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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

JUL 17 2012

July 11, 2012

Mr. David Appelbaum
PHMSA Office of Pipeline Safety
East Building – Room E22-321
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Appelbaum:

This will respond to Jeffery D. Wiese's letter, dated June 13, 2012, to the Public Service Commission of Maryland (MDPSC). We share your concerns regarding pipeline safety and the aging infrastructure of the distribution companies that operate within Maryland, and have been actively pressing Maryland's gas distribution companies to accelerate the replacement of cast iron, ductile iron and bare steel mains.

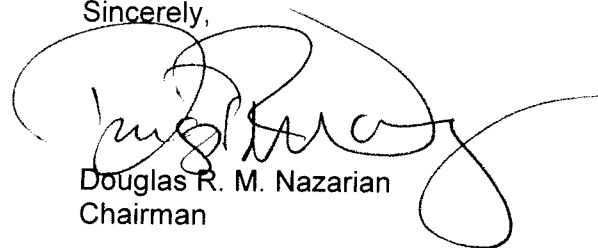
Seven private distribution companies, one municipality and one large propane operator that operate within Maryland. Out of these nine companies, six operators operate a total of 360 miles of bare steel main, 2 miles of ductile iron main and 1,422 miles of cast iron main. In the recent past, at our direction and with our support, these operators have placed a greater emphasis on replacing the bare steel portions of their system. They have triaged these replacements based on risk analysis and the determination that within Maryland bare steel is a greater threat than cast iron. However, that does not mean that they are ignoring their cast iron mains.

In your letter you request information on how the MDPSC is addressing the replacement of cast iron and bare steel gas mains. We have addressed this issue in Maryland through our ongoing review of the companies' pipe replacement programs and by encouraging and supporting programs that accelerate pipe replacement. Four of the private distribution companies and the large propane operator have implemented accelerated replacement plans for their cast iron and bare steel pipe: Baltimore Gas and Electric, Washington Gas Light, Chesapeake Utilities, Columbia Gas of Maryland and Eastern Shore Gas. The table below shows the amount of remaining bare steel and cast iron pipe in the respective companies' distribution system with a tentative timetable for removing the pipe.

Operator	Cast Iron Mileage	Bare Steel Mileage	Length of Plan
Baltimore Gas & Electric	1333	67	Undetermined
Chesapeake Utilities	1.1	40	2017
Columbia Gas of MD	11	101	2029
Eastern Shore Gas	0	4	2018
Easton Utilities	3 (2 miles of ductile iron)	0	Undetermined
Washington Gas Light	74	148	2042

The Public Service Commission would like to express its gratitude for the partnership that it has established with PHMSA's Office of Pipeline Safety, and we look forward to continuing to work with PHMSA to ensure that the nation's and Maryland's pipeline infrastructure remains safe. If you have any questions regarding the information presented in this response feel free to contact me at 410-767-8073 or contact John Clementson at 410-767-8111.

Sincerely,



Douglas R. M. Nazarian
Chairman