

# CITY OF OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK

CITY HALL • 330 FORD STREET • OGDENSBURG, NY 13669 • (315) 393-6100



Office of the City Manager

## MEMORANDUM

MEMO TO: City Council  
FROM: Sarah Purdy, City Manager *SP*  
DATE: May 6, 2016  
SUBJECT: Update 16/17

1. **Council Meeting Date Change** – Please note that the May 23, 2016 Council meeting has been changed to *Thursday, May 26, 2016*. This information has been changed on the City website and City Facebook page.

2. **Department of Public Works Updates**

WWTP Update

- DANC Agreement – Agreement will commence upon successful hire by DANC. DANC has offered a promising candidate the position and have a verbal acceptance. Looking at starting the week of May 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Waiting on State CSC to offer 4A test.
- WWTP Fund Opportunities – C2AE has submitted our second round grant application. We have received an acknowledgment that the application has been received.
- We are testing a sludge press this week. Another company will be looked at the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Equipment

- Box and subframe failure on 401. Box predates 1995, but 401 is a 2003. We are looking at the cost of a replacement box. We have one estimate at this time of about \$14,000.

Staff

- Looking at summer hires. Will provide a list as soon as I have the candidates finalized.

Road Cuts

- Waiting on availability of hot mix, maybe later this week.

Paving / Milling / Streets

- First round of milling this year will take place the week of June 6<sup>th</sup>. The second round is tentative scheduled for August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Quick quotes went out for contracted paving. They are due by next Friday – May 13<sup>th</sup>. We are planning on paving the first round between July 11<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> so we are done before the Seaway Festival.
- We are trying to identify and address sign issues. Replacing worn and missing signs.
- Street cleaning is moving forward with most of the City being hit at least once.

Sidewalks

- Unit 7 is working on project list.
  - Started work on CHIPs related radiuses.

Unit “6”

- Scheduled to start manhole and drop repairs.
- Performing water and sewer services as they arise.

#### Brush Pickup

- Spring cleanup is in process and will run through the last full week of May. The first complete round of the City should be completed no later than Friday.
- Weekly program starts the first Monday in June.

#### Paterson St

- Punch List work has been suspended until the End of May. Final touch ups will be completed at that time.
- Dunkin Donut sewer lateral will be repaired on Friday.
- NYS DOT drainage near Burger King is still under design and conversation.

#### Solar Array

- Construction has resumed. Contractor is moving ahead slowly.

#### Storm Drops / Cleaning Sewer Mains

- Spring flushing of mains has been completed.
- Crew is working on cleaning drops.

#### Mowing / Trimming

- We are prepared to start as situations present themselves.

#### Filters

- Next filters are scheduled for 5-13-16.

#### Misc.

- Park Plaza property has been cleaned up. We will be providing some finishing touches when things dry up.

### 3. **Fire Department Updates**

- Department continues to inspect and re-inspect businesses with NYS Property Maintenance and Fire Code.
- All OFD Code Enforcement Officers have completed the 9-hour code update and 24-hour annual in-service mandated by New York State.
- Assisting all commercial and public assemblies with complying with new NYS Law mandating carbon monoxide detectors.
- Department will be purchasing 7 new sets of turnout gear this week with the 2015 FEMA Assistant to Firefighter's grant. Department matches 5% (\$818.00). Federal funds awarded \$16,366.00.
- Captain Charles Irvine is in his final week at First Line Officer Training at Fort Totten, NY that is being presented by FDNY NYS Mandatory Training. He will be graduating May 6, 2016 as a NYS and National Fire Instructor 1 and NYS Fire Officer 1.
- Recruit Tim Stevenson participated in his 10<sup>th</sup> week at recruit school in Montour Falls, NY. He will be taking Firefighter 1 and 2, NYS and National tests which are NYS mandatory to complete and pass as a certified NYS Firefighter.
- All OFD members are being trained in administering epinephrine. This will cut costs by not having to purchase very expensive epipens.
- Annual inspections for assemblies will be scheduled within the next few months.
- OFD members constructed 15 picnic tables on May 4, 2016 to replace damaged picnic tables in the city parks.

