

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) Docket No. 18-KGSG-126-GIP
Natural Gas Incident that Occurred at 4550 SE)
29th Street in Topeka, Shawnee County,)
Kansas.)

MOTION TO OPEN DOCKET

COMES NOW, Staff of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Staff and Commission, respectively), and 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 September 1, 2017, natural gas was released which ignited causing a flash fire at the residence located at 4550 SE 29th Street, Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas. A contract worker of KGS was injured which required hospitalization. The pipeline on which the leak occurred is operated by KGS. The National Response Center was notified of the incident on September 1, 2017, and this event was assigned Incident Report No. 1189057.

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.

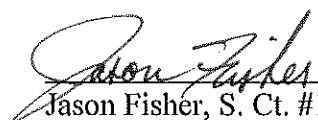
3. Staff has submitted an initial Report and Recommendation, dated September 8, 2017, providing background information regarding the incident described above, and recommending the Commission open a general investigation regarding the incident. Staff hereby incorporates its September 8, 2017 Report and 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 8, 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, 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 September 1, 2017, natural gas incident described above.

Respectfully submitted,



Jason Fisher, S. Ct. #19908
Litigation Counsel
Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, Kansas 66604
(785) 271-3186 (Telephone)
(785) 271-3167 (Facsimile)
j.fisher@kcc.ks.gov (E-mail)


For Commission Staff

VERIFICATION

18-KGSG-126-GIP

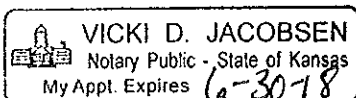
STATE OF KANSAS)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SHAWNEE)


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.



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

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 18th 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 8, 2017

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Open a General Investigation into the Operations of Kansas Gas Service Regarding the Natural Gas Incident that Occurred at 4550 SE 29th Street in Topeka, Kansas, Shawnee County, Kansas

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On September 1, 2017, during a service tap abandonment, natural gas escaped into the atmosphere. This escaping gas ignited causing a flash fire. During this fire, a contract worker to Kansas Gas Service (KGS) was injured and those personal injuries required hospitalization. This pipeline is operated by KGS. The National Response Center was notified of the incident on September 1, 2017, and this situation was assigned Incident Report #1189057. 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, 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 the natural gas service tap abandonment resulted in gas escaping into the atmosphere. At some point, the gas ignited and the resultant fire caused the personal injuries to a contract worker at this location. Because the personal injuries sustained by the worker required hospitalization, this incident meets the definition of a natural gas pipeline reportable incident. Costs associated with this incident, other than medical, are considered nominal.

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.

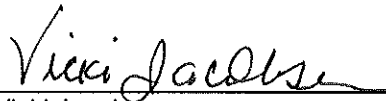
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

18-KGSG-126-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 19th day of September, 2017, to the following:

JAKE FISHER, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604-4027
Fax: 785-271-3354
j.fisher@kcc.ks.gov

JUDY JENKINS, MANAGING ATTORNEY
KANSAS GAS SERVICE, A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC.
7421 W 129TH ST
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213-2713
Fax: 913-319-8622
judy.jenkins@onegas.com



Vicki Jacobsen