

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
 PO Box 3044  
 1400 Tenth Street, Room 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** California Energy Commission  
 1516 Ninth Street, MS-48  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**Project Applicant:** Institute of Gas Technology dba Gas Technology Institute

**Project Title:** Enhanced Locating Technologies for Underground Pipelines with Better Accuracy

**Project Location – Specific:** TBD

**Project Location – City:** TBD **Project Location – County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of this project is to enhance and demonstrate a natural gas pipeline locate technology that improves the accuracy of locates in both the horizontal and vertical dimensions over current practices and technologies using adapted and improved above-ground large standoff three dimensional electromagnetic (3DEM) detection technology and an in-pipe gyroscopic mapping device. This technology will increase detection reliability of underground pipelines, thereby minimizing the likelihood of damages due to encroachment.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** California Energy Commission

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Institute of Gas Technology dba Gas Technology Institute

**Exempt Status:** *(check one)*

- Ministerial Exemption (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(1); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(3); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Pub. Resources Code § 21080(b)(4); Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number  
Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, § 15306
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number.
- Common Sense Exemption. (Cal. Code Regs., tit 14, §15061(b)(3))

**Reasons why project is exempt:**

California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15306 provides that projects which consist of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities, which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act. The physical aspects of this project consist of laboratory testing and field demonstration of enhanced detection of underground pipelines using adapted and improved above-ground large standoff three-dimensional electromagnetic (3DEM) detection technology and an in-pipe gyroscopic mapping device. The technology will function as a non-intrusive device, able to collect data without disruption of the subsurface or insertion of the sensor, electrodes, or other mechanisms into the ground. The project requires at least a 6-month field test at sites volunteered by California utilities to demonstrate the improved technology under a variety of field conditions. The field demonstrations of the study will be performed during routine inspection and maintenance work performed by the gas utilities in California. These demonstrations are not expected to cause any additional environmental impact beyond the activities currently approved and performed by the local

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Institute of Gas Technology dba Gas Technology Institute

utilities and pipeline operators .For these reasons, the proposed work will not have any significant effect on the environment and falls under section 15306.

**Lead Agency**

**Contact Person:**     Reta Ortiz     **Area code/Telephone/Ext:**     916-327-1494    

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

**Signature:**     Reta Ortiz     **Date:**   07/16/2020   **Title:**   ECS I    

**Signed by Responsible Agency**

**Signed by Lead Agency**

**Signed by Applicant**

**Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

**Date received for filing at OPR:**     Jul 17 2020    

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**