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***In Re*:**		
Elbert Countywide Safety Plan	)	**DOCKET NO. 29301**
Application of the City of Royston, Georgia for Amended Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Elbert County	)	**DOCKET NO. 30331**

ORDER ON AMENDING THE COUNTYWIDE SAFETY PLAN, CERTIFICATE AMENDMENTS, AND WAIVING THE HEARING REQUIREMENTS

These matters come before the Georgia Public Service Commission ("Commission") as a result of the Royston filing this "Application for Amendment to Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Elbert with the Commission requesting an amendment to its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Simultaneously Royston and Bowman have filed a "Joint Petition for Approval of Amendment to the Elbert Countywide Safety Plan and waiver of the associated hearing requirements.

I. JURISDICTION

The Commission has general jurisdiction over natural gas utilities. O.C.G.A. § 46-2-20. Specifically, the Commission maintains safety jurisdiction over all natural gas transmission and distribution facilities within Georgia, including those natural gas facilities which are owned and operated by municipalities. O.C.G.A. § 46-2-20(i). The Commission further has jurisdiction over Georgia intrastate natural gas operators pursuant to *inter alia*: 49 U.S.C.S. §§ 60105 and 60122, 49 C.F.R. Part 191, 49 C.F.R. Part 192; O.C.G.A. §§ 46-2-21, 46-2-30, 46-2-53, 46-2-90, 46-2-91, 46-4-1, 46-4-31, 50-13-1 *et seq.*; and Commission Rules 515-7-1-.01 *et. seq.*, 515-9-1-.01*et.seq.*, 515-9-3-.01 *et. seq.*, 515-9-6-.01 and 515-9-7-.01 *et. seq.*

The Commission has further jurisdiction pursuant to Commission Rules 515-9-1-.01 and 515-9-3-.03; both adopting the Rules and Regulations prescribed by the United States Department of Transportation applicable to the "Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Safety Standards" (49 C.F.R. Parts 40, 191, 192, 193 and 199) having been made the Rules and Regulations of the Commission for the safe installation and operation of all natural gas transmission and distribution facilities by companies subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On August 17, 2023, Royston and Bowman filed a "Joint Petition for Approval of Amendment to the Elbert Countywide Safety Plan. (Docket 29301, Document 205469). The Joint Petitioners requested that the Commission waive the hearing requirement set forth in Commission Rule 515-9-7-.01(4). The Elbert CWSP was previously amended on February 2, 2019. Per the petition, Royston and Bowman working jointly, agreed to revise their common boundary established in the Elbert CWSP to allow Bowman to serve a poultry producer on a parcel that is currently within the area assigned to Royston.

On August 17, 2023, the City of Royston filed an Application for an Amended Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Elbert County (Docket 30331, Document 205469). Royston submitted its Application to amend its Certificate boundaries to conform its current Certificate boundaries to the safety-based boundaries requested under the Commission's Countywide Safety Plan Rule. Royston's Certificate was previously amended on November 7, 2011.

The service areas of Elberton and Toccoa are unaffected by the proposed Elbert CWSP, and they do not oppose the amendment to the Elbert CWSP.

The Cities have agreed to the new safety boundaries shown on the new Elbert CWSP map. (Exhibit "A"). Bowman and Elberton's home county is Elbert County; therefore, it does not

require a Certificate amendment. Toccoa was granted in certificate on October 4, 2012 (Docket 36209, Document 144309). The service areas of Elberton and Toccoa are unaffected by the proposed revision, and they do not oppose the amendment to the Elbert CWSP.

The Joint Petitioners request that the Commission grant the petitions and waive the associated hearing requirements.

III. STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

The Natural Gas Staff has performed its due diligence on the above-listed Petitions. The Facilities Protection Unit has inspected the proposed boundaries and waivers and has no objections to the requests.

Staff recommends that the Commission grant the petitions and waivers to the associated hearing requirements.

IV. STATUTES AND COMMISSION RULES INVOLVED

The Commission has the power and authority to enforce the provisions of: Ga. Const. Art. 9, § 6, ¶ 2, O.C.G.A. §§ 46-2-20 *et. seq.*, 46-2-30, 46-2-50, 46-2-51, 46-2-52, 46-2-53, 46-2-71, 46-2-90, 46-2-91, 46-4-20 *et. seq.*, 46-4-30 *et. seq.* and 50-13-1 *et. seq.*, applicable to Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity and Safety of Natural Gas Pipelines/Distribution systems regulated by the Commission. The Commission has further power and authority to enforce the Commission's Natural Gas Certification and Safety Rules: 515-7-1 *et. seq.*, 515-9-1 *et. seq.*, 515-9-3 *et. seq.* and 515-9-7 *et. seq.* The Commission's specific Constitutional and statutory authorities can be found *inter alia*, at Ga. Const. Art. 9, § 6, ¶ 2, O.C.G.A. §§ 46-2-20, 46-2-21, 46-2-30, 46-2-51, 46-2-53, 46-2-54, 46-2-57, 46-2-58, 46-2-59, 46-2-71, 46-2-90, 46-2-91, 46-2-92, 46-2-93, 46-4-21, 46-4-22, 46-4-23, 46-4-24, 46-4-25, 46-4-26, 46-4-27, 46-4-28, 46-4-29, 46-4-30, and 46-4-31. The applicable Commission Rules involved are, *inter alia*, at 515-7-1-.01 *et. seq.*, 515-9-1-.01 *et. seq.*, 515-9-3.01 *et seq.*, and 515-9-7-.01.

V. FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. THE COMMISSION FINDS AND CONCLUDES that as relates to Elbert County, Georgia, the Commission has safety jurisdiction over all of the above-named Georgia natural gas operators.

2. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that the Cities of Bowman, Elberton, Royston and Toccoa, are each individually and collectively subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

3. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that the Facilities Protection Unit Staff of the Commission has the authority to inspect the facilities of all Georgia natural gas providers pursuant to the legal citations contained *supra*.

4. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that Royston's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity shall be amended to conform to the safety-based boundaries agreed to by Staff and the Operators in the CWSP/Map attached as Exhibit A.

5. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that given the consent of Staff, and the Operators, and lack of objection from any interested third persons, waiver of Commission Rules 515-9-7-.01(4), (9) and 515-7-1-.15(6), is hereby granted.

6. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that the CWSP safety-based boundaries and Map(s) established in the CWSP/Map are adopted and included in this Order as if specifically written herein.

7. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that the Executed Joint Petition and the consented CWSP/Map (all attached hereto), are hereby approved and adopted by the Commission, and shall constitute a final resolution of the proposed amendments to the Elbert CWSP.

8. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that the Operators hereby waive any hearings and/or further findings/conclusions of law with respect to the above-styled matter and agree that the Commission may enter an order based upon the agreements contained in the Joint Petition and County-Wide Safety Plan and Certificate Application and all Exhibits attached to each, without the necessity of receiving evidence in support thereof.

9. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that the CWSP for Elbert County attached to this Order by joint petition and agreement of the Operators, shall be the CWSP for Elbert County until otherwise ordered by the Commission.

10. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that compliance with all parts of the CWSP for Elbert County shall begin immediately upon issuance of this Commission Order. All timelines and action items contained within the CWSP are incorporated by reference into the body of this Order as if specifically written herein and the failure of the Operators to meet all such timelines and/ or act on all such action items shall be a violation of this Order.

11. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that all changes to the CWSP shall be made in accordance with *inter alia,* Commission Rule 515-9-7-.01. *et. seq.*

12. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that based on the Commission's review of the proposed CWSP/Maps submitted by the Operators and the Certificate Amendment, that such agreements by the Operators are a reasonable and appropriate resolution of the CWSP proceedings for the Elbert CWSP, Georgia.

13. THE COMMISSION FURTHER FINDS AND CONCLUDES that the Cities of Bowman, Elberton, Royston, and Toccoa shall abide by all of the terms of this Order and that failure to so comply may subject the Operators to civil penalties pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91.

VI. ORDERING PARAGRAPHS

WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all findings of fact and conclusions of law contained within the preceding sections of this Order are hereby adopted as the findings and conclusions of this Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that a motion for reconsideration, rehearing or oral argument or any other motion shall not stay the effective date of this Order unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

ORDERED FURTHER, that jurisdiction over this matter is expressly retained for the purpose of entering such further Order or Orders as this Commission may deem just and proper.

The above by action of the Commission in Administrative Session on the 19th day of December 2023.

Sallie Tanner
Executive Secretary

12-19-23
Date

Jason Shaw
Chairman

12-19-23
Date

EXHIBIT "A"

Attachment A

COUNTYWIDE

SAFETY

PLAN:

ELBERT COUNTY

ATTACHMENT A

COUNTYWIDE SAFETY PLAN

ELBERT COUNTY

SECTION ONE

Definitions

[See Subsection (1) of Georgia Public Service Commission (the "PSC") Rule 515-9-7-.01 (the "Rule")]

As used in this Plan, the term:

(a) An "area of close proximity and joint response" is defined as any point along a defined boundary in this County-wide Gas Safety Plan where any point of the natural gas distribution and/or pipeline facilities of two or more Operators are within two hundred twenty (220) yards of the defined boundary.

(b) "Distribution System" means mains, services, and equipment which carry or control the supply of natural gas from the point of local supply or supplies to and including the consumers' meters. "Distribution System" shall include any segment of transmission line being used to serve retail end users.

(c) "Municipality" means a city, county or any other political subdivision of a State.

(d) "Natural Gas Safety Plan" or "Plan" means a written set of procedures approved by the Commission to minimize unsafe situations and the potential for confusion among emergency response personnel and the public in a county where more than one Operator has a natural gas Distribution System. Natural Gas Safety Plans must include the elements required by this Rule and shall not conflict with state and federal pipeline safety laws and regulations.

(e) "Operator" means any person (including a municipality) who engages in the transportation of natural gas by pipeline, except that the term shall not mean a master-meter operator. An included Operator means an operator that is included in this Plan.

(f) "Overlap area" and "overlapping area" mean any geographic area where a natural gas operator has or seeks legal authority to provide (or is providing or running gas lines to provide) distribution pipeline facility service or has a transmission line providing distribution service in a county within five (5) miles of the gas facilities of another natural gas operator.

(g) "Party" or "Parties" refers to one or more entities operating a natural gas system that is governed by this Countywide Safety Plan.

(h) "Pipeline Facility" means new and existing pipeline, rights-of-way, and any equipment, facility, or building used in the transportation of natural gas or in the treatment of natural gas during the course of transportation.

(i) "Public Officials and Emergency Responders" means fire and law enforcement authorities, 911 call centers and other public officials responsible for protecting the public and responding to natural gas related emergencies.

SECTION TWO

Description of the Parties to the Plan:
[See Subsections (2)(a), (2)(b), (2)(c) and (2)(d) of the Rule]

The Parties to this Plan are as follows:

Gas System Operators

City of Bowman
City of Elberton
City of Royston
City of Toccoa

In addition, **Attachment B** identifies the individuals designated by each Party to this Plan as the Responsible Points of Contact for official notices required herein.

Attachment B-1 identifies those Public Officials and Emergency Responder groups within the county that will be educated on procedures required by this Plan and provides names, titles and telephone numbers for key individuals within those organizations.

Attachments B-2 through B-5 provide job titles/classifications, emergency and alternate telephone numbers, addresses, and roles and responsibilities for each Operator's key personnel covered by this Plan.

Attachments B-1 through B-5 shall be updated at least annually. In addition, such contact information shall be updated whenever any Party to this Plan becomes aware of a change to a Party's emergency contact number. Such updates do not constitute amendments to this Plan.

Attachment C provides the CWSP Map for this Plan.

Attachment D provides a list of customer transfers (if any).

Attachment E provides a form for recording natural gas safety plan meetings between the operators.

SECTION THREE

Plan Boundaries
[See Subsections (3)(a), (3)(g) and (3)(g)(iv) of the Rule]

The Parties to this Plan agree to the following safety-based boundaries as defined in Section 3(a) of the Rule and Plan maps labeled **Attachment C** (one overall Elbert County map). Where there may be confusion between the plan map and the boundary description the plan map shall prevail.

Boundary Descriptions:

Boundary 1:
This safety-based boundary is in the northwest portion of the county and is between the City of Royston and the Cities of Bowman and Toccoa. This boundary begins at point on the western side of the County where the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline (Transco) enters Elbert County from Madison County. The boundary extends northeasterly along Transco to the southwestern property line of Parcel 006 001. The boundary then follows the western and northern property lines of Parcel 006 001, the western and northern property lines of Parcel 005 028, and the western property line of Parcel 005 027 to West Hendricks Street. The boundary crosses West Hendricks Street and then follows the northeastern property line of Parcel 005 027, the northeastern property line of Parcel 005 028A, the northern property line of Parcel 005 032A, the western property line of Parcel 005 041, and the western property line of Parcel 005 014A to the Bowman City Limits. The boundary then extends along the northeastern and northern City Limits to the southeastern property line of Parcel 005 065. The boundary then follows the southern and eastern property lines of Parcel 005 064, the eastern and northern property lines of Parcel 005 063, and the northeastern property lines of Parcels 005 062 and 005 063 to a tributary of Beaverdam Creek. The boundary then extends along the tributary of Beaverdam Creek to the Hart County Line.

