

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

PETITION OF BTU GAS COMPANY, INC.)
FOR A DEVIATION FROM 807 KAR 5:022) CASE NO. 99-207
SECTION 13(17)(G)(4), ODORIZATION REPORT)

O R D E R

On January 5, 1999, BTU Gas Company, Inc. ("BTU") applied to the Commission for authority to deviate from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(g)(4).¹ This deviation will allow BTU to conduct a monthly, rather than weekly, sampling of natural gas in its system for odorant level.

On August 26, 1999, BTU filed its records regarding the odorant level in its natural gas. BTU does not inject odor into its natural gas but its gas supply, which is produced from local gas wells, contains a natural odorant. Its records for the last 12 months show that its gas contains an adequate odorant level of 0.31 percent that is below the one-percent limit required by the Commission's regulations.

On September 7, 1999, David B. Kinman, a gas safety investigator with the Commission's Gas Branch, conducted a field visit and tested the natural gas in BTU's system. The investigation report is in the records of this case. Mr. Kinman confirmed that,

¹ 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(g)(4), states Separately odorized systems with more than ten (10) customers shall be sampled for proper odorant level at least once each week.

in fact the concentration of the odorant is within the acceptable level established in 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(a).²

After considering the evidence of record and being sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

1. The natural gas in BTU s system contains natural odorant within the acceptable level established in 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(a).

2. Extending periodic sampling from weekly to monthly should not affect the odorant level in the natural gas of BTU s system.

3. BTU s petition for a deviation from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(g)(4), to extend the periodic testing for odorant level from weekly to monthly should be granted.

4. BTU should sample the odorant level in its gas supply at approximately the furthest point from the gas supply enters its system and retain the odorant sampling record of each monthly test.

5. If the odorant level drops at any location in BTU s system below the concentration specified in 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(a), BTU should immediately report such occurrence to the Commission, install odorization facilities to comply with the Commission regulations and implement weekly sampling.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

² Combustible gas in a distribution line shall contain a natural odorant or be odorized so that at a concentration of air of one-fifth (1/5) of the lower explosive limit (approximately one (1) percent by volume) gas is readily detectable by a person with a normal sense of smell.

1. BTU is granted a deviation from 807 KAR 5:022, Section 13(17)(g)(4). BTU shall test its gas for proper odorant level at least once each month.

2. BTU shall comply with the instructions set forth in Findings 4 and 5.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 5th day of October, 1999.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

Executive Director