

**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) **Case No. GS-2013-0400**
910 West 48th Street in Kansas City,)
Missouri.)

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 Directing Staff to Continue Investigation* (Order), states as follows:

1. On February 27, 2013, the Commission issued its *Order Opening File and Directing Filing* which directed 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. On June 26, 2013, the Commission issued an Order directing Staff to continue to investigate the incident and to file a Status Report no later than July 26, 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 conducted their final on-site investigation on July 8 and 9, 2013, in the presence of approximately forty-five (45) interested parties.

3. The area surrounding the incident site has been secured from the time the site was released by the Kansas City Fire Department on February 20, 2013. Access to the site was blocked by fencing, a construction barrier wall, and locked gates.

4. On July 8 and 9, 2013, detailed examinations aboveground were conducted on the slab area of JJ's Restaurant by outside consultants and observed by Staff and the interested parties. JJ's Restaurant has been cleared of all debris including the interior walls. A ground penetrating radar unit was run over the slab area to collect data and to identify underground structures. The interpretation of this data has not yet been provided to Staff. Upon its receipt, Staff will need additional time to analyze this information. Laser scans were also made of the slab area of JJ's Restaurant. Detailed drawings will be created by the consultant utilizing the data from the laser scans, but this has not been completed. Attempts were made by a plumbing contractor to clean out floor drains and insert a camera in the drain lines to examine the interior of the sewer piping under the slab, but these attempts were unsuccessful. A row of concrete blocks adjacent to the floor slab of JJ's Restaurant and along the alley (east side) were removed to examine voids under the east edge of the floor slab.

5. The bore head and locating equipment that were used on February 19th were returned to the site. The operation and capability of the locating equipment to locate the depth of the bore head were tested and verified by the manufacturer of the equipment. A contractor, hired by an interested party, expanded the existing excavation in the alley at West 48th Street (the open excavation exposing the damaged natural gas main) to determine the location of conduits in the area. MGE personnel excavated a valve at Roanoke Parkway and West 48th Street (that had been closed the night of the

incident), removed the valve for examination and verified it was in the closed position. MGE personnel also removed pavement and exposed a valve box at Belleview Avenue and Ward Parkway and partially operated the valve to determine if it was operable.

6. Staff's on-site investigation has now been completed. Staff is waiting on information from MGE. Based on the latest observations, Staff will request information from an interested party and will conduct an interview with personnel from another interested party.

7. Staff will draft the Gas Incident Report following the completion of its investigation and gathering of information. However, for reasons discussed above, Staff's investigation requires additional collection of pertinent information and analysis of that information. Staff remains in contact with MGE personnel and continues to monitor the Company's progress toward collecting and compiling the information Staff has requested from MGE, including the information/drawings (GPS data and images from laser scans) from its consultant. 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, and any applicable State and Federal safety standards.

WHEREFORE, Staff prays the Commission will accept its Status Report pursuant to the Commission's Order and allow the Staff to continue conducting its Investigation through the filing of its next Status Report on or before August 27, 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 24th day of July, 2013.

/s/ Robert S. Berlin