

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Missouri Gas Energy,)
a Division of Southern Union Company)
Concerning a Natural Gas Incident at)
910 West 48th Street in Kansas City,)
Missouri.)

Case No. GS-2013-0400

STATUS REPORT

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission (Staff), by and through counsel, and in response to the Commission's *Order Opening File And Directing Filing* (Order), states as follows:

1. On February 27, 2013, the Commission issued its Order directing Staff to investigate the natural gas incident which occurred on February 19, 2013, at JJ's Restaurant at 910 West 48th Street, Kansas City, Missouri, and to file interim progress reports on March 27, April 24, and May 29, 2013, and either a Gas Incident Report or a Status Report no later than June 27, 2013.

2. Staff began its investigation into the natural gas explosion and fire at JJ's Restaurant on February 19, 2013, the day of the incident. Staff's investigation activities have continued since the night of February 19th and its investigation is ongoing. Staff members have spent approximately 70 person-days conducting on-site investigations and interviews. The on-site investigations have been conducted in the presence of over 50 interested parties, making the scheduling of investigations an ongoing challenge.

3. The area surrounding the incident site was secured from the time the site was released by the Kansas City Fire Department on February 20, 2013, until April 4, 2013. Access to the site was blocked by fencing, a construction barrier wall, and locked gates. Two security guards remained on duty 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, with one guard at the east gate and one at the west gate during this time.

4. Detailed examinations both aboveground and underground have been conducted in the area surrounding JJ's Restaurant by outside consultants and observed by Staff. Laser scans have been taken of the area at various stages of the investigation. Detailed drawings of pertinent locations will be created utilizing the data from the laser scans, but this has not been completed. Soil samples were taken at numerous locations to be analyzed and Staff is awaiting results of the analysis of the soil samples. A camera was moved through the sewer system to examine the interior of the sewer in the area of JJ's Restaurant and Staff will view the images of this examination when they are provided. Ground penetrating radar was used in the area of JJ's Restaurant to collect data and to identify unexcavated underground structures. The interpretation of this data has not yet been provided to Staff. Upon its receipt, Staff will need additional time for its analysis.

5. Missouri Gas Energy introduced compressed air into the distribution system in the area of JJ's Restaurant to simulate the operation of the distribution system (flow test) and what was occurring on February 19th prior to the explosion and fire. The air pressure used was equivalent to the pressure that the natural gas system was operating at on February 19, 2013. Also, an inert gas was injected into the compressed air flow and a gas detection instrument was used to detect the presence of the inert gas to identify possible migration paths that the natural gas may have taken. Following the flow test and removal of the damaged segment of main, the remaining main and service lines on 48th Street between Belleview Avenue and Roanoke Parkway were pressure tested.

6. To date Staff has conducted interviews with over 60 individuals as part of its investigation. In addition, information has been requested or obtained from MGE, USIC, the Kansas City Fire Department, the Kansas City Police Department, Heartland Midwest, Missouri One Call Systems Inc., Vermeer, and others. Staff continues to

gather information from a variety of sources making the integration and analysis of that information an ongoing process of Staff's investigation.

7. The on-site investigation is not completed. An additional phase of the investigation has been scheduled for July 2013 to examine the area of the slab of JJ's Restaurant.

8. Staff will draft the Gas Incident Report following the completion of its investigation. However, for reasons discussed above, Staff's investigation requires additional collection of pertinent information and analysis of that information. Staff will make a subsequent filing informing the Commission of a date when Staff believes it can complete its Gas Incident Report. The completed Gas Incident Report will explain in detail the facts of the incident, as well as Staff's analysis, conclusions and recommendations. The focus of Staff's investigation and its resulting Gas Incident Report is to determine whether Missouri Gas Energy was in compliance with applicable Commission regulations.

WHEREFORE, the Staff prays the Commission will accept its Status Report pursuant to the Commission's Order and to allow the Staff to continue conducting its Investigation through the filing of its next Status Report on or by July 26, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robert S. Berlin

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, transmitted by facsimile or electronically served to all counsel of record this 18th day of June, 2013.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin