

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

JEFFERSON GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY)
)
) CASE NO. 93-020
)
)
) ALLEGED FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH COMMISSION)
) REGULATION 807 KAR 5:022)

O R D E R

Jefferson Gas Transmission Company ("Jefferson Gas"), a Kentucky corporation which engages in the distribution of natural gas to the public for compensation, is a utility subject to Commission jurisdiction. KRS 278.210.

KRS 278.280(2) directs the Commission to prescribe rules and regulations for the performance of services by utilities. Pursuant to this statutory directive, the Commission promulgated Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 14(5)(a)(2), which requires a utility to place and maintain line markers over each buried gas pipeline wherever necessary to identify the location of the pipeline to reduce the possibility of damage or interference.

Commission Staff has submitted to the Commission an Incident Report dated October 5, 1992, appended hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A, which alleges:

1. On September 2, 1992, an employee of Locust Grove Coal Co., Inc. ("Locust Grove") struck a gas transmission line owned by Jefferson Gas while operating a bulldozer in Wolfe County,

Kentucky. No injuries occurred, and the leaking gas did not ignite.

2. The buried gas transmission line was not adequately marked by Jefferson Gas.

3. Jefferson Gas' failure to properly mark its pipeline is a violation of 807 KAR 5:022, Section 14(5)(a)(2).

The Commission, on its own motion, HEREBY ORDERS that:

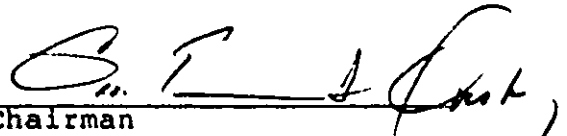
1. Jefferson Gas shall submit to the Commission within 20 days of the date of this Order a written response to the allegations contained in the Incident Report.

2. Jefferson Gas shall appear at a hearing scheduled for February 24, 1993, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, in Hearing Room 1 of the Commission's offices at 730 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purposes of presenting evidence concerning the incident which is the subject of the Incident Report, specifically the alleged violation of Commission Regulation 807 KAR 5:022, Section 14(5)(a)(2), and of showing cause, if any it can, why it should not be subjected to the penalties of KRS 278.990 for its alleged failure to comply with Commission regulations.

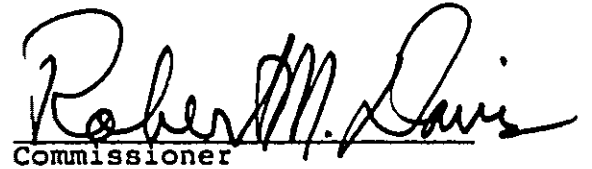
3. The Incident Report dated October 5, 1992 is hereby made a part of the record of this case and appended hereto as Appendix A.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 21st day of January, 1993.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner

ATTEST:


Executive Director

APPENDIX A
APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 93- 020 DATED JANUARY 21, 1993.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

INCIDENT REPORT

Jefferson Gas Transmission Co., Inc.
Jackson, Kentucky

October 5, 1992

BRIEF

On September 2, 1992, at approximately 5 p.m., Jefferson Gas Transmission Co., Inc. (Jefferson Gas) was notified by a representative of Locust Grove Coal Co., Inc. (Locust Grove) that a natural gas pipeline had been struck by a Locust Grove employee. No injuries occurred, and the leaking gas did not ignite. Jefferson Gas personnel stated that upon arrival at the site they saw that a six-inch, high pressure, steel-coated transmission line had been struck by a bulldozer. This incident occurred in Wolfe County, Kentucky, near the Mountain Parkway.

INSPECTION

On September 3, 1992, I visited the incident site with Ken Baker, representative of Jefferson Gas. I also met Mike Rice, an engineer for Robert Ray and Associates (Engineering Firm); Sam Hill with Mountain Reclamation Contractors; and a Mr. Wilson, superintendent for Locust Grove.

Locust Grove is strip mining this area. While building an earthen dam in a hollow, the bulldozer struck the six-inch high pressure (175 psig) gas line. Neither the Engineering Firm nor the Locust Grove representative had asked for a natural gas pipeline locate prior to the line break. The six-inch gas transmission line was not adequately marked by Jefferson Gas. The line is

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aboveground on the ridge approximately 250-350 feet from the line break. A line marker is at that location; however, the line goes below ground at that point and is covered in the hollow and where it goes back up the other ridge. To look at the aboveground line from the hollow, it appears the covered line would run in front of a barn located in the hollow when in reality it goes behind the barn. Underbrush was very thick between the location of the line break and the area where the line was exposed.

Mr. Baker stated he had been trying to arrange a meeting with Locust Grove and the Engineering Firm for 4 or 5 months for the purpose of pointing out the location of his pipeline and to learn their proposed work area, but had not been able to get the other parties to commit to a meeting.

CONCLUSION

Jefferson Gas had not marked the location of the transmission line as required by 807 KAR 5:022, Section 14(5)(a)2.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission consider action against Jefferson Gas for failure to properly mark its pipeline as required by 807 KAR 5:022, Section 14(5)(a)2.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry L. Amburgey
Larry L. Amburgey
Investigator Supervisor

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