

NC
Ohio

**Public Utilities
Commission**

Mike DeWine, Governor
Sam Randazzo, Chairman

Commissioners

M. Beth Trombold
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Dennis P. Deters
Daniel R. Conway

December 6, 2019

19-2140-GA-GPS

Docketing Division
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street, 11th floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: In the Matter of the investigation of Dominion Energy Ohio relative to compliance with the Natural Gas Pipeline safety standards

Dear Docketing Division:

On November 15, 2019, at 12:54 a.m., an incident occurred on a Dominion East Ohio (DEO) operated distribution main. At 28000 Shaker Boulevard, Pepper Pike, Ohio in Cuyahoga County, a recently installed steel main failed, releasing natural gas into the atmosphere that ignited. The pipeline was a 30" steel main, operating at approximately 193 pounds per square inch gauge (psig). The section that failed was bored under the roadway at a depth of 15-25 feet and had been in service for approximately two weeks. Fortunately, because of the time of day and the location of the failure, there were no deaths or injuries.

Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Staff), upon notification, responded to the scene to investigate. The preliminary results of the investigation conclude that a girth weld failure was the cause of the rupture. Further investigation revealed several potential violations of the Gas Pipeline Safety Code contributed to the incident.

Due to the circumstances of the pipeline failure and the severity of the potential violations, Staff is requesting the opening of a Gas Pipeline Safety case, with a purpose code of "Gas Pipeline Safety" (GPS), to formally investigate the cause of the incident. Staff intends to file a report of its findings at the conclusion of its investigation.

Sincerely,



Robert Fadley
Director, Service Monitoring and Enforcement Dept.
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

PUCO

2019 DEC 12 PM 3:01

RECEIVED-DOCKETING DIV.

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician mmm Date Processed 12/12/19

180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

(614) 466-3016
www.PUCO.ohio.gov