

# Infrastructure Replacement Filings

Nebraska Public Service Commission

Laura Demman

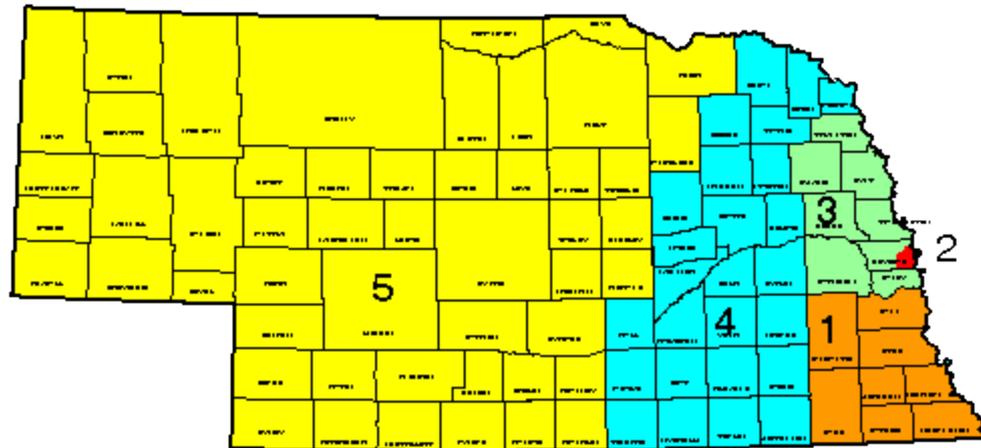
Director, Natural Gas Department

# Nebraska Public Service Commission

- \* 5 Elected Commissioners
- \* Regulate a variety of public services
- \* Office in Lincoln
- \* Executive Branch
- \* Quasi-Legislative, Quasi-Judicial

# Commissioners

- \* District 1: Frank Landis, Jr., Lincoln
- \* District 2: Anne C. Boyle, Omaha
- \* District 3: Tim Schram, Gretna
- \* District 4: Rod Johnson, Sutton
- \* District 5: Jerry Vap, McCook



# PSC Natural Gas Jurisdiction

- \* WHO: Investor-Owned Natural Gas Utilities
  - \* Black Hills
  - \* NorthWestern
  - \* SourceGas
  - \* Exempt: Mid-American, all municipal utilities, interstate pipelines

# PSC Natural Gas Jurisdiction

- \* WHAT: Rates and Service
- \* HOW: Statutes, Rules & Regulations, Contested Cases, Orders
- \* WHY: Monopoly Status
- \* WHEN: Since 2003

# State Fire Marshal's Office & Public Service Commission

- \* Cooperative relationship
- \* Assistance with customer complaints

# PSC Complaint Process

- \* Informal Complaints:
  - \* Cooperative
  - \* Information exchange
  - \* At staff level
- \* Formal Complaints:
  - \* Adversarial
  - \* Parties entitled to a hearing
  - \* Before full Commission

# Example: Informal Complaint



# Infrastructure Replacement Filings

- \* Why: To allow utility to recover costs of system improvements quicker than under ordinary procedures
- \* When: Law took effect in 2010

# Infrastructure Replacement Filings - Eligibility

Jurisdictional utility plant projects means only the following:

- \* “Safety improvements”:

- (a) Mains, valves, service lines, regulator stations, vaults, and other pipeline system components installed to comply with state or federal safety requirements as replacements for existing facilities;

# Infrastructure Replacement Filings - Eligibility

\* “Integrity projects”:

