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PSC Announces Pipeline Safety Events in Ashland on May 20

Pipeline strike response demonstrations and trainings to be held at Ashland Train Depot

FRANKFORT, Ky. (May 12, 2025) – The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) is holding Pipeline Strike Response Training events across Kentucky, with the latest event taking place in Ashland on May 20.

The Pipeline Strike Response Trainings will showcase best practices for excavation, as well as the appropriate responses to gas pipeline incidents for utility operators and emergency responders. The Pipeline Strike demonstration will showcase line locations, routine pre-excavation practices, a simulated pipeline strike, and the appropriate response for all participants to a gas pipeline incident. During the response segment, Utility and Emergency Responders will have the opportunity to navigate a simulated incident, adhering to their approved policies and procedures. This will offer a firsthand look at the collaboration efforts involved in responding to an actual pipeline strike incident. The in-class portion will include an overview of the Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act, the locate request process, discussions with First Responders and Utility Operators, a review of best practices for damage reporting, and a demonstration on the correct use of a hit kit. This event is in collaboration with Kentucky 811, Duke Energy of Kentucky, Inc., Atmos Energy Corporation, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, the National Utility Contractors Association, Martin Contracting, Spartan Construction, and local emergency responders. Contractors, emergency responders, and utility operators will be in attendance. The events are free and open to all interested parties. Advance registration is recommended as lunch will be provided.

The Pipeline Strike Response Training will be held at the following:

May 20 – Ashland - Ashland Train Depot, 99 15th St. Ashland, KY 41101

The Pipeline Strike Response Training will have two sessions, with the first session running from 11:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and the second session running from 3:45 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Registration information is available on the PSC website available at: [Pipeline Strike Response Training](#). The agenda is as follows:

11:30 – 12:30	Registration Check-in / Lunch
12:30 – 12:45	Introduction
12:45 – 1:30	Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act Overview- PSC Staff



1:30- 2:15	Locate Request Overview Kentucky 811, One Call Concepts
2:15- 2:45	First Responders Discussion
2:45- 3:15	Utility Operator Discussion, Columbia Gas of Kentucky
3:15- 3:45	Damage Investigation and Hit Kit Training, National Utility Contractors Association (NUCA) of Kentucky
3:45- 4:15	Move to outside to Strike Scenario Site (Evening training check-in)
4:15- 5:00	Pipeline Strike Scenario
5:00- 5:45	Move back indoors for training, Dinner provided for evening session
5:45- 6:30	Underground Facilities Damage Prevention Act Overview- PSC Staff
6:30- 7:00	First Responders Discussion
7:00- 7:45	Utility Operator Discussion, Columbia Gas of Kentucky
7:45- 8:00	Closing

The PSC is conducting the demonstration and trainings as part of its efforts to reduce the frequency of excavation damage to natural gas pipelines. The PSC is charged with the enforcement of the state's call-before-you-dig statute, commonly referred to as the 811 laws, as it relates to natural gas or hazardous liquid lines. Even minor gas pipeline strike incidents can result in severe damage to property, injuries and even fatalities. Increased awareness of the process for locating pipes and responding to events is the best way to prevent incidents.

Like every other state, Kentucky has a statewide 811 service that, by law, must be called at least two working days prior to beginning excavation. This advance notification is intended to allow ample time for utility lines to be located and marked so that excavation can proceed safely. Natural gas providers and hazardous liquid pipeline operators are required to provide the location of their lines to the 811 center.

Excavators, including homeowners, could be penalized for not calling 811, ignoring location markers or using improper excavation methods. Operators could be penalized for not responding to requests to locate lines or for improperly or inaccurately locating or marking underground facilities. Penalties are up to \$1,250 for a first violation, \$2,000 for a second violation, and \$4,000 for subsequent violations. The PSC is using the penalties it collects to fund expanded outreach, training and education efforts aimed at excavators, pipeline operators, municipal utilities and the public.

About 240 entities operate natural gas or hazardous liquid pipelines in Kentucky. They include local gas distribution companies fully regulated by the PSC and municipal natural gas providers and other entities, such as housing authorities, that are regulated by the PSC for safety only.

The PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,100 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky and has approximately 90 employees.

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