

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

In the Matter of the General Investigation Into)
the Operations of Kansas Gas Service, a)
Division of ONE Gas, Inc., Regarding the)
Natural Gas Incident that Occurred at 4505 W.) Docket No. 18-KGSG-120-GIP
91st Street in Prairie Village, Johnson County,)
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, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc. (KGS). In support of its Motion, Staff states as follows:

1. On July 23, 2017, a natural gas release occurred at the residence located at 4505 W. 91st Street within the city limits of Prairie Village. Although there were no injuries associated with the unintentional release of gas, the preliminary estimate of costs associated with the structure fire have exceeded \$50,000. The pipeline on which the leak occurred is operated by KGS. The National Response Center was notified of the incident on July 24, 2017, and this event was assigned Incident Report No. 20170067-16619.

2. The Commission, under the authority of K.S.A. 66-1,150 *et seq.*, 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 investigate natural gas incidents that have resulted in personal injury requiring hospitalization, a fatality, property damage exceeding \$50,000, the release of more than 3,000 MCF of natural gas, and/or other incidents otherwise considered significant by the state agency.

3. Staff has prepared an initial Report and Recommendation providing background information regarding the incident described above, and recommending the Commission open a general investigation regarding the incident. Staff hereby incorporates its September 6, 2017 Report and Recommendation, a copy of which is attached hereto, by reference into its Motion.

4. Based on the facts known at this time and as detailed in Staff's September 6, 2017 Report and Recommendation, Staff believes an investigation into this incident is warranted.

5. 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 issue an order opening a general investigation docket to investigate the July 23, 2017, natural gas incident, described above.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Stephan Lindell Skepnek
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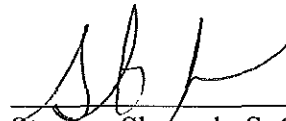
For Commission Staff

VERIFICATION

18-KGSG-120-GIP

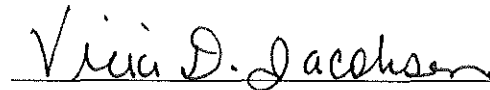
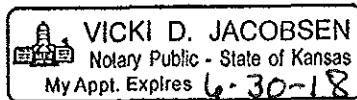
STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE)

Stephan Skepnek, 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.



Stephan Skepnek, S. Ct. # 27337
Litigation Counsel
The State Corporation Commission
of the State of Kansas

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 8th day of September, 2017.


Notary Public

My Appointment Expires: June 30, 2018

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION UTILITIES DIVISION

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

FROM: Dennis Crupper, Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Engineer
Leo M. Haynos, Chief of Gas Operations & Pipeline Safety
Jeff McClanahan, Director of Utilities

DATE: September 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Open a General Investigation into the Operations of Kansas Gas Service Regarding the Natural Gas Incident that Occurred at 4505 W. 91st Street in Prairie Village, Johnson County, Kansas

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On July 23, 2017, a natural gas release occurred at the residence located at 4505 W. 91st Street within the city limits of Prairie Village. Although there were no injuries associated with the unintentional release of natural gas, the preliminary estimate of costs associated with the structure fire have exceeded \$50,000. The pipeline on which the leak occurred is operated by Kansas Gas Service. The National Response Center was notified of the incident on July 24, 2017, and this event was assigned Incident Report No. 20170067- 16619. 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, the release of more than 3,000 MCF of natural gas, 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:

Staff's preliminary investigation into the above described incident has indicated outside force damaged a natural gas meter and resulted in gas escaping to the atmosphere. At some point the gas ignited and the resultant fire caused an estimated \$450,650 of property damage to the single family residence at this location. Because the extent of the property damage associated with the house fire exceeded \$50,000, this event meets the definition of a natural gas pipeline reportable incident. No injuries were noted.

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.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

18-KGSG-120-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 8th day of September, 2017, to the following:

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Vicki Jacobsen