

In the Matter of an Investigation into)
Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.)
Concerning a Natural Gas Incident In)
Branson, Missouri)

STAFF'S STATUS REPORT

1. On March 3, 2025, Staff filed a *Motion to Establish a Case* requesting that the Commission open a file for investigation of a natural gas pipeline incident in Branson, Missouri. The Motion described an incident that occurred on February 24, 2025, in Branson, Missouri, an area served by Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc. (“SNGMO”). A third-party excavator performing pavement cutting struck and damaged the natural gas service line to the Spark by Hilton Branson Meadows hotel located at 263 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway. Natural gas migrated into the hotel and ignited, resulting in an explosion and building fire.

3. Staff performed an initial visit to the incident site location February 24-25, 2025, to observe utility locate markings and discuss the work being performed, events leading up to the incident, and actions taken by SNGMO in response to the incident. At that time, building demolition had not been scheduled, and it was deemed to be unsafe to excavate down to the damaged natural gas service line due to the close proximity to the building. Staff returned to the incident location

on March 3, 2025, to observe SNGMO place additional markers of utility locations, as building demolition had not yet been completed. Staff returned to the incident location on April 2, 2025, to participate in a multi-party examination of the building prior to demolition. To date, Staff has not yet completed its on-site investigation due to pending building demolition.

4. Staff has conducted initial discovery in this matter through data requests, and anticipates that additional discovery may be needed following completion of the on-site phase of the investigation.

5. Following on-site investigation and discovery, Staff will require additional time to review and analyze the information before drafting its investigation report.

6. Staff requests that the Commission direct that the report, or a status report, be filed by August 22, 2025.

WHEREFORE, for the above-stated reasons, Staff respectfully requests the Commission order Staff to file a report regarding its investigation, or a report on the status of Staff's investigation, no later than August 22, 2025, and to grant such other and further relief as the Commission considers just and reasonable under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Scott Stacey

J. Scott Stacey

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**ATTORNEY FOR STAFF OF THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been transmitted by electronic mail to counsel of record this 21st day of May, 2025.

/s/ J. Scott Stacey