



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH KEYSTONE BUILDING
400 NORTH STREET, HARRISBURG, PA 17120

BUREAU OF
INVESTIGATION
&
ENFORCEMENT

June 9, 2026

Via Electronic Filing

Matthew L. Homsher, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement v.
UGI Utilities, Inc. - Gas Division
Docket No. C-2026-3061133
I&E Reply to New Matter

Dear Secretary Homsher:

Enclosed for electronic filing please find the Reply of the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement to the New Matter of UGI Utilities, Inc. - Gas Division with regard to the above-referenced proceeding.

Copies have been served on the parties of record in accordance with the Certificate of Service.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Colby B. Widdowson', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Colby B. Widdowson
Prosecutor
Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement
PA Attorney ID No. 326185
(717) 787-2139
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CBW/nb
Enclosure

cc: Per Certificate of Service
Robert Horensky, Manager, Safety Division (via email - rhorensky@pa.gov)
Robert Biggard, Supervisor, Safety Division (via email - rbiggard@pa.gov)
Stephanie Wimer, Deputy Chief Prosecutor, I&E-Enf (via email - stwimer@pa.gov)

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
Complainant	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2026-3061133
	:	
UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division	:	
Respondent	:	

**REPLY OF THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND
ENFORCEMENT TO THE NEW MATTER OF
UGI UTILITIES, INC. – GAS DIVISION**

NOW COMES, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E” or “Complainant”) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) by and through its prosecuting attorneys, and files this Reply to the New Matter of UGI Utilities, Inc. - Gas Division (“UGI Gas,” “UGI” or “Respondent”), pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.63(a). In support thereof, I&E avers as follows:

1. Paragraph 1 re-alleges and reincorporates by reference preceding allegations and requires no response. I&E incorporates by reference its Formal Complaint as though the same were set forth fully herein.

A. Palmer Private Facilities

2. Admitted.
3. Admitted.
4. Denied as stated. While the exact date is not known, however, at some point between 1911 and 1968, the Palmer and Steam lines were installed. See Paragraph 22 of I&E’s Formal Complaint.

5. Denied. I&E is without sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to the non-existence of a record of permitting for the placement of the Palmer lines in the public right-of-way, and the same is therefore denied. Strict proof thereof is demanded at hearing.

6. Admitted.

7. Denied. I&E is without sufficient knowledge to form a belief as to whether there are no known records reflecting the design, construction, installation, and/or maintenance of the Palmer lines and the same are therefore denied. Strict proof thereof is demanded at hearing.

8. Admitted in part and denied in part. Admitted that the Palmer Steam line was corroded and neither the steam line or condensate line were cathodically protected. Denied in that I&E is without sufficient knowledge of the corrosion status of the condensate line. Strict proof thereof is demanded at hearing.

9. Denied as stated. The operation of the Palmer steam line raised the temperature of the surrounding soil, creating a condition in which the pipeline operated in ground temperatures above the typical ground temperatures for that location. Increased ground temperatures are an abnormal operating condition. See Paragraphs 23 and 155 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

B. UGI Gas's Facilities and Inspection and Service of the Same

10. Admitted in that UGI retired the then existing service line on February 16, 2021.

11. Admitted that the service line replaced on February 16, 2021, was 0.5-inch Aldyl-A plastic pipe. By way of further answer the 0.5-inch Aldyl-AAAA was coupled with a 0.5-inch 1982 AMP fitting (flow valve), which was coupled to 0.5-inch Aldyl-A (1982), which was socket fused to the 1982 service-tee with a Delrin insert/cap.

12. Admitted that the February 16, 2021 excavation to renew the service line exposed a subsurface white powder.

13. Admitted in that a Palmer employee notified UGI personnel of the existence of a steam line operating in close proximity to Respondent's facilities. See Paragraph 46 of I&E's Formal Complaint. The remainder of the paragraph is denied, as I&E is without sufficient knowledge to form a belief about the truth of the averments. Strict proof thereof is demanded at hearing.