Boundary 2:
This safety-based boundary is in the northwestern portion of the county and is between the City of Toccoa and the Cities of Royston, Bowman, and Elberton. This boundary begins at point where a tributary of Beaverdam Creek enters Elbert County from Hart County. The boundary extends southwesterly along said tributary to the northeastern property line of Parcel 005 063. The boundary then follows the northeastern property lines of Parcels 005 063 and 005 062, the eastern property line of Parcel 005 011, the southern property line of Parcel 005016A, and the southern (across Clark Road) and eastern property lines of Parcel 005 023 to Pulliam Mill Road. The boundary then extends southeasterly along Pulliam Mill Road to Transco. The boundary then extends northeasterly along Transco to the Hart County Line.

Boundary 3:
This safety-based boundary is in the northwestern portion of the county and is between the City of Elberton and the Cities of Bowman and Toccoa. This boundary begins at

point where a tributary of the Broad River enters Elbert County. The boundary extends northeasterly along said tributary to the western property line of Parcel 007 007C near Jireh Dr. The boundary then extends north along the western property line of Parcel 007 007C, and along the southern, western, and northern boundary of Parcel 007 002 to Parcel 006 044. Then along the northern property lines of Parcels 006 044, 006 039, and 006 042 and crosses Deep Creek Road to the northern property line of Parcel 006 060. The boundary continues along the northern property lines of Parcels 006 062T, 006 062, 006 062J, 006 062F, 006 066, 006 067A, 006 068, and along the western property lines of 006 087 and 006 087A to the intersection of Rehoboth Road Extension. The boundary then extends along the northern property lines of Parcels 006 099, 006 109, 006 110A, to Bennett Road, then along the northern property line of 012 004 and 012 002. The boundary then extends along the northwestern property line of Parcel 012 002, the northwestern property line of Parcel 012 001, crossing State Route 17 and continuing along the southwestern, northwestern and northeastern property lines of Parcel 011 037 and 011 037A, and the northwestern property line of Parcel 011 035C to an unnamed creek. The boundary then extends northerly along the unnamed creek to Jess Guest Road. The boundary then extends westerly and northerly along Jess Guest Road to State Route 172. The boundary then extends southwesterly along State Route 172 and the southern parcel line of Parcel 011 011A. The boundary then extends along the parcel lines of Parcel 011 011A in a northerly and northwesterly direction to Clark Road. The boundary then extends northerly along Clark Road to the northernmost corner of Parcel 011 011. The boundary then extends southeasterly and northerly along the property lines of Parcel 011 011 to Pulliam Mill Road. The boundary then extends southeasterly along Pulliam Mill Road to Transcontinental Gas Pipeline (Transco). The boundary then extends northeasterly along Transco to the Hart County Line.

Pipeline-only Right of Way (ROW):

For areas identified as Pipeline-only Right of Way (ROW), the operator identified within each particular description shall have the right to operate and maintain its existing pipeline facilities. The operator shall have no right to tap and/or provide distribution service to end use customers off of that facility unless so stated within the specific Pipeline-only Right of Way (ROW) description and only after prior approval by the Commission of such tap and/or distribution service.

The City of Royston shall maintain a pipeline-only ROW within the City of Bowman's territory along State Route 17 from the Williams-Transco metering station on the southeast to the Bowman City Limits on the northwest.

The City of Elberton shall maintain a pipeline-only ROW within the City of Bowman's territory along State Route 17 from the Williams-Transco metering station on the northwest to the Bowman City Limits on the southeast.

The City of Elberton shall maintain a pipeline-only ROW within the City of Toccoa's territory across Williams-Transco property from the Toccoa-to-Elberton

meter on the northeast to Boundary #2 at the centerline of Pulliam Mill Road on the southwest.

Limited Pipeline-Only Right of Way ("LPOROW"):

Due to the existing pipeline placement and operating conditions specified herein, the natural gas operators specified *supra*, shall each be granted a "Limited Pipeline-Only Right of Way" ("LPOROW") to maintain and operate their existing respective pipelines (detailed below) that fall in part, within the service territory of another operator. As delineated below, these operators shall retain the right to tap and/or relocate their existing pipeline facilities along the prescribed routes to supply gas to the respective service territories granted to each under this County-Wide Safety Plan. Whenever feasible, each LPOROW operator relocating existing facilities, shall do so in a manner that places said facilities back within that LPOROW operator's own service territory. Under no circumstances shall the existing LPOROW facilities of one LPOROW operator, which reside within the service territory of another LPOROW operator, be extended to serve within that other operator's service territory.

Except in the event of a natural gas emergency, each LPOROW operator shall provide thirty (30) days' notice to the other LPOROW operator prior to tapping, excavating and/or otherwise relocating any of an operator's facilities residing within this limited pipeline-only ROW, where such facilities are within or will come within eighty (80) feet of the other LPOROW operator. Where both LPOROW operators agree to the proposed tapping, excavating and/or relocation of the LPOROW facilities, and the action taken creates an "area of close proximity and joint response" not already delineated in this Plan, the operator requesting the action to be undertaken shall file an update to this Plan delineating the newly acquired "area of close proximity and joint response." Such updated CWSP filing shall occur within thirty (30) days of completion of the LPOROW tap and/or relocated pipeline. To the extent that conflict between the LPOROW operators arises, the requesting operator shall file a Petition for Waiver of the Commission's "80 Foot" Rule (515-7-1-.15(6)) along with any other required Rule waivers that may be necessary, and each such waiver must be granted prior to the commencement of the intended action. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, neither LPOROW operator shall tap and/or relocate their existing LPOROW facilities in any manner that brings such facilities within eighty (80) feet of any *other* operator without having been first granted the required "80 Foot Rule" and/or any other required Rule waivers.

There are no Limited Pipeline-Only Rights of Way in this Plan.

Areas of Proximity and Joint Response:

In the areas identified on Plan map Attachment C as areas of joint response, all affected natural gas operators, i.e. City of Bowman and the City of Elberton, or the City of Bowman and the City of Royston, or the City of Bowman and the City of Elberton and the City of Royston, or the City of Elberton and the City of Toccoa, shall be contacted in the event of a natural gas emergency. Also, an area of joint response between the City

of Elberton and the City of Hartwell exists along the Elbert/Hart County Line as shown on Plan map Attachment C, although the City of Hartwell is not a party to the Elbert CWSP.

