

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

STANDARD ELKHORN MINERAL)
CORPORATION'S REQUEST FOR) CASE NO. 9866
DEVIATION FROM 807 KAR 5:026,)
SECTION 6(9))

O R D E R

On January 15, 1987, the Commission received a letter from Standard Elkhorn Mineral Corporation ("SEMC") requesting a deviation for approximately 2 years from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(9), which requires that plastic pipe used in a natural gas "farm tap" hookup be buried 36 inches deep. SEMC is a mining company in Pike County, Kentucky, and has relocated approximately 1800 feet of service line to facilitate its mining operations in the area. The service lines extend from a Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Company ("Ky-West") gas well. SEMC states that once its mining operations have ceased in this area in about 2 years new gas lines will be laid and buried across the mining area.

On January 21, 1987, the Commission's Gas Pipeline Safety Branch conducted an investigation of the Pike County site to determine the possibility of a deviation. A representative from Ky-West was also present during the investigation. A copy of the investigation report is attached.

The 1800 feet of service line represent two service lines one and one-quarter inch in diameter, each serving one dwelling,

and a one-half inch service line which is tapped into one of the larger service lines and supplies gas to a trailer. All three service lines have connections with unapproved materials, and the one-half inch service line is plastic unapproved for gas service. The unapproved connections and plastic pipe were used by SEMC when it initially relocated the service lines. Most of the 1800 feet of service line is located in a remote area and should not pose a threat to public safety. However, in one area after passing under railroad tracks, the service lines pass close to existing dwellings. In this area the existing plastic should be buried immediately. The Commission also notes that SEMC has installed the two larger service lines through a culvert to allow the lines to pass under railroad tracks. At the end of the proposed deviation period, these lines should be buried in the ground and in casings as they pass under the railroad tracks.

FINDINGS AND ORDERS

After reviewing the record and being advised, the Commission is of the opinion and hereby finds that:

1. SEMC has filed a request for deviation from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(9), a requirement that plastic pipe used in a natural gas "farm tap" hookup be buried.
2. The request for deviation is for approximately 2 years and involves about 1800 feet of plastic service line serving three dwellings.
3. At the end of 2 years SEMC will install and bury new service lines.

4. In the process of initially relocating the service lines, SEMC used unapproved materials for connections and unapproved plastic for gas service.

5. Most of the 1800 feet of service line is in a remote area and should not pose a threat to public safety, but a portion of the existing service lines that pass close to dwellings should be buried for public safety.

6. When the existing one and one-quarter inch service lines are replaced, they should be buried in the ground and in casings at the point where they pass under railroad tracks.

7. SEMC should be granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(9), allowing plastic pipe used to transport natural gas to three Ky-West customers to be used aboveground with the conditions stated herein.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. SEMC is granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(9), for a period of 2 years from the date of this Order.

2. During this 2-year period, SEMC shall conduct a leak survey over the 1800 feet of service line every 6 months and provide a copy of the results to the Commission.

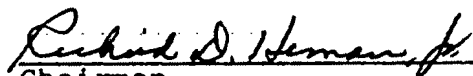
3. At the end of the 2-year period, SEMC shall replace the existing plastic pipe with new pipe, installed in compliance with the Commission's regulations. SEMC shall notify the Commission when this installation has been completed.

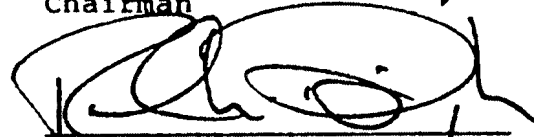
4. SEMC shall immediately bury that portion of the existing service lines that pass close to existing dwellings and immediately replace the unapproved connections and unapproved plastic pipe.

5. When the existing pipe is replaced, SEMC shall install that portion of the new pipe which passes under railroad tracks in casings buried in the ground.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 20th day of February, 1987.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:

Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DEVIATION REPORT

January 28, 1987

BRIEF

Standard Elkhorn Mineral Corporation (SEMC), in a letter to the Kentucky Public Service Commission, requested a deviation from 807 KAR 5:026, Section 6(9), the requirement that plastic pipe used in a farm tap be buried 36" deep. The mining firm has relocated approximately 1,800' of service line from a Kentucky-West Virginia Gas Company (KY-West) gas well so it can mine this area. It requests the plastic service lines be left aboveground for two years until the mining is completed, then to bury the lines as our regulations require.

INVESTIGATION

On January 21, 1987, Mr. William Hall, supervisor for KY-West, and I visited the Pike County site to see if it would be possible to grant a deviation.

Most of the lines are located in a remote area and should not pose a safety hazard. However, the area where the lines cross under the railroad track must be buried because they are close to existing dwellings. Also, the 1/2" gas line going to a trailer is unapproved plastic and must be replaced with either approved plastic or approved steel; and if plastic is used, it must be buried. This gas line must be connected by approved methods. Additionally, the 1 1/4" plastic service lines must be connected by approved methods.

Deviation Report - SEMC
Page 2
January 28, 1987

When the permanent line is installed, the line must be installed correctly under the railroad track and not run through an existing culvert as it is now installed. If this deviation is approved, a leakage survey should be conducted every six months.

CONCLUSION

I recommend the deviation to SEMC allowing plastic pipe used to transport natural gas to three customers of KY-West to be used aboveground until the coal company finishes mining the area where the gas lines now run, with a maximum time limit of two years if the recommendations listed below are adhered to.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That SEMC be allowed to run approved plastic pipe to the three customers of KY-West for a maximum of two years to allow coal mining in the area. New pipe to be used for permanent installation after mining is completed.
2. That approved materials be used to connect sections of 1 1/4" plastic used in the service line(s) and the 1/2" line to the trailer be approved plastic or approved steel.
3. That existing plastic installed in the area near a house trailer and two homes be buried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. Amburgey *ELL.*
Larry L. Amburgey
Investigator Supervisor *ell*