14. Admitted.

15. Admitted.

16. Admitted that, during the February 16, 2021 service line renewal, the 1982 service tee was leak tested and retired.

17. Admitted. See Paragraph 41 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

18. Denied. The non-leaking steam line elevated the surrounding ground temperatures. The ground temperature does not have to rise above a "max temperature" to cause a deleterious effect on Aldyl-A plastic pipelines. Operating temperature, or ground temperature, of plastic pipelines, including Aldyl-A pipelines, is a physical property that is inherent in the design of the pipeline formula, as it is a critical factor in determining life expectancy, allowable operating pressure, and the susceptibility to slow crack growth. See Paragraphs 106-107 and 116-118 of I&E's Formal Complaint. By way of further answer, heat is not the only deleterious effect emanating from a "heat source;" other potential hazards associated with a heat source include oxidizers, chlorides, and acids.

19. Denied. I&E is without knowledge of UGI's observations of the condition of the 1982 service tee on February 16, 2021. By way of further answer, UGI Gas's procedures, as they existed in 2021, did not detail what makes an Aldyl-A plastic pipeline unsafe per the requirements of 49 CFR § 192.703(b). Thus, the condition of the Aldyl-A service tee when

observed in February of 2021 was never evaluated or documented by UGI using established criteria.

20. Denied as stated. The operation of the Palmer steam line raised the temperature of the surrounding soil, creating a condition in which the pipeline operated in ground temperatures above the typical ground temperatures for that location. Increased ground temperatures are an abnormal operating condition. See Paragraphs 23 and 155 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

21. Denied as stated. UGI did not ensure that its pipeline was installed with sufficient clearance, or insulation, from a known heat source. See Paragraphs 50, 144, 166-167, 169, 184-185, and 187 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

22. Denied as stated. UGI's records were not updated during or after the new service tee was installed and, at the time of the Incident, the electronic facility records were inaccurate in that they indicated inside piping that did not exist, a 2-inch main size when it was one and one-quarter inches, and a steel main when it was plastic. See Paragraphs 48-49 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

23. Admitted. By way of further answer, I&E Exhibit 1 is a demonstrative exhibit, intended to illustrate the position of Buildings 1 and 2 and their orientation as it relates to South 2nd Avenue and Cherry Street.

24. Admitted. By way of further answer see Paragraphs 145-148 of I&E's Formal Complaint. Said operating valves are required to meet the requirements of 49 CFR § 192.181(c) when used in an emergency.

25. Denied. I&E is without sufficient information to form a belief as whether UGI Gas "ensures" that its distribution valves are inspected at some periodicity and strict proof thereof is demanded at hearing. The federal regulation at 49 C.F.R. § 192.747 speaks for itself.

By way of further answer see Paragraphs 145-148 of I&E's Formal Complaint. Said operating valves are required to meet the requirements of 49 CFR § 192.181(c) when used in an emergency.

26. Admitted. By way of further answer see Paragraphs 145-148 of I&E's Formal Complaint. Said operating valves are required to meet the requirements of 49 CFR § 192.181(c) when used in an emergency.

C. Aldyl-A Pipe

27. Admitted in so far as different vintages of Aldyl-A have different properties and associated risks based on the type of resin used in the manufacturing process. See Paragraphs 109-111 of I&E's Formal Complaint. Any characterization of I&E's Formal Complaint is denied as it is a document that speaks for itself.

28. Admitted.

29. Admitted.

30. Denied as stated. On September 6, 2007, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ("PHMSA") issued Advisory Bulletin ADB 07-1, including Delrin insert tapping tees and Plexco Celcon service tee caps in its prior guidance regarding vintage plastic pipe and again advising operators about suspect service conditions. Prior guidance includes PHMSA Advisory Bulletins ADB 99-01, ADB 99-02, and ADB 02-07. Overtightening is suspected and not ruled out as a contributing factor in the failure of the service tee and subsequent explosion based on the condition of the Delrin insert following the Incident. See Paragraph 95 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

31. Denied. The threat posed to vintage plastic pipelines by elevated ground temperatures is not "novel" and has been known and communicated to the industry by PHMSA. The plastic main installed on Cherry Street in 1982 was manufactured in February of 1981. On