SECTION FOUR

Notification and Map Updating Procedures
[See Subsections (3)(b), (3)(c), (3)(d) and 7(c) of the Rule]

The Parties to this Plan agree to the following notification and map updating procedures for Operators, Emergency Responders and Public Officials as defined in Sections 3(b), 3(c) and 3(d) of the Rule.

1. Operators

a. All Operators in Elbert County agree to exchange up-to-date detailed maps. Such map exchanges shall occur within 60 days of Commission approval of this Plan and subsequently by the end of the first quarter of each calendar year thereafter. These maps shall identify current facility locations, showing the location of the natural gas pipeline facilities of each Operator within the county. Each operator's personnel identified in **Attachments B-2 through B-5** responsible for Annual Liaison activities in this Plan will ensure that this exchange of maps between operators occurs annually. Maps may be exchanged electronically, via certified mail or by hand-delivery. The up-to-date detailed maps shall be used to annually identify changes in areas of overlap, and areas of close proximity and joint response. Areas of close proximity and joint response identified during this annual review shall be annotated on the area maps provided to Emergency Responders and Public Officials addressed below in item 2 of this Plan Section 4. Any Operator may request a meeting with any other Operators in the event that there are issues requiring clarification and such meeting shall take place within 60 days of request.

b. Should any areas of overlap, as defined by this rule, develop the operators will provide detailed maps. These maps will show the locations of all mains and related facilities within the overlap area.

c. Operators shall meet at least annually, to perform Annual Liaison with all other operators, first responders, appropriate fire departments, law enforcement agencies, county 911 and other public officials to update all parties on the boundaries and procedures contained within this Plan. Documentation of such meeting shall be kept and shall include, but not be limited to, a list of attendees, an itemized and dated agenda, copy of all presentations, meeting minutes (such as questions, comments and concerns raised) and updated maps. Emergency Responders or Public Officials that are unable to attend the Annual Liaison meeting shall be provided with copies of all meeting documents listed above, which shall be provided by e-mail, facsimile or certified return-receipt requested mail. Proof of service thereof shall be maintained by each operator where

information is later confirmed face-to-face. Proof of service thereof shall be maintained by each operator for the two most recent exchanges.

d. Should an additional meeting for clarification be necessary, the affected Operator(s) will make a request for such via letter delivered by certified mail or electronic mail to the person(s) listed in plan **Attachment(s) B-1 through B-5** responsible for liaison activities for each operator whose system is in question by Operator(s). Proof of service will be maintained by each Operator(s) as documentation that a meeting was requested. Affected operators will maintain the completed *Record of Countywide Natural Gas Safety Plan Meeting* form **(Attachment E)** as documentation that a meeting occurred between operators to address issues requiring clarification. As detailed on the form, meeting date, involved parties and designated representatives, reason for the meeting, and topics discussed will be recorded. Records will be kept for five years.

2. Emergency Responders and Public Officials

a. Each Operator agrees to establish and maintain liaison with Emergency Responders, and Public Officials (see **Attachment B-1**) at least once each calendar year following Commission approval of the plan. Said liaison shall coordinate an annual meeting and invite Emergency Responders and Public Officials and Operators as well. The purpose of this liaison will be to:

   i. Provide current boundary maps (if applicable) and to perform liaison requirements required by 192.615(c) and API RP 1162.

   ii. Identify and define for Public Officials and Emergency Responders any areas on the up-to-date boundary maps in which Public Officials and Emergency Responders should contact multiple Operators in the event of a natural gas emergency.

b. Should boundary changes occur prior to the annual map updating requirement, operators shall provide updated boundary maps to all appropriate Emergency Responders and Public Officials within 60 days following Commission approval of Plan boundary changes.

c. Documentation associated with liaison activity and/or map updating, shall be kept in accordance with item 1(c) above in this Plan Section 4.

SECTION FIVE

Procedures Involving Facilities of Another Operator
[See Subsections (3)(e), (3)(f) and 7(b) of the Rule]

The purpose of this Section is to establish procedures for Operators to follow in the event that an Operator is contacted about an emergency involving another Operator's facilities. The Parties to this Plan agree to the following provisions for procedures involving facilities of another Operator as defined in Section (3)(e) of the Rule:

1. The parties agree to hold public safety as the highest priority when addressing these natural gas facility emergency responses.

2. For purposes of this Plan, Operators shall use the following procedures if they are contacted by members of the public or Public Officials and Emergency Responders regarding a natural gas emergency involving pipeline facilities that belong to another Operator.

    a. If an emergency is reported in areas where more than one Operator responds, then affected Operators will respond in accordance with the requirements below of item 3 of this Plan Section 5. In the event there is ever any question as to which Operator's facilities are involved at a location of a reported emergency, each Operator agrees to dispatch an Operator Qualified representative to further evaluate the situation.

    b. If an emergency is reported to an Operator in an area where the Responding Operator does not have facilities, then the Responding Operator shall immediately contact the affected Operator and other emergency responders as appropriate.

3. For purposes of this Plan and with regard to minimizing hazards to life or property during an emergency response when the only Operator on site is one whose facilities are not involved, the Parties agree as follows:

    a. The initial responding Operator will contact the Operator whose facilities are affected by the Emergency area.

    b. Each Operator will dispatch only Operator Qualified individuals trained on the emergency procedures identified in this Plan and that have access to the safety boundaries for the county defined in this Plan.

    c. In the event of an emergency involving the facilities of another Operator and subject to d., e. and f. below, nothing in this sub-section shall require the Responding Operator's representative to take any action other than as set forth in this subsection (3) of Section (5) of this Plan.

d. When the Responding Operator's representative is first on the scene, he/she shall have the authority, but not the obligation, to: close the service valve(s) at the affected premises of the Affected Operator's customer(s), if, in the Responding Operator's representative's sole judgment, he/she is able to do so without risk to personal safety.

e. "Area of a gas emergency" shall include but not be limited to: "incident", "incident area", "scene", "scene of the emergency" and all other gas emergencies that may arise. All Operators shall ensure that all procedures included in this CWSP (specifically and/or by incorporation of Operator qualifications and Operator emergency procedures) are utilized in all areas of a gas emergency, whether or not such area of gas emergency involves an Operator's own facilities or that of another Operator's facilities.

