

**BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Jay Scott Emler, Chairman  
Shari Feist Albrecht  
Pat Apple

In the Matter of the General Investigation Into )  
the Operations of Kansas Gas Service, Inc., A )  
Division of One Gas, Regarding the Natural ) Docket No. 17-KGSG-069-GIP  
Gas Incident that Occurred at 918 West 5th )  
Street, Newton, Kansas. )

**MOTION TO OPEN DOCKET**

The Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas ("Staff" and "Commission," respectively) files its Motion to Open Docket to request a general investigation to examine various issues surrounding a natural gas incident involving Kansas Gas Service, Inc., A Division of One Gas (KGS). In support of its motion, Staff states as follows:

1. On June 2, 2016, a natural gas fire occurred in an open trench during a construction operation at 918 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Newton, Kansas. The fire injured a contract employee of KGS, who was working on the piping at that time. The injury suffered by the contract employee required hospitalization.

2. Staff drafted its Report and Recommendation on August 23, 2016, a copy of which is attached hereto and hereby incorporated by reference.

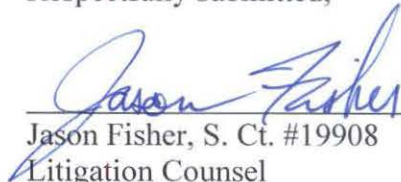
3. The Commission, under the authority of K.S.A. 66-1,150, assumed jurisdiction of safety oversight for all intrastate natural gas pipelines and is annually certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). As part of the certification, PHMSA requires the Commission to investigate natural gas incidents that have resulted in personal injury requiring hospitalization, a fatality, property

damage exceeding \$50,000, and/or other incidents otherwise considered significant by the state agency.

4. The proposed docket will allow Staff to track costs associated with this investigation, report its findings to the Commission, and allow the Commission to rule on any matters pertaining to Staff's investigation and initiate further action as necessary.

**WHEREFORE**, for the reasons stated above, Staff respectfully requests the Commission to issue an order opening a general investigation docket to investigate the gas fire incident that occurred on June 2, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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For Commission Staff

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION  
UTILITIES DIVISION**

**TO:** Chairman Jay Emler  
Commissioner Shari Feist Albrecht  
Commissioner Pat Apple

**FROM:** Leo M. Haynos, Chief of Gas Operations & Pipeline Safety  
Jeff McClanahan, Director of Utilities

**DATE:** August 23, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to Open a General Investigation into the Operations of Kansas Gas Service, Inc., A Division of One Gas, Regarding the Natural Gas Incident that Occurred at 918 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Newton, Kansas

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On June 2, 2016, a natural gas fire occurred in an open trench during a construction operation at the above listed address. The fire injured a contract employee of Kansas Gas Service (KGS) who was working on the piping at that time. Because the fire is related to natural gas escaping from a pipeline operated by KGS, Commission Staff (Staff) is recommending the Commission open a general investigation into the above captioned matter. The proposed Docket will allow Staff to track costs associated with this investigation, report its findings to the Commission, and allow the Commission to rule on any matters pertaining to Staff's investigation and initiate further action as necessary.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act (USC 60101 et seq.) requires all pipelines transporting natural gas to meet minimum safety requirements as promulgated by the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). Under the Act, the State of Kansas is allowed to obtain jurisdiction over intrastate natural gas pipelines provided the state pipeline safety program meets PHMSA certification requirements. The Commission, under the authority of K.S.A. 66-1,150, assumed jurisdiction of safety oversight for all intrastate natural gas pipelines and is annually certified by PHMSA in that role. As part of the certification, PHMSA requires the Commission to investigate natural gas incidents that have resulted in personal injury requiring hospitalization, a fatality, property damage exceeding \$50,000, and/or other incidents otherwise considered significant by the state agency. A

primary objective of the investigation activities is to minimize the possibility of recurrence and to institute enforcement action where noncompliance with the safety standards has occurred.

**ANALYSIS:**

The investigation of Staff into the above described incident has indicated the cause of the fire resulted from gas escaping from a piping connection that was being removed from the natural gas main at the time of the fire. Because of the injuries suffered by the KGS contract employee required hospitalization, the accident meets the definition of a natural gas pipeline incident.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

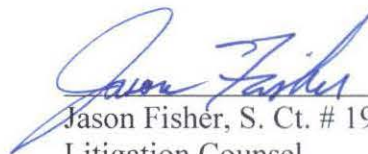
Based on the facts as they are known to date, it appears to Staff that an investigation into this incident is warranted. Therefore, Staff recommends the Commission initiate the above-captioned procedure. The Docket will be used as a means of tracking the costs of Staff's investigation and setting a procedural schedule for discovery and the timely investigation into this matter.



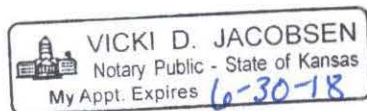
**VERIFICATION**

STATE OF KANSAS                                 )  
  ) ss.  
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE                         )

Jason Fisher, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon his oath deposes and states that he is Litigation Counsel for the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas; that he has read and is familiar with the foregoing *Motion to Open Docket*, and attests that the statements therein are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

  
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Jason Fisher, S. Ct. # 19908  
Litigation Counsel  
The State Corporation Commission  
of the State of Kansas

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 25<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2016.



  
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Notary Public

My Appointment Expires: June 30, 2018

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

17-KGSG-069-GIP

I, the undersigned, certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing Motion to Open Docket was served via electronic service this 25th day of August, 2016, to the following:

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Vicki Jacobsen