### 4. **Assessment Department Update** – Please see attached memo from Bruce Green regarding the re-assessment of the Proctor Avenue area.

5. **Cash Flow, Sales Tax, and Health Care Costs Reports for April** – Please find attached these two reports from Phil Cosmo.
6. **NYS Public Service Commission Hearing, Ag Energy** - The PSC hearing Wednesday evening on AG-Energy's petition to restart electric energy generation went well. A handful of people were there, including Mayor Ashley, former City Manager and current IDA staff member John Pinkerton, and me. On behalf of the IDA John spoke in favor of the petition and on behalf of the City I spoke in favor of it. Councilor Skamperle's letter was acknowledged. There were no comments in opposition to the request. It is Ag-Energy's hope to have the turbines in place by the end of this year.
7. **NYS Public Service Commission Hearing, St. Lawrence Gas** – Please find attached a notification of a public hearing regarding a proposed 3-year rate plan and authorization to renew two natural gas franchises. Please see the attached documentation for more information.

## **Council Update - Assessment Department**

5/5/2016

The Assessment Department is posting final values for the 2016 Tentative Assessment Roll. As you recall we had to do a neighborhood reassessment in Proctor Ave. area and surrounding streets. This area is all the property off the waterfront. The waterfront neighborhood was reviewed but not assessed this year since there have been so few sales, no sales in the past 4 years. As opposed to neighborhood 145 (Proctor Ave. area) which has had over 20 sales in the past 3 years alone.

The city has been at 100% assessment (equalization rate) for years. In order to stay at this, periodic reassessments are conducted to readjust assessed values. A reassessment is conducted when the ratio of the assessed value of sale properties and their selling price become 'off'. An area becomes 'off' or out of balance, when there are properties sales higher than their current assessment. This neighborhood was last been done 9 years ago.

This year there are some big increases in assessments. In some individual cases property values are increasing over \$50,000.

I will give a presentation at Monday's council meeting, to discuss this reassessment further.

Bruce Green

# Memo

To: City Manager  
From: Phil Cosmo  
Date: 5/3/2016  
Re: Sales Tax and Health Care Cost for the month of April 2016

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Attached are the sales tax and health care numbers for year-to-date through April 2016.

Our sales tax numbers continue to lag behind 2015. As of the end of April we are \$38,000 behind the same period in 2015. We will continue to monitor these numbers going forward. There is a little bit of good news in that the Canadian dollar does seem to be rebounding a bit.

Health insurance cost continue to increase. Although the month of April was a good month of us. We ended April \$200,000 less that the same month in 2015.

Let me know if you have any questions.

