

Elster Perfection's Combo Valve successfully prevents a potential incident in Northern Nevada.

Project Profile

PROJECT: Elster Perfection and Sierra Pacific Power Combo Valve Project

LOCATION: Reno, Nevada

PRODUCTS: Combo Valve
PSV Polyethylene Shut-off Valve
Excess Flow Valves (EFV)



Elster Perfection and Sierra Pacific Combo Valve Project

- Sierra Pacific Power, headquartered in Reno, Nevada, supplies gas to more than 130,000 customers in the Reno-Sparks area and electricity to more than 1 million customers throughout Nevada and Northeastern California.
- Elster Perfection collaborated with an engineering firm to develop a combination curb valve (polyethylene shut-off valve) and excess flow valve. This Combo valve incorporates these two widely used and industry-proven products into one compact device to provide gas customers and the community with a unique multi-function safety device.
- Elster Perfection and Sierra Pacific worked together to fine tune the design over the course of a year. This included field and laboratory testing to validate the design and operational qualities of the valve.



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SCENARIO

A contractor was operating a trencher in a new residential neighborhood in Reno. The contractor accidentally cut the service line about four feet from one of the homes. Several days later, Sierra Pacific was dispatched for a no-gas call to the residence. Upon arrival, the serviceman found that the home was part of the pilot project of 55 homes where the combo valves were installed. After the service line was cut, the combo valve did its job and tripped immediately, shutting off the flow of gas. It was determined the damage actually occurred 7 – 10 days prior. The trencher operator later admitted he may have caused the damage but did not notify anyone. Had the home been occupied, Sierra Pacific would have received a no-gas call on the same day of the damage. Had the home not been protected by the Combo Valve, it is likely that a blowing gas situation would have occurred and possibly a catastrophic event resulting in loss of life and/or property. Because of the unique features of the Combo Valve, upon repair of the service line, the valve was reset and 100% purge was accomplished.



Excess Flow Valve

A small, automatic device that is placed in the service line near the connection to the main. The EFV is designed to automatically stop the flow of gas to the residence in the event of a catastrophic rupture of the service line, typically caused by a 3rd party digging into the service.



Curb Valve

An underground, manually operated device used to control the flow of gas to a residence or commercial building.

About Elster Group

A world leader in advanced metering Infrastructure, integrated metering, and utilization solutions to the gas, electricity and water industries. Elster's systems and solutions reflect over 170 years of knowledge and experience in measuring precious resources and energy.

Elster provides solutions and advanced technologies to help utilities more easily, efficiently and reliably obtain and use advanced metering intelligence to improve customer service, enhance operational efficiency, and increase revenues. Elster's AMI solutions enable utilities to cost-effectively generate, deliver, manage, and conserve the life-essential resources of gas, electricity, and water.

Elster has over 7,500 staff and operations in 38 countries in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

What are the odds that the contractor would dig into a protected line?

1 in 2,363.

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