f. The responding Operators representative will not depart until;

   i. They have ensured that the affected operators personnel are on site, or
   ii. They have ensured that another emergency responding agency (i.e. Fire Department / Police) is in control of the area, or
   iii. They have ensured that there is no immediate danger to the health and welfare of the general public, that the affected operator is aware of the situation, and in their professional opinion there is no further need for them to remain on the scene, or
   iv. In the event that a Responding Operator receives notice of an emergency on their pipeline system, the Operator's representative may respond to the emergency provided that the Operator's personnel takes action to notify both the affected Operator, and local Emergency Responders as identified in **Attachments B-1 through B-5**. The responding Operator's representative will document the circumstances necessitating the emergency for departure and the responding Operator will maintain this documentation as part of this plan.

g. In performing the actions set forth in subsection f. (i)-(iv) in this Plan section, the Responding Operator's representative will comply with the Responding Operator's emergency procedures set forth below. As a courtesy, a copy of these procedures will be provided to the Pipeline Safety Staff.

h. The provisions in Section Five are not to be construed as creating a duty on the part of the Responding Operator to perform any action other than as set forth in subsection (3) of Section (5) of this Plan; or as permission by the Affected Operator to the initial Responding Operator to perform any other acts not enumerated above; or to operate any equipment on a gas

main or transmission line that is part of the gas infrastructure of the Affected Operator.

4. The City of Bowman will use its emergency procedures detailed in Sections I, III, and VI of the SRCS Emergency Plan, which were developed in accordance with 49 CFR 192.615(a), and the negotiated GMA OQ procedure for Manually Opening and Closing Valves (B31Q Task #0301). The City of Bowman will provide these procedures to the Pipeline Safety Staff one time for use in all counties in Georgia in which they operate, and update as necessary.

5. The City of Elberton will use its emergency procedures detailed in Sections I, III, and VI of the SRCS Emergency Plan, which were developed in accordance with 49 CFR 192.615(a), and the negotiated GMA OQ procedure for Manually Opening and Closing Valves (B31Q Task #0301). The City of Bowman will provide these procedures to the Pipeline Safety Staff one time for use in all counties in Georgia in which they operate, and update as necessary.

6. The City of Royston will use its emergency procedures detailed in Sections I, III, and VI of the SRCS Emergency Plan, which were developed in accordance with 49 CFR 192.615(a), and the negotiated GMA OQ procedure for Manually Opening and Closing Valves (B31Q Task #0301). The City of Bowman will provide these procedures to the Pipeline Safety Staff one time for use in all counties in Georgia in which they operate, and update as necessary.

7. The City of Toccoa will use its emergency procedures detailed in Sections I, III, and VI of the SRCS Emergency Plan, which were developed in accordance with 49 CFR 192.615(a), and the negotiated GMA OQ procedure for Manually Opening and Closing Valves (B31Q Task #0301). The City of Bowman will provide these procedures to the Pipeline Safety Staff one time for use in all counties in Georgia in which they operate, and update as necessary.

8. All Operators in this Plan agree to, exchange, review, and accept the Operator Qualification and emergency procedures detailed above in Section Five subparagraphs 2 through 4 for the specific applications required for compliance with this Plan before allowing other Operators to perform the aforementioned procedures, and update said procedures when necessary.

9. Each Operator's designated point(s) of contact for communication between Operators, Public Officials and Emergency Responders when an Operator is contacted about an emergency involving another Operator's facilities are identified and defined under the roles and responsibilities listed in **Attachments B-1 through B-5** of this Plan.

SECTION SIX

Transfer of Customers
[See Subsections (3)(g)(i) and (8) of the Rule]

The establishment of the safety-based boundaries for Elbert County does not require transfer of facilities and/or customers between Operators in the interest of safety.

SECTION SEVEN

Procedure for Minimizing and Managing Safety Risks
[See Subsection (3)(h) of the Rule]

The purpose of this part is to provide procedures to be followed that will minimize and manage safety risks in areas of proximity as detailed on the maps exchanged annually by operators and defined in Plan Section 3 and map(s) **Attachment C**. During the annual liaison meeting required by Section 4 of this Plan, the Operators shall review for any changes to areas of overlap and/or close proximity. If areas of overlap and/or close proximity are found, the Operators shall coordinate the implementation of their Public Awareness Program under 49 CFR 192.616 and RP 1162. The Operators shall further, adhere to the following procedures in order to minimize and manage safety risks where areas of overlap and/or close proximity develop:

1. Install and maintain appropriate pipeline warning markers as close as practical on each side of the crossings identified in this County.

2. Contact affected Operators a minimum of 48 hours before any non-emergency excavation occurs.

3. Monitor the receipt of Notification of Proposed Construction Reports (GC-1) to identify potential conflicts.

4. Ensure that all affected Operators have been contacted in the event of an emergency as required by Plan Section Five.

5. Not extend facilities beyond the safety boundaries as outlined in this Plan.

6. Fulfill requirements established under 49 CFR 192.616 and API RP 1162.

7. Patrol areas of proximity and joint response as defined in Section Three and detailed on revised Plan map(s) **Attachment C** in accordance with each Operator's operations procedures for distribution or transmission main patrolling on a quarterly basis not to exceed 4½ months. For purposes of patrolling, areas of proximity are defined as areas of joint response and are defined in Section Three of this Plan and are detailed on revised Plan map(s) **Attachment C**.

Consideration will be given to excavation activity, physical deterioration of exposed piping, land subsidence, and damage to casing vents. In addition, leakage surveys and cathodic protection surveys and monitoring will be conducted in accordance with each Operator's procedural requirements.

8. Any issues discovered while fulfilling the requirements detailed in item 7 above affecting another Operator will be communicated, as soon as practical, to the affected Operator.

9. Operators affected by the area of joint response may share patrol duties for efficiency and to eliminate duplicative efforts. Information resulting from any shared patrols will be exchanged, as soon as practical, between Operators.

SECTION EIGHT

Incorporation of Natural Gas Safety Plan into Operation and Emergency Manuals
[See Subsection (5) of the Rule]

Each Operator shall incorporate the Natural Gas Safety Plan into its operation and emergency manuals upon Commission approval of the Plan.

SECTION NINE

Training on Emergency Procedures
[See Subsections (3)(f) and (6) of the Rule]

The purpose of this Section is to provide procedures to be followed for training Operators' personnel on emergency procedures that are incorporated in this Plan. Training is to be provided as follows:

1. The Operators agree to conduct the required training of all appropriate operating and emergency personnel no later than 120 days after Commission approval of this Plan. This training shall include the Elbert County-Wide Safety Plan and any emergency procedures referenced therein, and will be conveyed through computerized instruction and testing (ex. web-based), classroom instruction and testing, on-site field training and testing, or other medium acceptable to the Commission. In addition, each Operator shall furnish its supervisors who are responsible for emergency action as designated in **Attachments B-2 thru B-5**, with a copy of that portion of the effective edition of the emergency procedures referenced in Section 5 of this Plan. This training may be joint training involving multiple operators. Each Operator shall maintain documentation associated with the most recent training provided. Documentation shall include, but not be limited to, each Operator's representatives trained on the requirements of the Elbert CWSP. All Operators shall document with specificity, the identity of all personnel

trained on the CWSP (name, job title, date trained and each procedure and plan element for which training has occurred for that individual); an itemized and dated agenda for the training provided shall be kept to ensure that accurate and timely training is provided; and one copy of all training materials utilized for training purposes shall be kept.

