the street to the connection point after the meter (including the meter and proving tee) are owned and maintained by LBER and are regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 49 CFR 192.3 states that “A service line ends at the outlet of a customer meter or at the connection to a customer’s piping, whichever is further downstream”. Any seismic device shall be installed on the customer- owned piping on the outlet side of the meter.

The installation of an earthquake valve requires a permit and inspection approval by the City of Long Beach Development Services Department. A Gas Seismic Shut-off Valve (Earthquake Valve) found installed on LBER piping will be removed at the Customer / Owner’s expense and billed at the current rate schedule.

Should you have any further questions regarding LBER’s Earthquake Valve policy, please contact LBER Inspection at (562) 570-2085.