

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

HAZARD GAS COMPANY)
)
)

) CASE NO. 97-063
)
)

ALLEGED VIOLATION OF 807 KAR)
5:022, SECTION 7(12)(a) AND 807 KAR)
5:006, SECTION 14(b).)

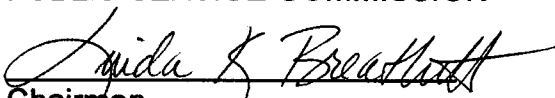
O R D E R

On March 5, 1997, the Commission conducted a follow-up inspection of the gas facilities owned and operated by Hazard Gas Company ("Hazard Gas"). As a municipal system, Hazard Gas falls under the Commission's jurisdiction over municipal gas facilities pursuant to KRS 278.040, KRS 278.495 and through a 5(a) agreement with the United States Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety, for the enforcement of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968. The follow-up Inspection Report is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A.

The Commission, after being otherwise sufficiently advised, HEREBY ORDERS that this case is dismissed as all deficiencies have been corrected.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 27th day of March, 1997.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director

APPENDIX

AN APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
IN CASE NO. 97-063 DATED MARCH 27, 1997

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION REPORT

HAZARD GAS COMPANY
Hazard, Kentucky

March 10, 1997

BRIEF

A follow-up inspection of the natural gas facilities of the Hazard Gas Company ("Hazard") was conducted on March 5, 1997. This inspection was conducted in accordance with the Public Service Commission's ("PSC") policy of inspecting all local gas distribution companies under its jurisdiction. Natural gas operators are jurisdictional to the PSC under KRS 278.040, 278.495 and also through a 5(a) Agreement with the United States Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety, for the enforcement of the Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968.

INSPECTION

Hazard is a municipal gas system that receives its gas from Equitable Gas and other suppliers and then redistributes the gas through a network of 61 miles of steel and plastic pipelines serving approximately 2,700 customers. The system is operated by seven employees.

The original July 1996 inspection had resulted in two violations being discovered. These violations involved quarterly patrolling records not being kept and three instances of aboveground natural gas piping on the customer side of the meter.

This follow-up inspection was limited in scope and concentrated only on the deficiencies detected in the original inspection.

FINDINGS

1. There were no quarterly patrolling records available which is a violation of 807 KAR 5:022, Section 14(12).

These records are now being maintained as required.

2. Three locations of aboveground plastic pipe were found which is a violation of 807 KAR 5:022, Section 7(12)(a).

Aboveground plastic pipe at these locations has now been buried or replaced with steel gas pipe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Commission, in view of these deficiencies being corrected, cease its show cause hearing in Case No. 97-063 against the City of Hazard.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Kinman
David B. Kinman *DK*
Gas Utility Investigator *LLA*

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