

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION BY BARREN COUNTY	)	
GAS COMPANY FOR DEVIATION FROM	)	CASE NO. 91-078
807 KAR 5:026, SECTION 6(7)	)	

O R D E R

On February 22, 1991, Barren County Gas Company, Inc. ("Barren County") submitted a letter to the Commission requesting a deviation from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(7), to allow the installation of one-inch service lines and associated fittings by customers whose point of consumption is no greater than 300 feet from Barren County's main line. The Commission will consider Barren County's letter a formal application for deviation from a Commission regulation.

Barren County is a gas pipeline company operating a gathering system in the counties of Barren and Metcalfe, Kentucky,<sup>1</sup> and is currently offering gas service to prospective customers who meet the requirements of KRS 278.485. Commission regulation 807 KAR 5:026, Gas Service; Gathering Systems, establishes rules which apply to installation and safety standards of service from gathering systems; Section 6(1) requires the customer to provide

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<sup>1</sup> Case No. 90-322, Application by Barren County Gas Company to Establish Gas Service Pursuant to KRS 278.485 and Approval of Rates and Charges, Order entered January 14, 1991.

the service line, and Section 6(7) requires that "Steel service or yard lines . . . shall be of a size not less than one and one-fourth (1 1/4) inches."

Commission Staff has advised Barren County that the requirement for a diameter of one and one-fourth inches is to help ensure that sufficient pressure is maintained along the length of the service line to the point of consumption. Unlike customer service lines in a gas system located in an urban area which generally require 75 to 100 feet from the utility's main to the customer, service lines for KRS 278.485 service commonly exceed that length and often require several hundred feet or more of pipe. However, in its application Barren County states that its main line is very close to a significant number of its customers' homes, either directly in front of their yard or across the street. Barren County contends that customers in this situation, in which only a short distance is required to lay the service line from the main to the house, can save money by using one-inch pipe and fittings. Such savings result from the fact that one-inch pipe and fittings are more readily available.

After consideration of the record in this proceeding and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission hereby finds that:

1. Barren County operates a gathering system and provides gas service to customers pursuant to KRS 278.485. 807 KAR 5:026 prescribes the installation and safety standards with which such gas service must comply.

2. 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(1), requires a customer who is provided gas service pursuant to KRS 278.485 to furnish the service line. Section 6(7) requires that the service line be at least one and one-fourth inches in diameter.

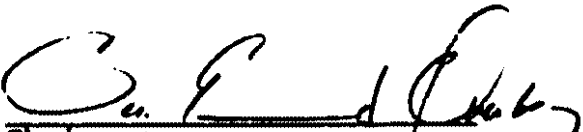
3. Since many of the homes of prospective customers are either directly in front of or across the road from Barren County's main line, such customers can save money and still have adequate pressure maintained for service if one-inch pipe and fittings are used for their service lines.

4. Barren County should be granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(7), and allow prospective KRS 278.485 customers to use one-inch pipe and fittings in situations where the length of the service lines does not exceed 300 feet from the point of the tap to the point of consumption.

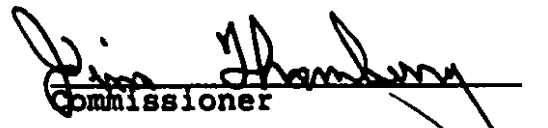
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Barren County be and hereby is granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(7), to provide gas service pursuant to KRS 278.485 to a customer who installs a one-inch service line with fittings where the length of the service line between the point of the tap on Barren County's main line and the point of consumption does not exceed 300 feet.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 24th day of April, 1991.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

  
Chairman

  
Vice Chairman

  
Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director