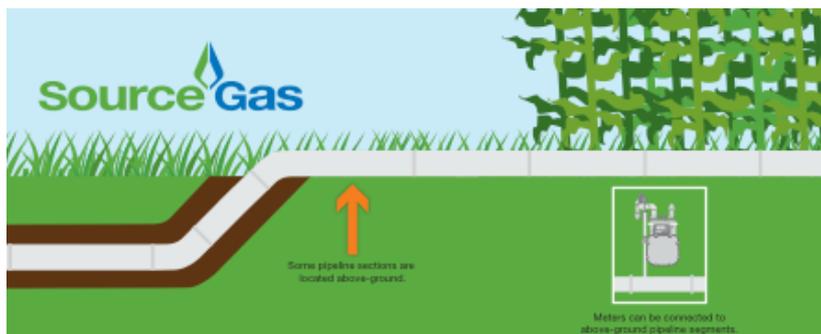
(b) Main relining projects, service line insertion projects, joint encapsulation projects, and other similar projects extending the useful life or enhancing the integrity of pipeline system components undertaken to comply with state or federal safety requirements; and

# Infrastructure Replacement Filings - Eligibility

- \* “Relocations”:

(c) Facility relocations required due to construction or improvement of a highway, road, street, public way, or other public work by or on behalf of the United States, this state, a political subdivision of this state, or another entity having the power of eminent domain, if the costs related to such relocations have not been reimbursed to the jurisdictional utility;

# Example: Top-of-Ground



## SourceGas cares about you and your safety.

Gas pipelines are typically located underground. In some cases, sections of pipeline can be located above the ground. These top-of-ground pipeline segments are generally visible to the eye since the pipe is located either directly on the ground or elevated on structures that support the line. Pipeline markers are located along the general path of the pipeline.



Be aware of top-of-ground pipelines and attached meters near your home or workplace. For your safety and the safety of others, use care when farming, digging or operating equipment, including vehicles, near top-of-ground pipe. Call **811** at least two working days before digging near top-of-ground pipeline to notify SourceGas of your upcoming project.

If you cause even minor damage to a pipeline, state law requires that you notify the pipeline company and/or your local One Call Center so that pipelines and other utility lines can be inspected and repaired if necessary. Remember, even a small disturbance to a pipeline's integrity may cause a future concern.

For more information about our pipelines in your community, including top-of-ground pipe, contact us at **1-800-563-0012** or visit our website at [www.SourceGas.com/safety\\_brochures](http://www.SourceGas.com/safety_brochures).

## Top-of-Ground Pipeline

SourceGas operates natural gas distribution and/or transmission pipelines near your home or work that may be located above-ground. Use care when working or driving near top-of-ground pipe and know the signs of a possible gas pipeline leak.



Signs of a gas leak can include: a "rotten egg" odor (if odorant is added), hissing, whistling or roaring sounds outside near the pipeline or inside near an appliance; dirt spraying into the air; continuous bubbling in a pond or creek; and dead or dying vegetation in an otherwise moist area near the line.

If you smell gas, dent, scrape or hit a pipeline, immediately leave the area, call **9-1-1** and notify SourceGas at **1-800-563-0012**.

Until you are a safe distance away, do not operate any device that might create a spark, including electronics, vehicles, electric switches, doorbells, radios and garage door openers.

# Example: Bare Steel



# Infrastructure Replacement Filings

- \* Who: Two utilities have implemented surcharges, Black Hills and SourceGas
- \* How: Reviewed by Public Advocate
- \* How much: For residential customers, up to \$0.50 per month, which may be increased once per year by an additional \$0.50. For commercial customers, varies by utility.

# SourceGas Filing

- \* Filed March 2013; Effective July 1, 2013
- \* Included 15 groups of projects
- \* Investment of \$4.85 M
- \* Annual Revenue Increase: \$660,000

# Source Gas Filing

Customer Type	Rate
Residential	\$0.50
Small Commercial	\$1.07
Large Commercial	\$6.83

# Black Hills Filing

- \* Filed August 2013; Effective December 1, 2013
- \* Included 356 projects
- \* Investment of \$11.5 M
- \* Annual Revenue Increase: \$1.4 M

# Black Hills Filing

Customer Type	Rate
Residential	\$0.50
Commercial	\$1.48

# Questions?

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