

**BEFORE THE PUBLICSERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of the Amendment of)
Natural Gas Safety Rules)

Case No. GX-2018-0279

STAFF COMMENTS

COMES NOW the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission and states as follows:

Staff supports the proposed rescission of 4 CSR 240-3.270, 3.280, 3.290, and 3.295, and proposed amendments to 4 CSR 240-40.020, 40.030, and 40.080, published in the Missouri Register dated July 16, 2018. The proposed amendments to the Chapter 40 rules include adoption of amendments to the corresponding federal pipeline safety standards that became effective between the previous Missouri adoption of federal amendments in Case No. GX-2016-0263 through September 2017, as well as make minor editorial changes to the Missouri gas safety rules for purposes of clarification and correction. In addition, pursuant to Executive Order 17-03, in the last year Staff has undertaken a review of all of the Commission's rules and identified areas where the Commission's rules could be consolidated, streamlined, or otherwise improved for user-friendliness. The proposed rescissions to the Chapter 3 rules are a result of that process.

As the Commission previously recognized in Case No. GX-2016-0263, federal law requires that the state take measures to adopt each applicable federal pipeline

safety standard within a prescribed period of time.¹ Goals are set for state programs by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and enforcement of those goals is by reductions in federal grant-in-aid funding and the potential loss of federal certification² if those goals are not met.

WHEREFORE, Staff respectfully submits these comments for the Commission's consideration and supports the proposed rescission of 4 CSR 240-3.270, 3.280, 3.290, and 3.295, and proposed amendments to 4 CSR 240-40.020, 40.030, and 40.080.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil

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¹ 49 U.S. Code § 60105 requires, among other things, that the state authority adopt each applicable federal pipeline safety standard by the date of its annual certification, or in the event a standard was established within 120 days before the date of the certification, be taking steps to adopt that standard.

² The Commission's Safety Engineering Department Staff is granted authority to implement the state pipeline safety program by annual certification from the United States Department of Transportation (DOT).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been mailed, hand-delivered, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail to counsel of record this 15th day of August, 2018.

/s/ Jeffrey A. Keevil