

LETTER OF CONCERN

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

June 28, 2000

Mr. Ronald W. Stepien
President and C.E.O.
MidAmerican Energy Company
P.O. Box 657
Des Moines, Iowa 50303-0657

CPF No. 3-2000-0001

Dear Mr. Stepien:

On August 2, 1999, the Central Region, Office of Pipeline Safety, received notification from the Iowa Utilities Board, Safety and Engineering Section, that a natural gas service line operated by MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) had been damaged. The report published by the Iowa Utilities Board on November 22, 1999, gave specific information as to the circumstances of the event at the Des Moines International Airport.

The review of the report and discussions with the Iowa Utilities Board representative has revealed an area that is a cause for concern. We hope that you will give the following item your attention:

The subject event appears to this office to have been a "significant" event that would require reporting under Sections 191.5 and 191.9. Although the term "significant" has not been defined in 49 C.F.R. Part 191, certain circumstances should be considered in an operator's definition for reporting purposes. Media coverage, the interruption of interstate commerce transportation, certain public officials present and the number of persons affected are just a few of the circumstances an operator should consider when determining whether an event is significant.

The Office of Pipeline Safety appreciates your attention to this