2. In addition, supplemental training on these procedures shall be done by the appropriate Operator following any modification of their procedures or change in personnel where such training is necessary.

3. Training due to any modification of the Plan, change in procedures or change in personnel shall occur within 60 days of the Plan or procedure modification, or personnel change. Each Operator shall maintain documentation associated with supplemental training provided. Documentation associated with training due to any modification of the Plan, change in procedures or change in personnel shall be kept in accordance with the documentation requirements of item 1 above of this Plan Section 9.

SECTION TEN

Procedure for Establishing and Maintaining Liaison
[See Subsections (7)(a), (7)(b), (7)(c), (7)(d), (7)(e) and (7)(f) of the Rule]

The purpose of this Section is to provide procedures for establishing and maintaining liaison with the appropriate Emergency Responders, Public Officials, and other Operators that are party to this Plan (**Attachments B-1 through B-5**). These procedures shall also be followed for liaison and training on emergency procedures that are incorporated in this plan. Operators shall establish and maintain Annual Liaison in accordance with the requirements of the County-wide Safety Plan Rule and each Operator's Emergency Plan as provided to the Pipeline Safety Staff one time for use in all counties in Georgia in which they operate. Updates to the Elbert County CWSP and/or any Elbert County Operator's Emergency Plan shall be provided as they occur in accordance with the timelines provided for in this CWSP.

For the purposes of this Plan, each Operator shall extend this liaison to include the other Operators that are party to this Plan. Liaison with other Operators shall occur, at least, during the Annual Liaison meeting, listed in Section Four of this Plan, for the exchange of maps with Emergency Responders and Public Officials. Documentation of the Annual Liaison meeting shall be kept in accordance with the requirements in Section Four of this Plan.

Liaison and training are to be provided as follows:

1. Annual Liaison will consist of:

a. Providing the following information to each of the individuals / agencies listed in **Attachments B-1 through B-5**. This will include:

   i. The Name and 24-hour Point of Contact for each Operator under this plan;

   ii. The Operator's responsibility to operate their system in accordance with all Federal law, State law, and PSC Rules including but not limited to operator's procedures under API RP 1162 – Public Awareness Programs for Pipeline Operators, as required by 49 CFR Part 192.616;

   iii. Providing maps of the geographic area(s) in which the operator has facilities.

   iv. Determining the availability of emergency responders to assist in the event of a pipeline emergency.

   v. Responsibility and resources of the Operator and Emergency Responders for fire control, bodily injury, and area evacuation problems in connection with a gas pipeline emergency;

   vi. Description and capability of emergency equipment and vehicles;

   vii. Procedures to facilitate prompt communications in emergencies; and

   viii. Level of Operator qualified training of responders.

b. Acquainting public officials with emergency procedures.

   i. The availability, capability and location of each operator's personnel, equipment, and materials for response to gas pipeline emergencies.

   ii. In areas where multiple pipeline operators have facilities, consideration will be given to joint emergency training and liaison activities with the local emergency response officials.

   iii. Identifying emergencies that require notification to and from public officials.

c. Identifying the types of emergencies that may require notification of public officials by gas system operators include the following:

   i. A serious fire on adjacent property;

ii. Serious bodily injury;

iii. One where the number of people involved or spectators are too numerous for the operator to handle;

iv. One adjacent to public rights-of-way where the public could be endangered;

v. One in which patrol or area evacuation is needed; and

vi. An incident in a populated area.

d. Identifying the types of emergencies that might require notification to gas system operators by public officials include the following:

i. Report of gas odor;

ii. Damage to gas facilities;

iii. Operation of a gas system valve by non-operator personnel; and

iv. Report of a gas outage.

e. Planning with public officials and operators of facilities in the vicinity of the pipeline for mutual assistance.

i. Each gas system operator will establish and maintain liaison with fire, police, public officials and operators of other facilities in the vicinity of each operator's pipelines to plan how to engage in mutual assistance to minimize hazards to life and property. This planning will include how to work together effectively in an Incident Command System. Consideration will be given to various situations including the following.

1. Situations where the operator has reason to believe a hazard may exist and where other emergency personnel, such as fire and police, may be able to respond more quickly than operator personnel.

2. Situations that involve the evacuation of buildings and properties.

3. Advise police and fire departments that operator personnel may need to conduct leak investigations inside buildings and on properties within the area of the emergency.

4. Situations where the operation of electric or other utilities located in the vicinity of the pipeline may provide sources of ignition for the gas released, may increase burning time or intensity of fires that have already started, or may delay responders who are attempting to make the situation safe.

5. Means of ensuring that communication is ongoing during the emergency response so that pertinent information is shared in a timely manner.

6. The gas characteristics and properties, such as pressure, specific gravity, gas odor, and flammability limits, should be provided to emergency response officials. The implications of these characteristics and properties on emergency response decisions should be thoroughly discussed. In discussions with emergency response officials, the operator should emphasize the following.

7. The importance of this information to outside emergency response personnel arriving before the operator's personnel.

8. The use of this information in making decisions, such as areas to be evacuated, traffic rerouting, and control of ignition sources.

9. The importance of combustible gas detectors when responding to an incident.

f. Comments, suggestions and recommendations from the annual meetings will be evaluated by the Operators and incorporated into this plan if deemed appropriate by the Parties. Documentation of comments, suggestions and recommendations from the annual meetings that are not incorporated shall be kept in accordance with the requirements of Plan Section 4, subparagraph 1(c). Participants shall be provided the name, address (postal and email) and phone number of the Commission's Facilities Protection Unit.

g. Documentation of all liaison activity will be maintained as required in Section 4 of this Plan.

SECTION ELEVEN

Review and Updating of Gas Safety Plan
[See Subsection (9) of the Rule]

This Plan shall be reviewed by all Operators of natural gas systems within Elbert County, amended as necessary, and resubmitted to the Commission no later than five years from the date of Commission approval of the Plan. Amendments of the Plan other than those due to the five-year review requirement will be in accordance with Sections (2)(c), (2)(d) and (4) of the Rule as appropriate.

