



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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December 29, 2014

Mr. Michael Minkos
President
Summit Natural Gas of Maine
442 Civic Center Drive, Suite 100
Augusta, ME 04330 (Via E-Mail and US Mail)

Re: THE INVESTIGATION OF ELECTROFUSION TEES

Dear Mr. Minkos:

On July 11, 2014 I issued a Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV), Docket No. 2014-00221, regarding the failure to follow procedures during the installation of electrofusion tees. The NOPV included conditions requiring the removal of certain electrofusion tees and a testing program for others; including the reporting of the results.

By telephone call of Thursday, December 18, 2014, Mr. Keith Lincoln informed me of two recent situations involving electrofusion tees installed by CCB:

1. A tee blew off the main on Lawrence Avenue in Fairfield as gas was being introduced to the main; and
2. On the following day a tee installation was found to be leaking when a segment of main was being tested in Waterville.

Mr. Lincoln then informed me that SNGME has placed a stop work order on the crew that installed the above noted tee in Fairfield, and SNGME determined that the above noted tee in Waterville was installed by a different crew. He added that this has prompted SNGME to implement an investigation of all tees installed by CCB; 400 tees have been identified.

Beginning Friday, January 2, 2015 please include all excavations for the investigation of tees, installed by CCB, on the weekly operations schedule which is already being provided to us.

Beginning on January 9, 2015 please file reports by the close of business every other Friday, regarding the status of all electrofusion tee investigations. These reports shall include the following, categorized by contractor:

- The location and installation date of each tee subject to investigation;

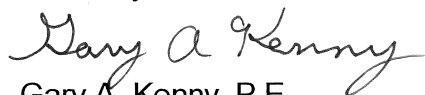
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- The date of each tee's visual inspection;
- The pass or fail results of each tee's visual inspection;
- A description of the reason for any visual inspection failure;
- The status of whether each tee was removed or allowed to remain in place;
- The results of any subsequent testing done any tees and associated facilities removed from service; and
- A description of any other deleterious findings when inspecting and/or testing the tees;

Because there still appear to be tees failing due to workmanship issues, it is evident that the training and qualification, required by the July 11, 2014 NOPV, and SNGME's construction inspection efforts, have been ineffective. By the close of business on Friday, January 16, 2014, please provide a report to include the following:

- Why, after the initial discovery of improperly installed tees, did SNGME's Quality Assurance and Quality Control plan and the inspection process not catch subsequent improper installations;
- Corrective actions to be taken to ensure that all materials are installed in accordance with procedures; and
- A summary of any other systematic investigations SNGME may be conducting regarding other types of fittings, based on findings, and related to specific contractors and/or crews.

Sincerely,



Gary A. Kenny, P.E.
Gas Safety Manager

cc: S. Fitts (via e-mail)
K. Lincoln (via e-mail)
B. Madore (via e-mail)