March 11, 1999, PHMSA issued Advisory Bulletin ADB 99-02 recommending that all owners and operators of natural gas distribution systems identify all pre-1982 plastic pipe installations, analyze leak histories, and evaluate any conditions that may impose high stresses on the pipe, noting that appropriate remedial action, including replacement, should be taken to mitigate any risks to public safety. On November 26, 2002, PHMSA issued Advisory Bulletin ADB 02-07, which advised about service conditions that could make plastic pipe susceptible to brittle like cracking, such as piping installed in areas with higher ground temperatures. It is well known that plastic pipe degradation is accelerated via heat sources due to heat and other potential hazards associated with a heat source, such as oxidizers, chlorides, and acids. Further, this particular vintage of Aldyl-A piping is more susceptible to degradation accelerated by heat sources, due to its suspect resin and Delrin components.

D. The Incident

32. Admitted.

33. Admitted.

34. Admitted.

35. Admitted.

36. Admitted.

37. Admitted.

38. Admitted.

39. Admitted.

40. Admitted.

41. Denied. I&E is without sufficient knowledge as to the location of UGI Gas field personnel on March 23 and March 24, 2023, when natural gas odors may have been detected.

Strict proof thereof is demanded at hearing.

42. Admitted.

43. Admitted.

44. Denied as stated. I&E is unable to speculate that no individual would have been injured or died as a result of the gas fed fire if evacuation would have occurred.

45. Admitted.

E. UGI Gas's Emergency Response

46. Admitted.

47. Admitted in part and denied in part. Admitted that UGI Gas's first responder arrived at 5:19 p.m. and the affected line was isolated at 6:15 p.m. I&E denies the characterization of the isolation of the affected lines as "prompt." As alleged in I&E's Formal Complaint, had UGI Gas's First Responder consulted with emergency responders, shutting the valve at the intersection of South 2nd Avenue and Cherry Street could have ceased gas flow 40-45 minutes sooner. See Paragraphs 67-85 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

48. Denied. Upon information and belief, UGI Gas's First Responder did not establish contact with on-scene emergency services after arriving. See Paragraph 68 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

49. Denied. As alleged in I&E's Formal Complaint, had UGI Gas's First Responder consulted with emergency responders, shutting the valve at the intersection of South 2nd Avenue and Cherry Street could have ceased gas flow 40-45 minutes sooner. UGI Gas personnel who were not on scene were directing the decision-making of UGI Gas's First Responder without considering input or consulting with first on-scene emergency responders. See Paragraphs 67-85 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

50. Denied. Fire and emergency responders arrived at the scene within minutes of the initial explosion and informed local 911 of the presence of natural gas and a secondary

explosion. Emergency responders observed a gas fed fire coming from the Cherry Street conduits. See Paragraphs 56-57 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

51. Admitted in part and denied in part. Admitted in that the main was isolated via operation of valves at the intersection of South 2nd Avenue and Franklin Street, the intersection of North 3rd Avenue and Penn Avenue, and the intersection of North 4th Avenue and Penn Avenue. Denied in that UGI Gas's First Responder did not consult with emergency responders to determine the safety and feasibility of operating the valve at intersection of South 2nd Avenue and Cherry Street, which could have ceased gas flow approximately 40-45 minutes sooner.

52. Denied. UGI Gas's First Responder did not consult with emergency responders to determine the safety and feasibility of operating the valve at intersection of South 2nd Avenue and Cherry Street, which could have ceased gas flow approximately 40-45 minutes sooner. The valve may have been accessible. See I&E Exhibit 6 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

53. Denied. The valve may have been accessible. See I&E Exhibit 6 of I&E's Formal Complaint. UGI Gas's First Responder did not consult with emergency responders to determine the safety and feasibility of operating the valve.

