



THE CITY OF WICHITA

DATE September 24, 1990

OFFICE OF Construction Engineer

TO Jim Armour, Construction Engineer

FROM Tony DeCicco Construction Engineer

SUBJECT

I have looked at the driveways on the south side of Bayley a couple of times. There are two lines that lay in the south parking - one is a gas line (3 1/2'-4' S. of the curb) and the other is a water line (6 1/2'-7' S. of the curb). The majority of the driveway crack falls between the two lines. The water line was laid in an open trench and backfilled prior to the driveways being built. The gas line was installed by "punching" the line under the drives and open cutting between them. After I looked at the drives I asked Boom to look at them too since KPL was involved. He told me he didn't believe KPL was responsible due to all the heavy equipment he had seen in the area in the past. (I've attached the memo he sent me.) Gene sent me a memo asking Eldon and I to investigate further. After KPL located their line, I made the drawing of the gas line, water line and driveway cracks provided. A few things I saw should be mentioned.

1. There is no settlement of the water line trench between the driveways. (Note: In one area gas line excavation on both sides of the approach can be seen.)
2. All the houses have been built on fill. (I assume from basement excavation or fill material brought in after the drive approaches were constructed.
3. A good portion of the 4" sidewalk built at the same time as the driveways has been replaced. Most of the original walk that has not been replaced is broken.
4. Heavy equipment (i.e., backhoes, dump trucks, concrete trucks, moving trucks (furniture & equipment) delivery trucks, etc.) have probably used the drive approaches for access.
5. All the driveway approaches were 6" unreinforced.

When a driveway cracks due to trench settlement it is usually obvious. Driveways that crack due to overloading or pushing lines under them are not as obvious. Pushing lines under concrete can cause cracks (as seen in many curb cracks around town), KPL may be partly at fault here. The upward pressure of the gas line being forced under the drive may either crack the approach or create a small void under it. However, the majority of the damage in this area appears to me to be a result of excessive loading.

Michael E. Lindelak, P.E.  
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Engineering Division  
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Mr. Lindelak:

Response to your letter of October 19, 1990.

- 1) Yes, I did request the installation of approaches on Boyley Street.
- 2) Yes, there are numerous approaches cracked and broken.
- 3) I can prove that the cracked approaches were evident before most home construction was started.
- 4) It is not my responsibility as developer to obtain a permit when K.P.L. installs gas lines.
- 5) I have my doubts if the pattern of cracks was caused by K.P.L.
- 6) I do know that the city specifications to the contractor installing sewer lines did not require sand fill.
- 7) I do know that the drains were installed by a contractor approved by the City and supposedly to City specs. Perhaps the City selected contractor did a poor installation.
- 8) I do know that I did not select the contractor to install sewer and streets.

- 8) Perhaps city engineering were not adequate.
- 9) It is my understanding that the city selected contractors are bonded.
- 10) You are right, the poor quality of the original approach is a reflection upon the city. Since I had no control over the supervisor of your selected contractor, the responsibility of repair rests with you.
- 11) The city should schedule a remedial plan of action to correct the work by their selected contractors.
- 12) After all, the city took the responsibility to see that their job was done correctly and it now appears the buck is being passed.
- 13) It is probably time to dig a trench in the right of way to show what is causing the approach breakdown.

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Response to your letter of August 23, 1991.

- 1) I did not build the West home. A. J. Sanies did. Mr. Sanies could probably tell you if he demolished the sidewalk. However we did agree to fix the sidewalk next door to the east (Cross) and it is scheduled in the near future.
- 2) I have never talked to Mrs. West, she certainly hasn't called me - perhaps she could call A. J. Sanies.

It is to bad that the city  
doent put a little pressure on the  
real culprit. Plain and simple - a  
poor job.

Best regards  
W. Sweet Valley