

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

CITY OF DRAKESBORO D/B/A DRAKESBORO)	
NATURAL GAS COMPANY - ELECTRONIC)	CASE NO.
INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED FAILURE TO)	2019-00065
COMPLY WITH KRS 278.495, 807 KAR 5:027,)	
AND 49 C.F.R. PART 192)	

ORDER

By order issued February 28, 2019, the Commission opened a formal investigation into the operation of the natural gas distribution system of the city of Drakesboro, Kentucky, d/b/a Drakesboro Natural Gas Company (Drakesboro), and ordered Drakesboro to appear at a hearing on March 8, 2019, at 10 a.m., at the offices of the Commission. On March 4, 2019, Drakesboro filed a motion to continue the hearing on the grounds that it had just retained counsel and there was insufficient time to prepare adequately for the hearing.

The Commission considered Drakesboro's motion to continue at the outset of the March 8, 2019 hearing. The Commission ruled that in light of the imminent hazard posed by the alleged gas safety violations, the Commission would proceed with the hearing to the extent necessary to ascertain whether properly trained and qualified individuals are performing day-to-day operating and maintenance tasks that affect pipeline safety. The Commission granted in part the motion to continue to allow Drakesboro additional time to submit responses to the findings and allegations contained in the February 26, 2019 Inspection Report that is attached as an Appendix to the February 28, 2019 Order.

By Order entered March 11, 2019, the Commission ordered Drakesboro to submit to the Commission by March 22, 2019, a written response to the allegations in the February 26, 2019 Inspection Report. The Commission further ordered the hearing in this matter continued to June 19 and 20, 2019. Based on the evidence in the record and the testimony presented at the hearing, the Commission finds that conditions should be imposed on the continued operation of the Drakesboro gas distribution system pending further review by the Commission at the next hearing in this matter.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Pending further order of the Commission, Drakesboro shall operate its natural gas distribution system in compliance ordering paragraphs 2 through 8 of this Order.

2. Drakesboro shall use a qualified, third-party contractor approved by Commission Staff (Staff) to operate its gas system.

3. The third-party contractor shall provide one employee dedicated to the Drakesboro natural gas distribution system, and that employee shall be on site in Drakesboro during regular business hours and on-call during nights and weekends. Drakesboro shall provide the name and qualifications of the contractor employee to Staff, and shall immediately notify Staff if the identity of the dedicated contractor employee changes.

4. The third-party contractor shall have available and provide additional qualified personnel as necessary to respond promptly to emergencies on the Drakesboro natural gas distribution system.

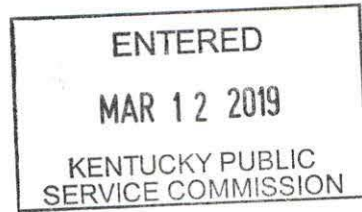
5. Within 15 days of the date of this Order, the telephone number provided to Drakesboro's gas customers to report gas leaks and other emergencies shall be routed to and answered by the dedicated third-party contractor.

6. In the event of a natural gas leak classified as a Grade 1 leak under the Gas Piping and Technology Committee (GPRTC) standards for grading natural gas leaks, Drakesboro shall pre-authorize the third-party contractor to provide additional services as necessary to respond to the leak.

7. Drakesboro shall file with the Commission written status reports that identify reports of gas leaks, how the leaks were resolved, and the response time for each leak. Drakesboro shall also identify in its status reports compliance actions undertaken or completed to address the allegations and findings contained in the Inspection Report attached as an Appendix to the February 28, 2019 Order. Each status report shall cover a two-week period, and shall be filed by Drakesboro within seven days of the end of the two-week period. The first status report shall be due on March 21, 2019, and shall cover the period March 1 to March 14, 2019. Drakesboro shall file status reports through the period ending June 20, 2019.

8. Within 30 days of the date of this Order, a leakage survey of Drakesboro's entire natural gas distribution shall be conducted in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 192.723.

By the Commission



ATTEST:


Executive Director

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