54. Denied. The valve at the intersection of South 2nd Avenue and Penn Avenue, Valve ID 705178, was not located at the time of the incident because it had been paved over. See Paragraphs 76-77 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

55. Admitted in part and denied in part. Admitted that UGI Gas's on-scene personnel discussed with the SSCM additional valves to be shut off in response to the incident. By way of further Answer, UGI Gas's First Responder did not consult or discuss with first on-scene emergency responders. I&E denies the characterization of the isolation of the affected lines as "prompt." As alleged in I&E's Formal Complaint, had UGI Gas's First Responder consulted with emergency responders, shutting the valve at the intersection of South 2nd Avenue and

Cherry Street could have ceased gas flow 40-45 minutes sooner. Additionally, the valve at the intersection of South 2nd Avenue and Penn Avenue, Valve ID 705178, was paved over and unable to be located by the First Responder. See Paragraphs 67-85 of I&E's Formal Complaint.

56. Denied. Respondent's First Responder did not contact Respondent's Central Dispatch upon arrival on scene and did not establish contact with fire and police on scene. Respondent's emergency plan did not establish written procedures that provide for prompt and effective response, taking necessary actions to minimize hazards of released gas, or making safe any actual or potential hazard, in that Respondent's emergency plan does not provide direction to first responders, or plan accordingly, when the first responder encounters an inaccessible valve that is needed for a prompt and effective response to an explosion.

F. Post-Incident Investigation

57. Admitted. By way of further answer, the National Transportation Safety Board ("NTSB") exercised jurisdictional control of the site on Tuesday March 28, 2023 at approximately 2:00 p.m. Prior to that, I&E Pipeline Safety maintained jurisdiction of UGI's distribution facilities.

58. Admitted. By way of further answer, NTSB exercised jurisdictional control of the site on Tuesday March 28, 2023 at approximately 2:00 p.m. Prior to that, I&E Pipeline Safety maintained jurisdiction of UGI's distribution facilities.

59. Admitted in part and denied in part. Admitted in so far as the existence and leaking of the Palmer steam line contributed to the failure of the Aldyl-A service tee and Delrin insert. Any characterization of the NTSB's findings, as published at NTSB Pipeline Investigation Report (PIR-25-01), are denied. The remainder of Paragraph 59 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a further response is required, I&E denies the allegation that the leaking Palmer steam line was the "sole and proximate" cause

of the failure of the Aldyl-A service tee and Delrin insert. As alleged in I&E's Formal Complaint, Paragraphs 163-199, UGI Gas's failure to follow the minimum safety standards established by its procedures, the Public Utility Code, Commission Regulations, and the Code of Federal Regulations contributed to the failure of the Aldyl-A service tee and Delrin insert, and the Incident as a whole. Any characterization of the failure as "novel" is denied. By way of further answer, I&E incorporates Paragraph 31 of its Reply to New Matter.

G. Affirmative Defenses

60. Paragraph 60 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

61. Paragraph 61 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

62. Paragraph 62 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments and any characterization of the failure as "novel" is denied. By way of further answer, I&E incorporates Paragraph 31 of its Reply to New Matter.

63. Paragraph 63 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

64. Paragraph 64 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. By way of further answer, an operator is required to follow 49 CFR § 192 Subpart P and establish a Distribution Integrity Management Plan, which requires operators to consider reasonably available information to identify existing and potential threats to their pipelines. Any characterization of the failure as "novel" is denied. By way of further answer, I&E incorporates Paragraph 31 of its Reply to New Matter.

65. Paragraph 65 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. Any characterization of I&E's Formal Complaint is denied as it is a document that speaks for itself. Any characterization of the failure as "novel" is denied. By way of further answer, I&E incorporates Paragraph 31 of its Reply to New Matter.

66. Paragraph 66 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. An operator is required to follow 49 CFR § 192 Subpart P and establish a Distribution Integrity Management Plan, which requires operators to consider reasonably available information to identify existing and potential threats to their pipelines. Any characterization of the failure as "novel" is denied. By way of further answer, I&E incorporates Paragraph 31 of its Reply to New Matter.

67. Paragraph 67 is a legal conclusion and a restatement of a Commission regulation to which no response is required. Any characterization of the regulation is denied as, the regulation is a document that speaks for itself.

