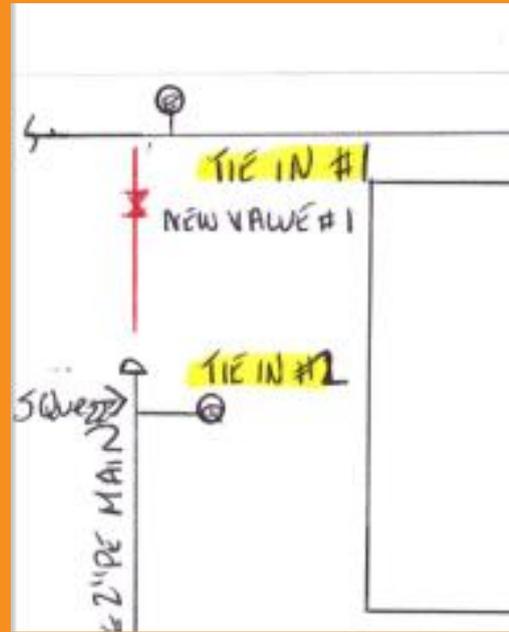


## INCORRECT GAS MAIN TIE-IN PROCEDURE

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED:

- A team was carrying out a tie-in procedure between a new PE main and existing 3" steel main using a Mueller D5 device.
- The team identified an abandoned 2" instead of the 3" live main and proceeded to weld on a tee for the tie-in.
- Pressure gauges were not installed as instructed in the SOP (system operating procedure) therefore the starting pressure was unknown and the pressure reader on the Mueller device incorrectly identified the pressure of the new PE main as the valve was open.
- Gas was introduced into the abandoned main as the tapping machine completed the procedure.



Extract from the SOP's sketch showing the layout of the tie-in and surrounding area. The 2" main which was tapped instead of the 3" main (running across the top) is not included.

## KEY LEARNING POINTS:

- Pressure gauges were not installed as directed to determine starting pressure – therefore the crew did not know they were working on an abandoned main.
- The plans (produced from the NRG mapping system) were believed to be incorrect when a 2" main was located instead of a 3" but no further checks were made to verify if this was the case.
- Opening of the valve before the tapping procedure was complete meant gas was instantly introduced into the abandoned main.

## ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- Managers to communicate to field operatives they must follow SOP and inform the SOP coordinator if they cannot comply for any reason before proceeding with any further work.
- Ensure pressure gauges are used correctly to assist in ensuring the proper mains have been identified.