CITY OF OGDENSBURG SALES TAX RECEIPTS							
				RUNNING	RUNNING	DOLLAR	%
		2015	2016	TOTAL	TOTAL	CHANGE	DIFF
MONTH				2015	2016		
JANUARY		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
FEBRUARY		\$239,026.96	\$235,277.44				
		\$56,651.57	\$58,494.82				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$295,678.53	\$293,772.26	-\$1,906.27	99%
MARCH		\$198,030.41	\$196,677.73				
		\$44,768.00	\$37,090.71				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$538,476.94	\$527,540.70	-\$10,936.24	98%
APRIL		\$226,575.68	\$226,376.86				
		\$70,336.39	\$43,155.37				
		\$0.00	\$8.36	\$835,389.01	\$797,081.29	-\$38,307.72	95%
MAY		\$228,620.17	\$0.00				
		\$58,520.73	\$0.00				
		\$1.13	\$0.00	\$1,122,531.04	\$797,081.29	-\$325,449.75	71%
JUNE		\$229,772.74	\$0.00				
		\$51,143.20	\$0.00				
		\$116,387.99	\$0.00				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,519,834.97	\$797,081.29	-\$722,753.68	52%
JULY		\$134,795.96	\$0.00				
		\$84,118.91	\$0.00				
		\$6.50	\$0.00				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,738,756.34	\$797,081.29	-\$941,675.05	46%
AUGUST		\$243,104.81	\$0.00				
		\$72,593.38	\$0.00				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,054,454.53	\$797,081.29	-\$1,257,373.24	39%
SEPTEMBER		\$237,086.49	\$0.00				
		\$50,889.48	\$0.00				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,342,430.50	\$797,081.29	-\$1,545,349.21	34%
OCTOBER		\$247,929.35	\$0.00				
		\$56,024.63	\$0.00				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,646,384.48	\$797,081.29	-\$1,849,303.19	30%
NOVEMBER		\$230,675.55	\$0.00				
		\$45,031.92	\$0.00				
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,922,091.95	\$797,081.29	-\$2,125,010.66	27%
DECEMBER		\$226,826.47	\$0.00				
		\$54,434.80	\$0.00				
		\$0.00	\$0.00				
		\$106,088.17	\$0.00				
		\$138,777.68	\$0.00				
		\$88,508.29	\$0.00	\$3,536,727.36	\$797,081.29	-\$2,739,646.07	23%
TOTALS		\$3,536,727.36	\$797,081.29				
PERCENTAGE OF PRIOR YEAR		97.28%	22.54%				
BUDGET FOR YEAR		\$3,597,000.00	\$3,704,910.00				
DIFFERENCE		(\$60,272.64)	(\$2,907,828.71)				
PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET		98.32%	21.51%				
* EFFECTIVE 1/1/01 THE CITY WILL RECEIVE 6.437389 OF THE TOTAL RECEIVED BY ST. LAW. COUNTY							
** PAYMENT ON LAST RECEIPT FOR 2002 WAS \$50,132.61 FROM COUNTY AND \$18,073.60 FROM STATE.							
***PAYMENT ON LAST RECEIPT FOR 2003 WAS \$47,930.53 FROM COUNTY AND \$2,635.03 FROM NY STATE.							
****EFFECTIVE 12/1/2013 THE SALES TAX RATE FOR ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY WAS RAISED TO 4%.							

CITY OF OGDENSBURG							
HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS							
		ACTUAL	ACTUAL	RUNNING	RUNNING	DIFF	%
MONTH		2015	2016	TOTAL	TOTAL		DIFF
				2015	2016		
JANUARY		\$235,223.98	\$342,873.16	\$235,223.98	\$342,873.16	\$107,649.18	146%
FEBRUARY		\$168,689.67	\$241,608.01	\$403,913.65	\$584,481.17	\$180,567.52	145%
MARCH		\$147,805.33	\$249,483.41	\$551,718.98	\$833,964.58	\$282,245.60	151%
APRIL		\$394,769.00	\$191,111.04	\$946,487.98	\$1,025,075.62	\$78,587.64	108%
MAY		\$306,398.89		\$1,252,886.87	\$1,025,075.62	-\$227,811.25	82%
JUNE		\$260,962.43		\$1,513,849.30	\$1,025,075.62	-\$488,773.68	68%
JULY		\$233,498.44		\$1,747,347.74	\$1,025,075.62	-\$722,272.12	59%
AUGUST		\$276,146.20		\$2,023,493.94	\$1,025,075.62	-\$998,418.32	51%
SEPTEMBER		\$240,075.18		\$2,263,569.12	\$1,025,075.62	-\$1,238,493.50	45%
OCTOBER		\$313,494.12		\$2,577,063.24	\$1,025,075.62	-\$1,551,987.62	40%
NOVEMBER		\$172,144.43		\$2,749,207.67	\$1,025,075.62	-\$1,724,132.05	37%
DECEMBER		\$270,662.53		\$3,019,870.20	\$1,025,075.62	-\$1,994,794.58	34%
TOTALS		\$3,019,870.20	\$1,025,075.62				
% OF PRIOR YEAR		108.32%	33.94%				
BUDGET		\$2,950,000	\$3,016,298				
% OF BUDGET		102.37%	33.98%				
DIFFERENCE		-\$69,870	\$1,991,222				
AVERAGE							
MONTHLY COST		\$251,655.85	\$256,268.91				
*** In 2008 the City switched Third Party Administrators from APA to POMCO. In January the only activity was the payments from retirees to the City.							
The monthly totals are net of payments from retirees and others.							