68. Paragraph 68 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

69. Paragraph 69 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. Any characterization of the 49 C.F.R. Part 192 is denied, as the regulation is a document that speaks for itself. Any characterization of the failure as "novel" is denied. By way of further answer, I&E incorporates Paragraph 31 of its Reply to New Matter.

70. Paragraph 70 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. Any characterization of the Federal Pipeline Safety Act is denied, as the statute is a document that speaks for itself.

71. Paragraph 71 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

72. Paragraph 72 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

73. Paragraph 73 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. Any characterization of the failure as “novel” is denied. By way of further answer, I&E incorporates Paragraph 31 of its Reply to New Matter.

74. Paragraph 74 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

75. Paragraph 75 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

76. Paragraph 76 is a legal conclusion and generally seeks to reserve a right, to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

77. Paragraph 77 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

78. Paragraph 78 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

79. Paragraph 79 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. Any characterization of 66 Pa.C.S. § 3314 is denied, as the statute is a document that speaks for itself.

80. Paragraph 80 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

81. Paragraph 81 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

82. Paragraph 82 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

83. Admitted.

84. Paragraph 84 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. Any characterization of Formal Complaint is denied, as it is a document that speaks for itself.

85. Paragraph 85 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, I&E denies any factual averments.

86. Admitted in part and denied in part. Admitted in so far as the failure of Palmer to safely operate and properly maintain their facilities contributed to the Incident. The remainder of Paragraph 59 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a further response is required, I&E denies the allegation that the failure of Palmer to safely operate and properly maintain their facilities was the “sole and proximate” cause of the Incident. As alleged in I&E’s Formal Complaint, Paragraphs 163-199, UGI Gas’s failure to follow the minimum safety standards established by its procedures, the Public Utility Code, Commission Regulations, and the Code of Federal Regulations contributed to the failure of the Aldyl-A service tee and Delrin insert, and the Incident as a whole.

87. Admitted in part and denied in part. It is admitted that UGI Gas was not notified by Palmer of any odor of gas or possible gas leak. It is denied that UGI Gas had no notice or opportunity to identify the risk of the 1982 Aldyl-A pipeline relative to its unsafe proximity to the Palmer steam line, and to take steps to repair or replace the pipeline.

88. Paragraph 88 is a legal conclusion to which no response is required. To the extent that a further response is required, I&E denies any factual averments. As alleged in I&E's Formal Complaint, Paragraphs 163-199, UGI Gas's failure to follow the minimum safety standards established by its procedures, the Public Utility Code, Commission Regulations, and the Code of Federal Regulations contributed to the failure of the Aldyl-A service tee and Delrin insert, and the Incident as a whole.

89. Paragraph 89 seeks to generally reserve any and all affirmative defenses, to which no response is required.

WHEREFORE, for all the foregoing reasons, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission respectfully requests that, after consideration of the record, the Office of Administrative Law Judge and the Commission deny Respondent's New Matter and request to dismiss the Complaint and find Respondent in violation of each count as set forth in the Complaint.

Respectfully submitted,



Colby Widdowson
Prosecutor
PA Attorney ID No. 326185

Stephanie M. Wimer
Deputy Chief Prosecutor
PA Attorney ID No. 207522

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
Commonwealth Keystone Building
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Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-2139
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Date: June 9, 2026


**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
Complainant	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2026-3061133
	:	
UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division	:	
Respondent	:	

VERIFICATION

I, Christopher Whiteash, Fixed Utility Valuation Engineer, Pipeline Safety Division, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Date: June 9, 2026



Christopher Whiteash
Fixed Utility Valuation Engineer
Pipeline Safety Division
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission,	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
Complainant	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2026-3061133
	:	
UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division	:	
Respondent	:	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served a true copy of the foregoing document upon the parties, listed below, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a party).

Service by Electronic Mail:

Michael Swerling, Esquire
UGI Corporation
500 North Gulph Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406
E-mail: swerlingm@oneugi.com

Garrett P. Lent, Esquire
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Dated: June 9, 2026