



Commissioners

KEVIN GUNN
Chairman

JEFF DAVIS

TERRY M. JARRETT

ROBERT S. KENNEY

VACANT

Missouri Public Service Commission

POST OFFICE BOX 360
JEFFERSON CITY MISSOURI 65102
573-751-3234
573-751-1847 (Fax Number)
<http://www.psc.mo.gov>

WESS A. HENDERSON
Director of Administration
and Regulatory Policy

STEVEN C. REED
Secretary/General Counsel

CHERLYN D. VOSS
Director of Regulatory Review

December 9, 2011

TO: Missouri Natural Gas Operators

SUBJECT: Potential Degradation Issues with Driscopipe® 8000 pipe.

Note: Copies are not sent to all operator personnel. Please forward to the appropriate person(s).

There have been reports failures involving Driscopipe® 8000 pipe ranging in size from ½" to 2" diameter that was manufactured between 1979 and 1999. Preliminary analyses of the failures indicate that the deterioration is due to thermal degradation of the pipe; however, it is not known when the pipe was exposed to adverse temperatures (manufacturing, in-service, etc). So far, the reported problems have been limited to pipe installed in Arizona.

Attached is a letter from Performance Pipe discussing frequently asked questions related to this problem, as well as several photographs of the deteriorated pipe.

We wanted to make you aware of this potential problem, and to ask you to provide the following information to us by January 12, 2012:

- Have you received any information about this potential problem from Performance Pipe, Chevron or other pipe manufacturer or supplier?
- Are you aware of any Driscopipe® 8000 pipe installed in your system?
- If you do have any Driscopipe® 8000 pipe in your system, have you had leaks and/or observed this type of problem?

Going forward, please keep records of any leaks on Driscopipe® 8000 pipe and document observations of the pipe condition when exposed.

Because the photographs can be better viewed from the electronic files, we have attempted to email this information to as many operators as we have email addresses for. If you have not received an email and would like one, please provide us with an email address and we will forward electronic copies of the photographs to you as well.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Leonberger
Assistant Manager – Gas Safety/Engineering

RRL:km
Enclosure