**Department of  
Public Service**

**Public Service Commission**  
**Audrey Zibelman**  
Chair

**Patricia L. Acampora**  
**Gregg C. Sayre**  
**Diane X. Burman**  
Commissioners

**Kimberly A. Harriman**  
General Counsel  
**Kathleen H. Burgess**  
Secretary

**Office Locations**

3 Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350  
90 Church Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10007-2929  
295 Main Street, Suite 1050, Buffalo, NY 14203-2508  
125 East Bethpage Road, Plainview, NY 11803

[www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov)

May 2, 2016

Dear Community Leader/Elected Official:

The New York State Public Service Commission is holding public statement hearings on several cases regarding St. Lawrence Gas Company's service. The Company, together with the Department of Public Service and various other stakeholders, has signed a Joint Proposal seeking Commission approval of a three year rate plan which would begin on June 1, 2016. In addition, the Company is seeking authorization to renew two natural gas franchises in St. Lawrence County; one in the Town of DeKalb and another in the Village of Heuvelton, located in the Town of Oswegatchie.

The Commission is sponsoring the public statement hearings to solicit input and comments from your community regarding the Joint Proposal and the gas franchises. The public comments will be considered by the Commission in deciding these cases.

The enclosed fact sheets provide detailed information on how to participate in the public statement hearings and other options available to submit comments on the proceedings. Copies of the Joint Proposal, as well as additional information about the proceedings can be found at the Commission's [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) web site. From the homepage, click on "Search," and enter the appropriate case number (as described in the enclosed factsheets) in the "Search by Case Number" field.

We would appreciate if you would assist us with informing your constituents about the hearings and encouraging them to provide comments. It is the Commission's intent to facilitate and encourage active and meaningful participation throughout all of its proceedings. We hope you will consider joining us.

Sincerely,

**Michael Corso**  
Consumer Advocate and Director,  
Office of Consumer Services

Enc.



**St. Lawrence Gas Company, Inc.  
Gas Franchise Renewals  
Cases 16-G-0203 and 16-G-0256**

St. Lawrence Gas Company, Inc. has filed petitions with the New York State Public Service Commission (Commission) seeking authorization for the Company to renew two natural gas franchises in St. Lawrence County, one in the Town of DeKalb and another in the Village of Heuvelton, located in the Town of Oswegatchie.

**Public Statement Hearing**

The Commission is seeking public comments on St. Lawrence Gas Company's petitions to renew its natural gas franchises. Interested members of the public are invited to attend the hearing and provide comments before an Administrative Law Judge.

It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance or present written material in order to speak at the hearing. All comments given at the hearing will be transcribed and become part of the Commission's formal record. The hearing will remain open until everyone wishing to speak has been heard or other reasonable arrangements have been made. Staff from the Department of Public Service (DPS) will be available to answer questions concerning the certification process under the Public Service Law.

Please join us at the following location:

**Public Statement Hearing**

**Date:** May 19, 2016  
**Time:** 6:15 pm  
**Location:** SUNY Canton  
Miller Campus Center  
Woodcock Conference Suite 212-214  
34 Cornell Drive  
Canton, NY

Disabled persons requiring special accommodations may place a collect call to the DPS's Human Resources Management Office at 518-474-2520. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711 to reach the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Office at the previously mentioned number. If you have difficulty understanding English, please call the Department at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services.

## Case Background

On May 7, 1966, the Town of DeKalb in St Lawrence County, granted franchise rights to St. Lawrence Gas for a term of 50 years. Similarly, on May 14, 1966, the Village of Heuvelton in St Lawrence County, granted franchise rights to St. Lawrence Gas for a term of 50 years. The agreements are set to expire on May 7 and May 14, 2016, respectively. Following public statement hearings, the Town of DeKalb and the Village of Heuvelton executed renewals of franchise rights and entered into new fifty-year franchise agreements with the Company.

