

March 13, 2008

TO: Missouri Natural Gas Operators

SUBJECT: Advisory Bulletins ADB-08-02 and ADB-08-03

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

The Federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) has recently issued two Advisory Bulletins numbered ADB-08-02 and ADB-08-03. OPS Staff indicate that the number ADB-08-01 was not used.

1) Advisory Bulletin ADB-08-02: Issues Related to Mechanical Couplings

A copy of the *Federal Register* Notice containing the advisory bulletin is attached. OPS is concerned about failures that have occurred in mechanical couplings in gas distribution systems. The "Supplementary Information" section of the FR Notice updates information provided in ADB-86-02, discusses past mechanical failures that resulted in leaks and incidents, and discusses a report on mechanical couplings that was recently issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas (website link included). The "Advisory Bulletin" section at the end of the FR notice contains seven advisories and recommendations regarding mechanical couplings and leak surveys. In item 7, OPS advises that operators of gas distribution pipelines using mechanical couplings work with regulatory, manufacturer, and industry partners to address issues in their state and region. The Staff would like to discuss any potential issues that Missouri operators have with mechanical couplings and how to resolve them. The Staff also believes that this subject will be addressed further in the upcoming Distribution Integrity Management rule that is to be issued by OPS.

2) Advisory Bulletin ADB-08-03: Dangers of Abnormal Snow and Ice Buildup

A copy of the *Federal Register* Notice containing the advisory bulletin is attached. The Staff is distributing this advisory bulletin for your information at this time. Prior to next winter, please review this advisory bulletin and the regulator icing topic included in past All Operators Letters (January 3, 2007 or January 10, 2006).

If you have any questions concerning any of these topics, please contact me at 573/751-3456.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Leonberger
Assistant Manager – Gas Safety/Engineering

JK; RRL