SECTION TWELVE

Plan Rationale and Assumptions

Per the Rule, all Elbert County Operators conducted meetings for purposes of establishing safety-based boundaries. Also, per the Rule, each Operator considered natural and man-made boundaries and readily identifiable landmarks in the county and negotiated in good faith to establish safety-based boundaries using these items where practical and available. Areas of proximity were identified and discussed, with affected Operators determining how best to respond to potential emergencies in such areas.

Boundaries between the Parties were established by good faith negotiations between the Operators. The Parties agreed that the boundaries separating their systems will minimize or eliminate confusion among customers and emergency responders in the event of a gas emergency.

SECTION THIRTEEN

Requests for Service Outside of Boundary Area
[See Subsections (3)(g)(vi) and (4) of the Rule]

Operators receiving requests from potential customers to provide natural gas service in areas that they are unable to serve under the safety-based boundaries established by the Plan will direct the customer to the Operator that can serve the potential customer consistent with the Plan or promptly petition to amend the Plan pursuant to the provisions of the Rule in order to afford such service.

After adoption of this Natural Gas Safety Plan by the Commission, any Operator in the county may petition the Commission to amend, or the Commission may on its own motion initiate proceedings to amend, the Natural Gas Safety Plan. The Operator proposing to amend the Plan shall provide notice to every Operator with a natural gas Distribution System in the county of its proposed amendment and shall work in good faith with the existing Operator or Operators to file a jointly proposed amendment with

the Commission. If the Operators cannot agree within thirty (30) days of receipt of such notice, then the Operator seeking to amend the Plan shall file with the Commission a proposed amendment to the existing Plan. The Commission shall decide whether to grant, modify or deny the proposed amendment. Before amending a Plan based on the petition of an Operator or on its own motion, the Commission shall provide notice and an opportunity for a hearing to each Operator in the county. In any such hearing, all Operators in the county shall be parties of record.

SECTION FOURTEEN

Prohibition on Construction or Installation in Conflict with the Plan
[See Subsection (3)(g)(v) of the Rule]

Except in accordance with any safety-based boundaries established under this Plan, the construction or installation of any natural gas distribution system facilities in Elbert County, Georgia, is prohibited unless the Plan is first amended, approved, and a Final Order is issued by the Commission.

ATTACHMENT B

Responsible Points of Contact for the Parties to the Plan

Gas System Operator	County Responsible Point of Contact
City of Bowman	City of Bowman Honorable ~~Mark Berryman~~ Mary Clark, Acting Mayor P.O. Box 549 Bowman, Georgia 30624
City of Elberton	City of Elberton Lanier Dunn, City Manager P.O. Box 70 Elberton, Georgia 30635
City of Royston	City of Royston Honorable ~~David Jordan~~ Keith Turman, Mayor; 634 Franklin Springs Road Royston, Georgia
City of Toccoa	City of Toccoa Honorable David Austin, Mayor; 92 North Alexander Street Toccoa, Georgia

ATTACHMENT B-1

Public Officials & Emergency Responders

** If applicable, each Operator party to this Plan has railroad emergency contact information for the county available.

NAME OF COUNTY: ELBERT EMERGENCY DIAL 911							
DEPARTMENT	CONTACT	TITLE	ADDRESS	PHONE	CELL	FAX	EMAIL
Law Enforcement	Melvin Andrews	Sheriff	47 Forest Avenue, Elberton, GA 30635	706-283-2421			esco@elbertco.net
Fire Department	Rick Mewborn	Chief	114 Mahoney Dr, Elberton, GA 30635	706-283-4256			rick@ecfire.org
Emergency Management	Chuck Almond	Director	112 Mahoney Dr, Elberton, GA 30635	706-283-2003			calmond@elberton.net

NAME OF CITY: BOWMAN EMERGENCY DIAL 911							
DEPARTMENT	CONTACT	TITLE	ADDRESS	PHONE	CELL	FAX	EMAIL
Law Enforcement	Melvin Andrews	Sheriff	47 Forest Avenue, Elberton, GA 30635	706-283-2421			esco@elbertco.net
Fire Department	Doug Stay	Chief	PO Box 549 Bowman, GA 30624	706-245-5432			

NAME OF CITY: ELBERTON EMERGENCY DIAL 911							
DEPARTMENT	CONTACT	TITLE	ADDRESS	PHONE	CELL	FAX	EMAIL
Law Enforcement	Mark Welsh	Chief	209 Elbert St, Elberton, GA 30635	706-213-3130			mwelch@cityofelberton.net
Fire Department	Henry McCalla	Chief	202 S Thomas St, Elberton, GA 30635	706-213-3152			hmcalla@cityofelberton.net

ATTACHMENT B-2

CITY OF BOWMAN – LOCAL POINTS OF CONTACT FOR EMERGENCIES Emergency Telephone: 911

OFFICE	CONTACT/ TITLE	ADDRESS	ALTERNATE PHONE	ROLES/ RESPONSIBILITIES
Bowman	Gas Superintendent	25 Prince St, Bowman, GA 30624	Non-Emergency: 706-245-5432 Cell: 706-498-0965	Liaison, Emergency Response
Bowman	Water Superintendent	25 Prince St, Bowman, GA 30624	Non-Emergency: 706-245-5432	Emergency Response
Bowman	Laborer	25 Prince St, Bowman, GA 30624	Non-Emergency: 706-245-5432	Emergency Response

ATTACHMENT B-3

CITY OF ELBERTON – LOCAL POINTS OF CONTACT FOR EMERGENCIES Emergency Telephone: 911

OFFICE	CONTACT/ TITLE	ADDRESS	ALTERNATE PHONE	ROLES/ RESPONSIBILITIES
Elberton	Gas Superintendent	234 McIntosh Street, Elberton, GA 30635	Non-Emergency: 706-213-3278	Liaison, Emergency Response
Elberton	Technician	234 McIntosh Street, Elberton, GA 30635	Non-Emergency: 706-213-3278	Emergency Response

ATTACHMENT B-4

CITY OF ROYSTON – LOCAL POINTS OF CONTACT FOR EMERGENCIES Emergency Telephone: 911

OFFICE	CONTACT/ TITLE	ADDRESS	ALTERNATE PHONE	ROLES/ RESPONSIBILITIES
Royston	Gas Superintendent	830 Church Street Royston, GA	Non-Emergency: 706-245-6195	Liaison, Emergency Response
Royston	Gas Technician	Church Street, Royston, GA	Non-Emergency: 706-245-6195	Emergency Response

