

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.)	
)	
_____)	CASE NO. 10354
)	
AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE)	
FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH)	
COMMISSION REGULATIONS)	

O R D E R

On January 19, 1988, a gas leak from a high pressure main line of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia"), on New Circle Road, Lexington, was reported to the Commission. The Commission investigated the accident, the results of which are in the investigation report dated June 28, 1988.

On August 24, 1988, the Commission ordered Columbia to show cause why it should not be fined for failure to comply with Commission regulations. Attached to the Order was a copy of the Commission Staff ("Staff") investigation report dated June 28, 1988 setting forth the need for investigating additional violations on the subject high pressure main line connections to service lines and how they were abated. The show cause hearing was scheduled for October 13, 1988.

On September 23, 1988, Columbia responded to the Commission Order of August 24, 1988 by surveying the high pressure distribution main. Columbia investigated six additional violations of Commission regulations for the omission of curb boxes and curb

valves from service taps that are under the pavement. The violations were corrected by September 9, 1988.

On September 29, 1988, Columbia requested an informal conference with Staff, which was conducted on October 12, 1988. Columbia submitted a drawing of the high pressure main line route and its location relative to New Circle Road. Columbia stated that the high pressure main line has two shut-off valves -- one on Winchester Road and one on Liberty Road. Columbia confirmed that all the curb valves and curb boxes on the service taps on this high pressure main line were installed and material to protect the meters from damage was added as necessary.

The Staff concluded the conference by advising Columbia that it has committed seven violations to Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)1, by not providing curb boxes and curb valves on service taps located under a pavement.

Columbia was advised that Staff recommends a fine of \$500 for each violation or a total of \$3500 that should be levied against Columbia pursuant to KRS 278.990. However, since Columbia has demonstrated an immediate response to the Commission Order and brought the service taps connected to the high pressure main into compliance with Commission regulations by installing curb boxes and curb valves by September 9, 1988, the Commission is of the opinion that only half of the stated fine should be levied against Columbia, or a total of \$1750. During the meeting, Columbia representatives agreed with Staff's recommendation.

Since all the issues regarding this investigation were resolved and Columbia has agreed with Staff's recommendations, it

was agreed that the show cause hearing scheduled for October 13, 1988 should be cancelled.

After reviewing the records and being advised, the Commission is of the opinion and finds that:

1. A safety inspection was conducted on the service line located on New Circle Road on January 19, 1988. The investigator found Columbia was in violation of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)1, for not installing a curb valve and a curb box for a service tee under a pavement for a quick termination of the gas during emergency conditions.

2. Columbia responded to the Commission Order of August 24, 1988 and conducted a survey on the high pressure main line and found six similar violations to Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)1.

3. Columbia installed curb valves and curb boxes for the six service tees by September 9, 1988.

4. The high pressure main line in question has two shut-off valves -- one at Winchester Road and one at Liberty Road.

5. Columbia should be fined \$500 for each violation or a total of \$3500 for the 7 violations. Since Columbia responded promptly to the Commission Order of August 24, 1988 in correcting the violations, half the fine should be waived for a total fine of \$1750.

6. Because all the issues regarding this investigation were resolved during the informal conference and Columbia agreed with Staff's recommendations, a hearing is unnecessary.

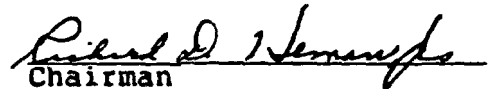
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Columbia shall comply with Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)1.

2. A fine of \$1750 shall be levied against Columbia for the 7 violations of 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)1, pursuant to 278.990. This fine shall be paid within 20 days of the date of this Order by certified check or money order made payable to Treasurer, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Said check or money order shall be mailed or delivered to the Office of General Counsel, Public Service Commission, P. O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 28th day of November, 1988.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Executive Director