



State of Utah

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Public Service Commission

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JOHN S. HARVEY, Ph.D.
Commissioner

June 20, 2023

Mr. Chris Parker
Division of Public Utilities
Heber Wells Building 4th Floor
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

Re: *Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) Incident Reports and Miscellaneous Notifications Filed in 2023; Docket No. 23-999-08*

Dear Mr. Parker:

The Public Service Commission (PSC) appreciates the hard work and enthusiasm demonstrated by the Division of Public Utilities (DPU) and its Pipeline Safety Section in its briefing of June 1, 2023. The briefing was noticed to include “current issues relating to pipeline safety” in Utah and the policy advocacy that occurred during the presentation was relevant to the noticed topic.¹

The PSC requests DPU schedule a follow-up briefing. The PSC is ultimately responsible for natural gas pipeline safety under Utah Code Title 54, Chapter 13. The PSC requests a more in-depth discussion, in a public setting, of the inspections performed by the Pipeline Safety Section, including the number of inspections performed, the types of activities included in those inspections including a discussion of site visits vs. paperwork audits, impressions and results from those inspections, and details relating to any resulting enforcement actions. The PSC requests the primary focus of the briefing include the referenced items.

In addition, the PSC requests a more in-depth discussion of the specific issues on which PHMSA audits the Pipeline Safety Section, and details on the results of those audits in recent years. The PSC invites the Pipeline Safety Section to include any other issues that are directly relevant to the day-to-day work performed by the Section, and

¹ See Public Notice issued on May 5, 2023, in Docket No. 23-999-08.

the results of that work while also requesting that policy advocacy not be the focus of the briefing.

Finally, the PSC requests the briefing be limited to publicly available information. If there is confidential information that should be shared with the PSC, the PSC will schedule a separate meeting. The PSC will contact DPU to arrange a date and time for this follow-up briefing, if necessary.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gary L. Widerburg
PSC Secretary
DW#328464