ATTACHMENT B-5

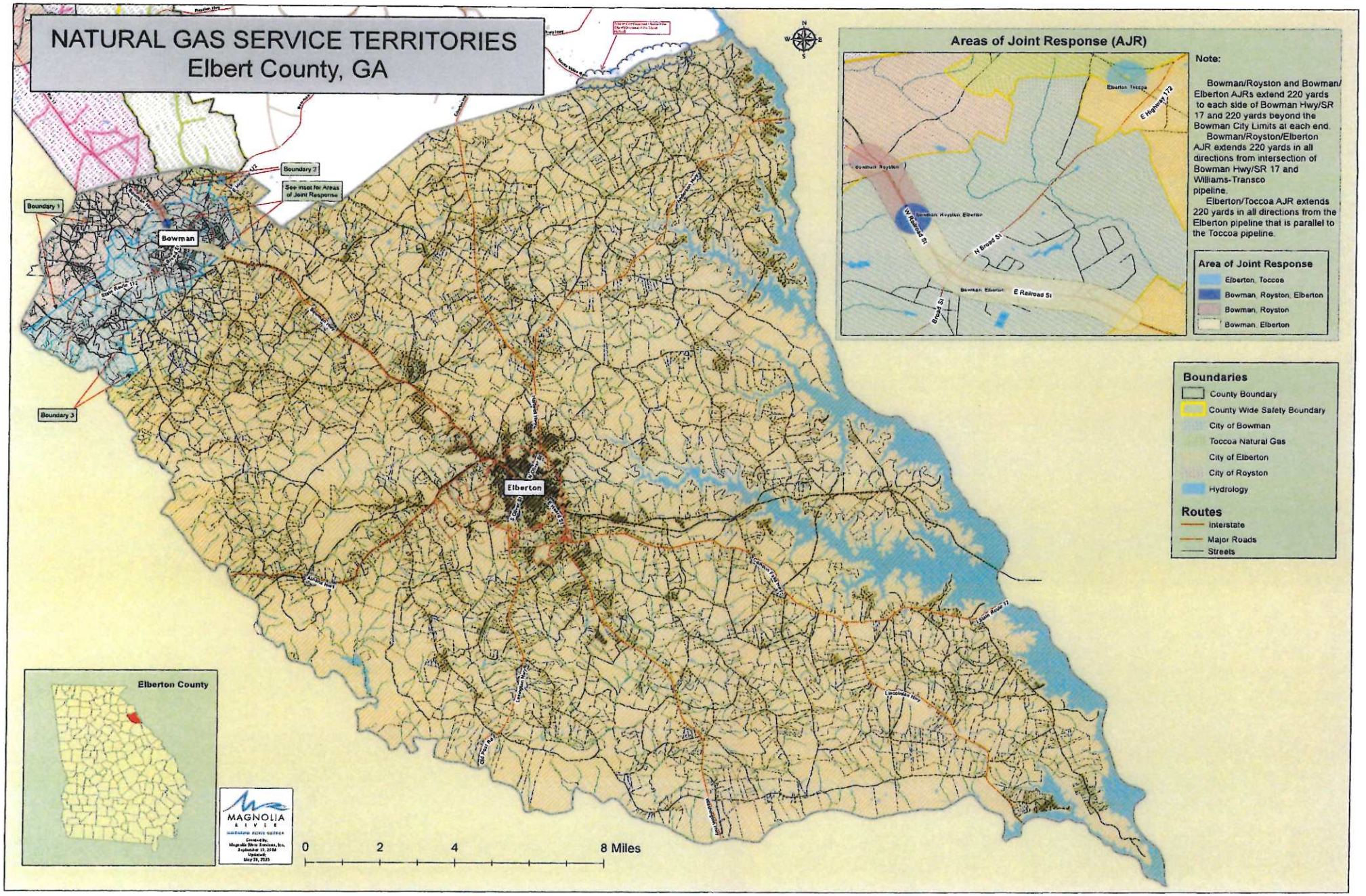
CITY OF TOCCOA – LOCAL POINTS OF CONTACT FOR EMERGENCIES

Emergency Telephone: 911

OFFICE	CONTACT/ TITLE	ADDRESS	ALTERNATE PHONE	ROLES/ RESPONSIBILITIES
Toccoa	Gas Director	92 North Alexander Street, Toccoa, GA 30577	Non-Emergency: 706-282-3255	Liaison, Emergency Response
Toccoa	Gas Superintendent	92 North Alexander Street, Toccoa, GA 30577	Non-Emergency: 706-282-3255	Emergency Response
Toccoa	Assistant Gas Superintendent	92 North Alexander Street, Toccoa, GA 30577	Non-Emergency: 706-282-3255	Emergency Response
Toccoa	Equipment Operator	92 North Alexander Street, Toccoa, GA 30577	Non-Emergency: 706-282-3255	Emergency Response
Toccoa	Crew Worker	92 North Alexander Street, Toccoa, GA 30577	Non-Emergency: 706-282-3255	Emergency Response

ATTACHMENT C

Plan Maps


NATURAL GAS SERVICE TERRITORIES
Elbert County, GA
Areas of Joint Response (AJR)
Note:
Bowman/Royston and Bowman/Elberton AJRs extend 220 yards to each side of Bowman Hwy/SR 17 and 220 yards beyond the Bowman City Limits at each end.
Bowman/Royston/Elberton AJR extends 220 yards in all directions from intersection of Bowman Hwy/SR 17 and Williams-Transco pipeline.
Elberton/Toccoa AJR extends 220 yards in all directions from the Elberton pipeline that is parallel to the Toccoa pipeline.
Area of Joint Response
Elberton, Toccoa
Bowman, Royston, Elberton
Bowman, Royston
Bowman, Elberton
Boundaries
County Boundary
County Wide Safety Boundary
City of Bowman
Toccoa Natural Gas
City of Elberton
City of Royston
Hydrology
Routes
Interstate
Major Roads
Streets
Boundary 1
Boundary 2
Boundary 3
See inset for Areas of Joint Response
Bowman
Elberton
Elberton County
MAGNOLIA RIVER
0
2
4
8 Miles

ATTACHMENT D

Customer Transfers - None

ATTACHMENT E

Record of Countywide Natural Gas Safety Plan Meeting

Meeting Date: | **County:**

Meeting Location:

Invitees:

Representative Name	Organization

Attendees:

Representative Name (print and sign)	Organization

Reason(s) for meeting:

Topic(s) discussed:

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Records must be retained for the two most recent Countywide Natural Gas Safety Plan meetings between gas operators for this county.