

**Response to Formal Case No. 977
Gas Leaks Reporting Requirements
Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia**

**Statement of Edward Segal
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Good afternoon. My name is Edward Segal. I live in Georgetown and maintain the GeorgetownGasLeaks.com website and the DC Gas Leaks blog. Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you again.

In February I spoke about the failure of Washington Gas Light to notify the public about the number, nature, danger level, and repair of the thousands of gas leaks we've had across the city.

The only thing that has changed since February is that we've had at least a dozen more gas leaks in my neighborhood. The most recent one was yesterday. This brought the unofficial total of gas leaks in Georgetown since 2016 to at least 140. Across the city there have been more than 4,000 gas leaks. Most of them have been the most dangerous kind — Grade 1.

Everything else remains the same.

Despite the potential danger posed by Grade 1 leaks, Washington Gas continues to keep the public in the dark about these potential hazards.

The Washington Gas website continues to urge people who smell natural gas to leave the area, move to a safe location, and not to use appliances, lights, or motor vehicles.

But what about all the people they leave behind in their neighborhoods? Why doesn't Washington Gas or the DC government immediately alert them to the danger and tell them how to stay safe? Neither I or anyone in my community has been told to leave the area because of any of the dozens of gas leaks that have been reported and confirmed.

Washington Gas should stop keeping us in the dark. They should immediately share with the public the same information about natural gas leaks and repairs that they are required to report to the DC government. That important information should be easily available through an interactive online map, social media, and other communication tools.

Homeowners should be told about the age, condition, and safety status of the gas pipelines that are adjacent to their properties.

If Washington Gas won't provide full daily public disclosure about natural gas leaks and repairs in our neighborhoods, then the DC government should.

We deserve to have confidence and peace of mind about the potential dangers to our safety that are hidden beneath our streets. We certainly do not have it now.

Thank you.