

On Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at approximately 11:45am, Atmos Energy employee Jamie McKenzie, Vice – President Operations, notified Rickey Cotton, MPSC Pipeline Safety Director, of a house fire with injuries. At the time of the in-person notification, Atmos was not calling the fire a natural gas event. I asked Atmos to keep me informed as they continued their investigation to determine if this was a natural gas incident. Later that evening it was reported that a death was involved. As of January 24, 2024, at 5:31pm, Atmos was not calling this a definite natural gas incident. However, Atmos had shut the gas to Bristol Blvd and offered hotels to the residents.

MPSC Pipeline Safety staff arrived on the incident site on January 25, 2024, at approximately 9:30am. Employees on-site were Director Rickey Cotton, and Investigators Kaleb Gibson and Joyce Beal. Upon arrival we made contact with the Atmos representative on-site for a briefing. Afterward, we started photo documentation of the site. The photos were uploaded into the Kiteworks system. Excavation to expose the pipe in front of 185 Bristol Blvd started at approximately 2:00pm. We witnessed Atmos cutting the pipe to prepare for pressure testing. The cap was welded at approximately 3:15pm. At 4:33pm, the pressure test did not hold. We also witnessed the pressure test of the main in front of 175 Bristol Blvd. It held. The main was tested at 35psi.

Air pressure was introduced to an approximately 50ft section of main starting on the south side of the driveway at 175 Bristol Blvd, testing the section of pipe in front of 185 Bristol Blvd. The testing took place on January 25, 2024, at 4:33pm. The pressure did not hold. We have uploaded a video in Kiteworks showing the bubbles in the mud and water. As a result of the failed pressure test, more excavation and testing were required to pinpoint the exact failure location. After approximately 30 more minutes of excavation, the site was secured for the night.

On Friday, January 26, 2024, at 10:00am, Director Rickey Cotton and Investigators Joyce Beal and Kaleb Gibson met at the Atmos Energy office in Jackson, MS, to review records and procedures pertaining to the incident. We reviewed leak surveys, leak calls, leak repairs, leaks outstanding, leak procedures, leak grading, locate ticket history, advanced leak detection survey, mechanical fitting failures, calibration of equipment, and odorization records. This list of items reviewed is not all inclusive as the review of records and procedures is ongoing.

At approximately 2:00pm, we continued our field investigation at Bristol Blvd. Upon arrival, the welder was preparing the pipe for testing. Some sections of pipe had been cut out before we arrived. Photos of the sections removed, including the failed coupling, have been uploaded to the Kiteworks system. We witnessed documentation of the chain of custody of the section of removed pipe, fitting and meter.

Saturday, January 27, 2024, at approximately 8:00am, Atmos Energy reported by phone, an explosion at 1146 Shalimar St in Jackson, MS. They reported the explosion and damage to the house next door. Both houses were vacant at the time of the incident. I arrived at the Shalimar site at approximately 8:40am and reported to the Atmos personnel on-site for briefing. At that time, I requested two more MPSC investigators to assist in the incident investigation. At approximately 9:00am, I started photo documentation of the incident site. The photos have been uploaded into the Kiteworks system. The following people were interviewed on January 27, 2024, Patrelle Jackson of [REDACTED], Nathan Lowe of [REDACTED] and Martel Jackson of [REDACTED]. Notes from the interviews have been uploaded to the Kiteworks system.

At approximately 2:15pm, Investigator Joyce Beal and I returned to the Bristol site. We were allowed to enter the structure for more investigation and photos. At 4:42pm we interviewed George Johnson, a resident of [REDACTED]. The interview notes have been uploaded into the Kiteworks system. As we were interviewing Mr. Johnson, NTSB representative Dane Spillers arrived at the Bristol site. At that

time, introductions were made, and briefing began. NTSB was now officially in charge of the investigation. The MPSC is continuing to investigate these incidents and will share any new developments as they occur. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us.

Rickey Cotton, Director of Pipeline Safety  
Mississippi Public Service Commission