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ELECTRIC, GAS, COMMUNICATIONS

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To: Osage Public Officials, Excavator & Contractors and Emergency Responders
From: Osage Municipal Gas Utility
Date: February 12, 2013

RE: Natural Gas Awareness Update for Public Officials, Excavator & Contractors and
Emergency Responders

ACTION: Please complete and return enclosed Form PA-2 no later than March 15, 2013.

The Office of Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration, The Department of Transportation and the Iowa Utilities Board charge OMU to inform several community stakeholder groups on the purpose and reliability of our natural gas distribution system, the potential hazards and prevention measures undertaken by OMU, emergency preparedness communications and how you may obtain additional information.

1. Purpose and reliability of our natural gas distribution system

Osage Municipal operates 28 miles of natural gas pipeline mains and 1,159 services utilizing one Town Border Station connected to Northern Natural Gas transmission pipeline for the delivery of natural gas. All distribution pipelines are made of protected steel or polyethylene plastic. These pipelines reliably and efficiently deliver natural gas throughout our service area for residential, commercial, industrial and utility use.

Natural gas energy is the most popular home heating fuel in America and its pipeline system is among the safest and most secure methods of transporting energy. The National Transportation Safety board has found that pipelines provide the highest level of public safety as compared to other transportation modes: such as trucks, railroads, ships, and airplanes. In addition, pipeline operators are extensively regulated by Federal and State regulations with regard to design, construction, operation, and maintenance.

2. The potential hazards of Natural Gas and Prevention Methods Undertaken by OMU

Like all forms of energy, it must be handled properly. Despite an excellent safety record, a gas leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite. OMU works diligently to ensure pipeline safety through a variety of measures including:

- Iowa One-Call programs
- Damage prevention
- Inspection programs
- Integrity Management
- Design and construction practices
- Operator qualification programs
- Customer education

- Awareness Programs
- Stakeholder education and notifications (Public officials, safety officials, school districts, excavators)
- Industry safety practices and government oversight
- Pipeline markers and facility mapping
- Gas leak surveys
- Patrol of critical gas facilities
- Gas pressure monitoring
- Gas odorization
- Liaison with city, county, state and municipal agencies
- Security measures

3. Emergency preparedness communications

OMU is committed to public safety and environmental protection. If you are a public or emergency official, you know to take whatever steps you deem necessary to safeguard the public in the event of a pipeline emergency. The following suggestions are offered as a guide:

- Protect people first, then property.
- Contact emergency personnel 911 and Osage Municipal Utilities 641-832-3731, after hours 641-732-5831. Emergency personnel know how to control crowds and fires. OMU employees are trained to identify leaks and get them safely shut off.
- Until help arrives:
 - Do not operate equipment, light switches, phone or cell phones or try to air out the area.
 - Secure the area around the leak to a safe distance. This could include evacuations of nearby homes and businesses as well as barricades to control site access.
 - If the pipeline leak is not burning, take steps to prevent ignition. Prohibit smoking, re-route traffic and shut-off electricity.
 - If pipeline leak is burning, try to prevent the spread of fire but do not attempt to extinguish it. Gas vapors could explode when reignited by secondary fires.

4. How you may obtain additional information

Area Emergency Services	9-1-1	
Osage Municipal Utilities		http://osage.net/gas/PublicAwarenessProgram/SafetyMessages
- Business Hours	641-832-3731	
- Emergency after hours	641-732-5831	
The Iowa Utility Board	515-725-7300	http://www.iowa.gov/iub
Iowa One Call	8-1-1 or 800-292-8989	http://www.iowaonecall.com
Common Ground Alliance		http://www.commongroundalliance.com
Pipeline Association for Public Awareness		http://www.pipelineawareness.org
Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration		http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline
Area transmission pipeline maps		http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer

Any additional natural gas safety related information is always free and available at OMU offices.