

Figure 2-1—Gas Processing is Not a Pipeline Function

2.2.1.2.1 Natural Gas Processing

Natural gas processing is not regulated under the federal gas pipeline safety standards. Gas is removed from transportation for processing, and the residue gas after processing is returned to transportation at the plant outlet. For this reason, when there is no gas gathering beyond a natural gas processing plant as shown in Figure 2-1, the endpoint of gathering is the plant inlet.

2.2.1.2.2 Gas Treatment

Gas treatment often occurs in conjunction with gas processing or compression and in such cases is considered to be part of those operations. In some cases, however, gas treatment operations involve significant stand-alone facilities (e.g., a sulfur recovery or large dehydration facility). When there is no gas gathering beyond a stand-alone gas treatment facility as shown in Figure 2-2, the endpoint of gathering is the facility outlet.

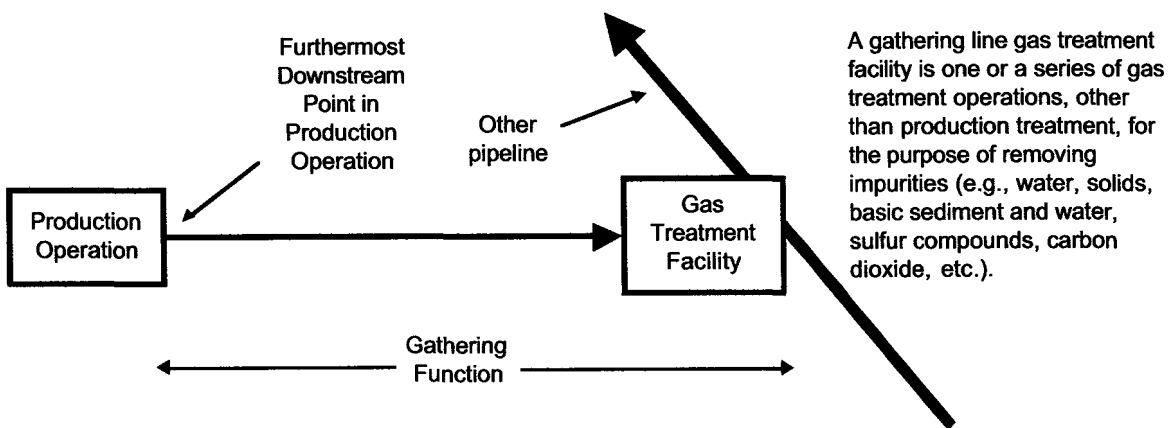


Figure 2-2—Gas Treatment is a Distinct Function on Many Gathering Systems