



Final Report

Agreement No. DTPH56-09-G-PHPT05

City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri

Fire Safety Education & Training Area

City Utilities of Springfield operates a natural gas transmission and distribution system serving over 80,000 customers. During its 64 years of operation, the gas system has maintained an admirable safety record, largely due to the culture of safety that has been encouraged for years. In the 1980's, the Natural Gas Department Manager envisioned a Fire Training Site for use by both City Utilities and neighboring fire departments. This vision became a reality in 1987, and since that time, hundreds of natural gas workers and fire department personnel have received hands-on training in fighting live natural gas fires.

Over the years, this fire training site has served multiple counties and remains one of the few in this region. As a result, we have partnered with numerous natural gas companies and neighboring fire departments to take advantage of this facility. More than twenty years of steady use had generated the need for replacement of fire fighting equipment and for updating portions of the facility.

For the fire training facility, the grant application included:

- Replacement of 30 fire extinguishers, some dating from the 1980's
- Purchase of 10 sets of fire coveralls and helmets, for protection of those being trained
- Paving of part of the site where vegetation intrusion has resulted in expensive maintenance (repeated graveling) and potential safety issues
- Repainting of above-grade piping, along with maintenance of valves and regulators.

Additionally, City Utilities proposed to add a Leak Training Area at the same location as the Fire Training Site. It had long been recognized that the fire training site could easily be expanded to include the incorporation of leak training for natural gas company personnel. Having such a facility could reduce the expense of performing training for

new employees and refresher training for seasoned employees. Leak training is presently accomplished by sending employees to schools located in other states. Having a local training facility enhances the opportunities and decreases the expenses for natural gas leak training.

For the leak training facility, the grant application included:

- The construction of two small buildings, so that training could encompass indoor and underground natural gas leaks
- A stove in one of the buildings, to train on typical appliance leakage
- A field of underground piping with known leak locations, making it possible to determine how well the trainee is grasping the concept of leak pinpointing
- Installation of a simulated sewer manhole to demonstrate the complex nature of natural gas migration

All proposed work on both the fire fighting and leak training facilities was completed as described in the grant application by the prescribed completion date of December 31, 2009. Attached to this report are pictures depicting portions of the final work product. The total cost of all work was \$46,988.08. The charges in excess of the grant amount are being absorbed by City Utilities. Form SF-425 and a cost categorization report accompany this report as separate documents.

All buried piping was polyethylene and was installed with locator wires. This allowed the site to perform an additional purpose as an underground line locating training facility. This will be a useful training site for company personnel as well as our locating contractor.

Schedules are currently in development for conducting training exercises for company employees and for coordinated training exercises with local fire departments. The site will also be advertised with the state natural gas operator association as being available as a training site for other natural gas operators.

City Utilities remains committed to maintaining the safety of the public we serve and the safety of our employees who provide that service. We further commit to working together with our partners in public safety, whether they be neighboring natural gas companies or neighboring fire departments, so that the safety of our communities can extend far beyond the limits of our own service area. The investment that has been made in these training facilities will enable City Utilities to fulfill these commitments.



Valve manifold (gray) for controlling gas flow to leak training area



Foreground: Control valve for fire training sites
Background: Fire training sites with new concrete pads



New building used for inside leak training and outdoor gas light connected to an underground leak training service line



New building used for foundation leak training and water meter pit (lower right) for underground leak training