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MICHELLE THEBERT
FACILITIES PROTECTION UNIT DIRECTOR

Georgia Public Service Commission

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244 Washington Street, SW
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Docket No. 37064

DOCKET# 37064
DOCUMENT# 217173

Liberty Utilities - Columbus Area
2300 Victory Drive
Columbus, GA 31901-3455

ATTN: Ms. Carolyn Bermudez

On December 13, 2023 a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline/Facilities Safety Office conducted an on-site inspection of your gas system and found no violation of the Pipeline Safety Regulations. The enclosed inspection report numbered AT23-045 is provided for your information and file.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this report, please contact me at (404) 985-4271 or mthebert@psc.ga.gov. If you submit a written response to this inspection, please refer to Docket No. 37064.

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: AT23-045

OPERATOR: Liberty Utilities - Columbus Area

INVESTIGATOR: Alan Towe

INSPECTION DATE: December 13, 2023 REPORT MAILED DATE: January 10, 2024

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

1. PURPOSE OF INSPECTION

To attend an informal conference with the Operator as requested in their response to inspection number DL21-002.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.16	Customer notification.	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.705	Transmission lines: Patrolling.	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.709	Transmission lines: Record keeping.	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.605(a)	Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.747(a)	Each valve, the use of which may be necessary for the safe operation of a distribution system, m...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.605(b)	Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.615(c)	Each operator shall establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.619(a)	No person may operate a segment of steel or plastic pipeline at a pressure that exceeds a maximum...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.465(a)	Each pipeline that is under cathodic protection must be tested at least once each calendar year...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.745(b)	Each operator must take prompt remedial action to correct any valve found inoperable, unless...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.467(d)	Inspection and electrical tests must be made to assure that electrical isolation is adequate.	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.481(a)	Each operator must inspect each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.199(e)	Have discharge stacks, vents, or outlet ports designed to prevent accumulation of water, ice, or...	DL21-002	1/6/2021
192.709(c)	A record of each patrol, survey, inspection, and test required by subparts L and M of this...	DL21-002	1/6/2021

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

FOR FILE ONLY

On December 13, 2023, Staff conducted an informal conference with Liberty Utilities as requested in regard to Inspection Number DL21-002.

During this inspection, the Operator was represented by:
John Patton – Director, Engineer
Yvonne Barker – Manager Regulatory Compliance
Adam Bigknife - Sr. Manager Regulatory Rates and Affairs

Commission Staff was represented in person by:
Michelle Thebert – Facilities Protection Director
Jeff Baggett – Facilities Protection Supervisor
Alan Towe – Pipeline Safety Inspector/ Lead Inspector
David Lewis - Pipeline Safety Inspector
Jack Hewitt - Pipeline Safety Inspector

During this meeting, the Operator discussed possible mitigative measures for the proposed civil penalties in Inspection Number DL21-002. Staff advised that it would consider any measures which went beyond the minimum requirements that the Operator was already required to perform.

Staff directed the Operator to submit their proposals for mitigation of the proposed civil penalties in writing no later than 14 days following this meeting. The Operator was advised that if their proposals were found to be acceptable, they would be provided with a constant agreement to review which would address the mitigation of the proposed civil penalty and the measures required to address the probable violations.

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Informal Conference	)	**DOCKET NO. 37064**
Liberty Utilities – Columbus Area	)	
Inspection AT23-045 on December 13, 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 *Liberty Utilities* 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

*Carolyn Bermudez, President
Liberty Utilities
2300 Victory Drive
Columbus, GA 31901-3455
Carolyn.Bermudez@libertyutilities.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 31st day of January 2024:

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