Pursuant to Section 68(1) of the Public Service Law, St. Lawrence Gas Company has petitioned the Commission to approve the exercise of the new franchises and allow the Company to continue to distribute natural gas to the Town of DeKalb (Case 16-G-0203) and the Village of Heuvelton (Case 16-G-0256). St Lawrence Gas Company is the sole provider of natural gas in both of these municipalities.

Additional details are set forth in the petitions, which are available on the Commission's website at [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov). To access information on the petitions regarding St. Lawrence Gas Company, click on "Search" and then enter case number "16-G-0203 or 16-G-0265." The Commission may approve, modify, or reject St. Lawrence Gas Company's petitions in whole or in part.

## Methods for Commenting on the Cases

All comments may be made at the public statement hearing held on May 19, 2016 or submitted through the methods below:

- **Via Mail/E-Mail:** Submit comments electronically to Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov) or by mail or delivery to Secretary Burgess at the New York State Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12223-1350. Comments delivered in these manners should reference the associated case numbers (16-G-0203 or 16-G-0256).
- **Via the Department Website:** Comments may be entered directly into each case via the [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) website, by entering the associated case number in the Search option found on the homepage. After opening the case, enter comments in the "Post Comments" section located at the top of the page.
- **Call the Toll-free Opinion Line:** Individuals may choose to submit comments by calling the Commission's toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This line is set up to receive in-state calls 24 hours a day. Callers should press "1" to leave comments about Cases 16-G-0203 or 16-G-0256. Comments received via the Opinion Line are not transcribed, but a summary is provided to the Commission for its consideration.

All comments will become part of the record considered by the Commission. Comments will be accepted at any point while this proceeding is pending, but are requested by June 2, 2016 to ensure full consideration.



**St. Lawrence Gas Company, Inc.  
Proposed Gas Rate Increase**

**Cases 15-G-0382 & 13-G-0076**

In June 2015, St. Lawrence Gas Company, Inc. requested that the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) approve proposed increases to natural gas delivery rates.

The parties to the rate case proceeding (15-G-0382) entered into negotiations and on April 12, 2016, a Joint Proposal (JP) was filed by St. Lawrence Gas that proposed to resolve all matters related to their rate request. In addition to the Company, the JP was signed by parties representing different interests, including Staff of the Department of Public Service and Multiple Intervenors. The JP, if adopted, would apply to the Company's gas rates and services through May 31, 2019.

**Public Statement Hearing**

The Commission is seeking comment on the JP. An Administrative Law Judge will preside over the gathering of public comments and all evidence relating to the proposal. The JP and formal record, including public comments, will be presented to the Commission for consideration. The Commission may adopt or reject the JP in whole or in part.

Interested members of the public are invited to attend a public statement hearing and provide comments regarding the proposal. It is not necessary to make an appointment in advance or present written material in order to speak at the hearing.

Please join us at the following location:

**Thursday, May 19, 2016**

**Public Statement Hearing: 6:00 pm**

SUNY Canton  
Miller Campus Center  
Woodcock Conference Suite 212-214  
34 Cornell Drive  
Canton, NY 13617

Disabled persons requiring special accommodations may place a collect call to the DPS's Human Resources Management Office at 518-474-2520. TDD users may request a sign language interpreter by placing a call through the New York Relay Service at 711 to reach the Department of Public Service's Human Resource Office at the previously mentioned number. If you have difficulty understanding English, please call DPS at 1-800-342-3377 for free language assistance services.

## Summary of the Joint Proposal

Under the JP, a set of terms and conditions were developed for a three-year rate plan for the Company's gas service. The three-year plan is proposed to become effective June 1, 2016 with Rate Year 1 ending on May 31, 2017, Rate Year 2 ending on May 31, 2018, and Rate Year 3 ending May 31, 2019. This Joint Proposal is intended to allow the Company an increase in base rates to cover increases in the cost of providing service, including but not limited to system operation and maintenance, mandated safety programs, property taxes, and capital expenditures.

