

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

HECTOR ROBLEDO )

\_\_\_\_\_)  
ALLEGED VIOLATION OF UNDERGROUND )  
FACILITY DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT )

CASE NO.  
2019-00448

ORDER

A hearing in the above matter was held before the Kentucky Public Service Commission on February 28, 2020 at its offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky concerning the allegation that Hector Robledo (Robledo) violated KRS 367.4911(1)(a) on March 17, 2019 at 5241 South Preston Highway, Lebanon Junction, Kentucky 40150 when he damaged a natural gas pipeline using mechanized equipment while conducting excavation operations without making a line location request to the One Call Center. Robledo was served with process and notified of the hearing date and time but failed to appear at the hearing to contest the allegations. PSC investigator Eric Tout testified that he conducted an investigation which established that Robledo had not obtained a locate ticket number from 811 and that at the above location and date he struck and damaged a natural gas pipeline owned by Louisville Gas and Electric Company which contained natural gas at the time the damage occurred.

FINDINGS OF FACT

The testimony presented at the hearing as well as the exhibits filed into the record stand un rebutted and establish that:

1. Hector Robledo was at the time the damage occurred on March 17, 2019 an excavator as defined by KRS 367.4903(4) who caused damage to a natural gas service line by means of excavation as defined by KRS 367.4903(6). At the time the damage occurred Mr. Robledo was using mechanized equipment.

2. The natural gas service line was an underground facility owned and operated by Louisville Gas and Electric Company to serve the public. The service line contained natural gas at the time it was damaged by Robledo. Robledo failed to call the Kentucky Contact Center (One Call Center or Protection Notification Center) to obtain information about the approximate location of the damaged natural gas service line not less than two (2) nor more than ten (10) full working days prior to commencing work as required by KRS 367.4911(1)(a).

3. Robledo's excavation work was not emergency work within the scope of KRS 367.4907 or the definition of "Emergency" as defined in KRS 367.4903(7) and no exception to the call requirement is applicable to this case..

4. There are no known mitigating factors which would merit the imposition of a fine less than the maximum provided by law. This violation is Robledo's first offense.

#### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Hector Robledo violated the requirements of KRS 367.4911(10) by using mechanized equipment to excavate within the approximate location of an underground natural gas pipeline owned and operated by Louisville Gas and Electric Company when

he was required to hand dig or use nonintrusive means to avoid damage to the pipeline. Robledo further violated KRS 367.4911(1)(a) by failing to call the Kentucky Contact Center to obtain information about the pipeline's location.

2. KRS 367.4917(1) provides that an excavator who fails to comply with any provision of KRS 367.4911 shall be guilty of endangering underground facilities and may be subject to a fine of two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250) for the first offense.

3. KRS 367.4917(4) provides that any person who violates any provision of the Act that involves damage to a facility containing any flammable, toxic, corrosive, or hazardous material or results in the release of any flammable, toxic, corrosive, or hazardous material shall be subject to a fine not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each offense.

4. Hector Robledo is, by reason of his failure to comply with the applicable provisions of the Underground Facility Damage Prevention Act as hereinbefore set out, subject to the maximum fine of one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$1,250).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Hector Robledo is assessed a fine of one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) for violation of KRS 367.4911(10) and KRS 367.4911(1)(a).

2. Hector Robledo shall pay one thousand two hundred fifty dollars (\$1,250) within thirty (30) days of the date of this order by cashier's check or money order payable to the Kentucky State Treasurer and mailed or delivered to the office of the Kentucky Public Service Commission at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, KY 40602.

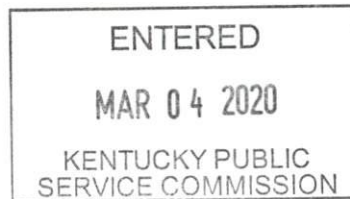
THIS IS A FINAL AND APPEALABLE ORDER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

An application for a rehearing may be filed with the Commission within 20 days after service of this Order as provided by KRS 278.400. Any appeal of this Order must be filed with the Franklin Circuit Court within 30 days after service of this Order or within 20 days after an application for rehearing has been denied by failure of the Commission to act or, within 20 days after service of the final Order, as set out in KRS 278.410(1).


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By the Commission

Commissioner Talina Mathews did not participate in this case.



ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director  
*Kent A. Chaudhry*

Hector Robledo  
5241 S. Preston Highway  
Lebanon Junction, KENTUCKY 40150