

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY)	
OF ASHLAND TO DEVIATE FROM COMMISSION)	CASE NO.
REGULATION 807 KAR 5:022, SECTION 9,)	93-209
SUBSECTION 17(A)(1))	

O R D E R

On March 16, 1993, the Housing Authority of Ashland ("HAA"), Ashland, Kentucky, filed a letter with the Commission requesting that it not be required to install curb stop valves on 112 service lines within the Housing Authority complex. HAA's letter is attached as Appendix A. The Commission will treat this letter as an application requesting authority to deviate from the provisions of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)(1).

Commission Staff inspected the gas piping system of the HAA, specifically HAA's claim that any curb stop valves it would be required to install to be in compliance with 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)(1), would be in such close proximity to the existing cut-off valves (approximately six to eight feet) that they would not afford an appreciable amount of added safety. There are presently available cut-off valves in the main line for isolating various areas of the housing project as well as a cut-off valve at the master meter. A staff report dated March 17, 1993 reflecting these findings is attached as Appendix B.

Having reviewed the evidence of record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

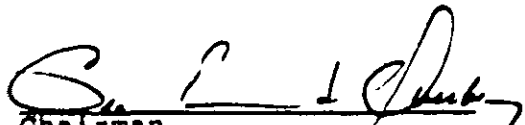
1. The existing cut-off valves located at the meters in close proximity to the mains provide a means for shutting off the flow of natural gas in the event of a fire or explosion.

2. Cut-off valves in the main line system and at the master meter site provide sufficient control of gas flow in the event of fire or explosion.

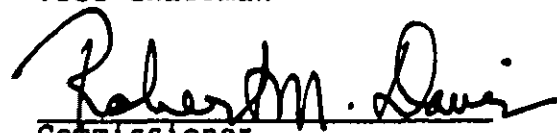
IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that HAA is granted a deviation from Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 9(17)(a)(1), requiring the installation of curb stop valves on the service lines in the HAA complex.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 18th day of June, 1993.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF ASHLAND

3131 WINCHESTER AVENUE
ASHLAND, KENTUCKY 41101
606-325-7112

SCOPE TOWERS
3131 WINCHESTER AVENUE
606-325-7112

RECEIVED
DEBORD TERRACE
901 KILGORE
606-324-9177

DIVISION OF UTILITIES
ENGINEERING SERVICE

March 16, 1993

E. Scott Smith, Manager
Gas Pipeline Safety Branch
Public Service Commission
730 Schenkel Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky, 40602

RE: 807 KAR 5:022 Sec. 9(17) (A) (1)

Dear Mr. Smith:

In reference to the above mentioned regulation regarding the installation of curb stop valves and in response to the cited deficiency in Mr. Alderman's partial inspection of February 18, 1993, please consider the following:

Our housing complex, Debord Terrace, consists of 27 two story brick and vinyl sided buildings, with 18 buildings containing 4 apartments each and 9 buildings with 5 apartments each for a total of 117 apartments. These are all low-income family units.

Our gas pipeline is primarily at the rear of the buildings and is as close as 6 feet from the exterior wall.

We presently have cut-off valves at the meters of each apartment so if curb stops are installed, the cut-off valves would be in very close proximity of each other. If a fire or other disaster would occur and the rear wall collapsed, it appears that possibly neither valve would be of any value or accessible for cut-off.

We are very cognizant of the need for maximum safety for our residents and feel that with 24 hour, 7 day per week access to the apartments, cut-off valves in the main line to isolate different areas of the project, and a cut-off valve at the master meter, that we are as safe as possible. We also maintain a live-in maintenance mechanic on-site at all times.

We do not believe that the addition of the curb stop valves would provide any additional safety advantages to our residents.

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Mr. E. Scott Smith
March 16, 1993

Our main lines are from 4 to 6 feet deep and the cost to install curb stops would be \$22,400, which would be an extreme financial burden on the housing authority.

We are respectfully requesting a variance from installing the 112 curb stop valves for the reasons stated.

Your consideration and expeditious handling of this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


Donald L. Houck
Executive Director

DLH/cjs

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION REPORT

Housing Authority of Ashland
Ashland, Kentucky

March 17, 1993

BRIEF

On March 17, 1993, a follow-up inspection of the Housing Authority of Ashland (Ashland HA) was conducted.

INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection was to determine the distance from the main gas lines to the meters located at the building walls.

FINDINGS

The Ashland HA stated in a letter dated March 16, 1993 that the distance from main to meters was six to eight feet. In all locations observed, this distance appears to be correct.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that a copy of this report be sent to the Ashland HA for its information.

Respectfully submitted,



Earl H. Alderman, Jr.
Utility Investigator

LLA
EHL

EHA/ml1