



**Press Release**  
**February 14, 2024**

## **OPC Urges PSC to Open Investigation Into WGL's ProjectPipes Over Gas Leak Safety, Cost and Environmental Concerns**

Washington, D.C. - The Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) has filed a petition with the DC Public Service Commission (PSC) requesting an investigation into Washington Gas Light's (WGL) pipeline distribution system or infrastructure. This petition is a response to mounting concerns raised by consumers and stakeholders about the effectiveness of PROJECTpipes and the increasing number of Grade 1 leaks, which pose significant risks to public safety and environmental sustainability. The petition can be [viewed here](#).

PROJECTpipes is WGL's multi-year effort to repair or replace portions of its natural gas delivery system. In the 3-year plan just ended, the company was scheduled to spend \$150 million, but the company proposes to spend \$671.8 million over the next 5 years, with consumers footing the bill through rates.

OPC's petition is supported by a letter received from the Council of the District of Columbia to the PSC expressing apprehension about PROJECTpipes, citing its inconsistency with the city's ambitious climate goals. Additionally, a recent report from Washington Gas revealed a troubling trend: Grade 1 leaks are on the rise. A Grade 1 leak refers to a hazardous leak that presents an immediate or probable hazard to persons or property and requires immediate repair.

"A comprehensive investigation into Washington Gas' infrastructure is imperative to address these pressing concerns," said People's Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye. "OPC believes the investigation should provide a comprehensive understanding of the problem, encompassing detection methods, repair protocols, geographic distribution, root causes, and environmental impact of natural gas leaks. By delving into these critical aspects, the findings will serve as a foundation for developing informed strategies, policies, and initiatives that prioritize public safety and environmental sustainability in the District's urban landscape," said the People's Counsel.

The Office of the People's Counsel is committed to advocating for the interests

of District utility consumers. With safety and environmental sustainability at the forefront, OPC urges the Public Service Commission to swiftly initiate this investigation to ensure the well-being of our communities and the preservation of our environment.

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