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Georgia Public Service Commission

(404) 463-6526
(800) 282-5813

244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

FAX: (404) 463-6532
psc.ga.gov

DOCKET # 37051
DOCUMENT # 216299

Docket No. 37051

Elberton Utilities Natural Gas System
234 North McIntosh Street
PO Box 70
Elberton, GA 30635

REF: DIMP – Implementation Inspection # DJ23-010

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Lanier Dunn

On February 27, 2023, a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline/Facilities Safety Office conducted an inspection of your gas system. The enclosed inspection report numbered DJ23-010 is provided for your information and file.

In conjunction with this inspection report, Staff has recommended the following enforcement(s):

Enforcement Action:

- ☐ Notice of Probable Violation
- ☐ Notice of Probable Violation with Proposed Civil Penalty
- ☐ Notice of Amendment

Enforcement Letter:

- ☐ Warning Letter
- ☐ Letter of Concern

Enforcement Notification:

- ☐ Observed Issue
- ☒ No Violation

Please review and respond to this report in accordance with the attached Instructions for Responding to Enforcement Actions, Enforcement Letters, and Notifications Issued by the Georgia Public Service Commission. Please refer to Docket No. 37051 in your response.

Please let me know if there are any questions concerning this report at (404) 985-4271 or mthebert@psc.ga.gov. Thank you for your continuing contribution toward increased pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

Michelle Thebert

Michelle L. Thebert
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection

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REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: DJ23-010

OPERATOR: Elberton Utilities Natural Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Daphne Jones

INSPECTION DATE: February 27, 2023 REPORT MAILED DATE: November 6, 2023

Any questions concerning this report may be directed to the above address or by telephoning (404) 463-6526.

1. PURPOSE OF INSPECTION

To conduct an inspection of the Operators implementation of their Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR Part 192, Subpart P.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On February 28, 2023, Staff reported to the City of Elberton's Gas Department to perform an inspection of the Operator's Distribution Integrity Management Plan (DIMP) Implementation and Protocol 9 inspections for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:
Grant Jones – Gas Operations Director
Tony Norris - Gas Service Technician
Michael Shepard - Gas Service Technician
Dale Ingram - Gas Service Technician
Chris Cawley – MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Daphne Jones – Lead Inspector
Joe Jones – Pipeline Safety Inspector
Daniel Clemmons – Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Elberton's Gas System was under no previously existing probable violation.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection, Staff examined the Operator's Distribution Integrity Management Plan version 5.4.2 with an effective date of 2/13/2023. Staff reviewed the Operator's DIMP procedures and all related records to verify compliance with Minimum Federal Safety Regulations. Staff reviewed City of Elberton's Gas Department's identified threats, accelerated actions, baseline measures, and performance measures for the Operator's Distribution Integrity Management Program's current version and preceding versions.

During this inspection, Staff reviewed the Operator's annual 7100 reports for 2012 thru 2021 which indicated that no new facilities were installed during this period. Staff verified that the Operator has documented the following on their work orders: • Location • Material type and size • Wall thickness or SDR • Manufacturer • Lot or production number.

During this inspection, Staff conducted three Operator Qualification Protocol 9 field verification inspections to ensure that covered task(s) were being performed in accordance with appropriate operator-approved procedures, that the procedures were present at the job site, and that the individuals performing the observed covered task(s) were adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

Dale Ingram, Gas Service Technician for the City of Elberton, performed Task #0681 – Joining of Plastic Pipe Stab Fittings, qualified 12/22/2022 thru 12/21/2025. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedures and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.

Tony Norris, Gas Service Technician for the City of Elberton, performed Task #0301 – Manually Opening and Closing valves, qualified 8/30/2021 thru 8/29/2026. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedures and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.

Michael Shepard, Gas Service Technician for the City of Elberton, performed Task #0001 – Measure Structure-to-Electrolyte (Pipe to Soil), qualified 8/1/2016 thru 8/1/2024. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedures and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.
As a result of this inspection, Staff noted no probable violations of the minimum federal safety standards.

Please review and respond to this report in accordance with the attached instructions for responding to Enforcement Letters Issued by the Georgia Public Service Commission.

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
No Violation Report	)	**DOCKET NO. 37051**
Elberton Utilities Natural Gas System	)	
Inspection DJ23-010 on February 27, 2023	)	
	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have caused to be served a copy of the foregoing, and a copy of same was served upon all parties and persons listed below via electronic mail as indicated by an asterisk I further certify that the *Elberton Utilities Natural Gas System* was served a hard copy of the above-stated document by U.S. Mail, certified/return receipt requested.

*Sallie Tanner, Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

*Lanier Dunn, City Manager
Elberton Utilities Natural Gas System
234 North McIntosh Street
P.O. Box 70
Elberton, GA 30635
ldunn@cityofelberton.net

*Michelle Thebert, Facilities Protection Unit Director
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Respectfully Submitted this 9th day of November 2023:

Cathy Nesbitt, Administrative Assistant
Georgia Public Service Commission
Facilities Protection Unit
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334