



CITIZENS AGAINST UTILITY ABUSE

Press Release

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GAS LINE EXPLOSION DANGER!

Violations of state, federal and PUC Regulations by Xcel Energy increase risk of gas line explosions. Threat in Marshal Fire Area is particularly acute.

The threat to public safety is at the heart of a complaint against Xcel filed with the PUC by watchdog group Citizens Against Utility Abuse (CAUA)

(Denver) In a complaint filed with the Public Utilities Commission, Citizens Against Utility Abuse (CAUA) accused Xcel Energy of engaging in “blatant and serial violations of regulations, industry standards and Public Utilities Commission (PUC) mandated oversight”, endangering the citizens of Colorado.

The complaint details those violations and other actions by Xcel that create an environment of danger for Coloradans.

Gas pipeline explosions, like the Jefferson County Stags Leap Trail residential explosion resulting in fatalities remain a threat if regulations designed to prevent them are circumvented.

Profits over safety

The complaint stated that Xcel’s actions clearly put residents of Colorado at greater risk of natural gas explosions and electrical fire dangers in order to increase profitability for the company.

Xcel has faced a variety of major financial issues: It has experienced a major decline in its stock valuation, a 32% decline in value; It faces lawsuits filed by 124 insurance companies totaling more than \$2 billion in relation to the Marshal Fire, while having only \$500 million in insurance protection. It greatly

expanded the salaries and bonuses of its management staff, creating even greater burdens on its financial outlook. A clear example of this is the salary of its new CEO. His current hourly pay is \$2,665 per hour which he receives 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

In an attempt to repair company finances, Xcel has engaged in a number of management changes to increase profitability. Xcel is mandated by the State of Colorado to follow national labor standards to guide the operation of their electrical and gas business. Recently Xcel has abandoned those standards to cut costs and are now using unsafe labor practices. Shifting job responsibilities and employing outside contracts, Xcel can “get the work done” while driving the company’s costs down. Hence, Xcel achieves higher profitability.

Xcel is creating major dangers to the public in order to increase profitability for the company.