### **Proposed Rates:**

The JP proposes delivery rate increases that vary by rate year and customer class. As part of the rate case, the parties addressed St. Lawrence Gas' recovery of costs associated with the Company's inline inspection of a 12 inch high pressure gas main running from the United States border into the Village of Massena, St. Lawrence County, New York. In 2012, the Company incurred expenses for cleaning, monitoring and testing of the pipeline (Case 13-G-0076) that were not accounted for in the previous rate agreement and the Company is seeking recovery of these costs. Additionally, future costs related to inline inspections of gas mains will be recovered through a separate collection mechanism known as a Safety and Reliability Surcharge (SRS).

To mitigate bill impacts from the proposed rate increases and the SRS, the Signatories agreed to utilize various credits due to customers from over-collections to cover costs subject to reconciliation in the previous rate plan. The JP also provides for continued credits to customers for two years after the end of the rate plan if St. Lawrence Gas does not make a new rate filing. These credits do not apply to customers in the Franklin County Expansion area.

The charts below show the estimated percentage bill impacts and average monthly bill increases, including the offsetting credits, for average gas customers:

<b>Gas Service Classes</b>	<b>Rate Year 1</b>		<b>Rate Year 2</b>		<b>Rate Year 3</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>\$</b>
SC No. 1 – (non-heating)	0.10 %	\$ 0.04	0.80%	\$0.29	0.79%	\$0.28
SC No. 1 – (heating)	0.00 %	\$ 0.00	1.04%	\$1.27	1.03%	\$1.27
SC No. 2 – (non-heating)	(0.21)%	\$(0.65)	0.85%	\$2.57	0.82%	\$2.52
SC No. 2 – (heating)	(0.29)%	\$(1.51)	0.80%	\$4.15	0.77%	\$4.06

### **Additional JP Components:**

The JP includes other terms that may affect customers, including:

- updated gas safety and customer service quality performance targets;
- enhanced training for first responders and enhanced communication during emergency events;
- study of the potential development of, and support for, increased natural gas vehicle usage in the Company's service territory;
- customer incentives to encourage conversion to natural gas; and
- an enhancement to the Company's Low Income Assistance Program.

The full text of the JP, including a breakdown of expected bill impacts by customer class, may be viewed online at DPS's [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov) website. From the homepage, click on "Search," and enter the case number (15-G-0382) in the "Search by Case Number" field. A copy of the Company's petition regarding in-line inspection costs is also available under case 13-G-0076.

### Methods for Commenting on the Case

All comments can be submitted at the public statement hearing held on May 19, 2016 or through the methods below:

- **Via Mail/E-Mail:** Submit comments electronically to Kathleen H. Burgess, Secretary, at [secretary@dps.ny.gov](mailto:secretary@dps.ny.gov) or by mail or delivery to Secretary Burgess at the Department of Public Service, Three Empire State Plaza, Albany, New York 12223-1350. Comments delivered in these manners should reference "St. Lawrence Gas Rate Case" (15-G-0382) and/or "St. Lawrence Gas In-Line Inspection Petition" (13-G-0076).
- **Via the Department's Website:** Comments may also be entered directly into the case by locating the case via the home page of the Commission's website, [www.dps.ny.gov](http://www.dps.ny.gov), by clicking on "Search," and entering the associated case number (noted above) in the "Search by Case Number" field. After clicking to open the case, enter comments in the "Post Comments" section located at the top of the page.
- **Via Toll-Free Opinion Line:** Individuals may choose to submit comments by calling the Commission's toll-free Opinion Line at 1-800-335-2120. This line is set up to receive in-state calls 24-hours a day. Callers should press "1" to leave comments about Case 15-G-0382 or 13-G-0076 "St. Lawrence Gas". Comments received via the Opinion Line are not transcribed, but a summary is provided to the Commission for their consideration.

Comments submitted via these alternative means will be accepted at any point while this proceeding is pending, but are requested by June 2, 2016 to ensure full consideration. All comments will become part of the record considered by the Commission.