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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# 37022
DOCUMENT# 217304

Docket No. 37022

City of Andersonville Gas System
P. O. Box 35
Andersonville, GA 31711

REF: Follow Up Inspection # AT23-041

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Ms. Velma Coley

On November 20, 2023, a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection Office conducted an on-site inspection of your gas system and found that previously identified probable violation(s) of the Pipeline Safety Regulations have either been cleared or are continuing, as identified below.

- ☒ Previously existing probable violation(s) has/have been cleared.
- ☒ Previously existing probable violation(s) still exist.
- ☐ Additional Enforcement
  - ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation
  - ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation with Proposed Civil Penalty
  - ☐ Warning Letter
  - ☐ Letter of Concern
  - ☐ Observed Issue
- ☐ Consent Agreement Pending

The enclosed inspection report numbered AT23-041 is provided for your information and file.

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. 37022 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: AT23-041

OPERATOR: City of Andersonville Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Alan Towe

INSPECTION DATE: November 20, 2023 REPORT MAILED DATE: January 31, 2024

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

1. PURPOSE OF INSPECTION

To conduct a follow-up inspection of the Operators previously existing probable violations.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.603(c)	General - The Associate Administrator or the State Agency that has submitted a current...	AT22-043	8/24/2022

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

Cleared on 11/20/2023

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.1007(a)(5)	Provide for the capture and retention of data on any new pipeline installed.	AT22-044	8/24/2022
192.1011	What records must an operator keep?	AT22-044	8/24/2022
192.1007(e)	Measure performance, monitor results, and evaluate effectiveness.	AT22-044	8/24/2022
192.1007(a)(3)	Identify additional information needed and provide a plan for gaining that information over...	AT22-044	8/24/2022
192.616	Public education.	JH22-041	11/15/2022

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

CITY OF ANDERSONVILLE GAS SYSTEM– FOLLOW UP INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER AT23-041/ DOCKET NUMBER 37022

On November 20, 2023, Staff reported to the City of Andersonville Gas System to perform a follow-up inspection of the Operator's continuing violations from Inspection Numbers AT22-043, AT22-044, and JH22-041.

During this inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Jon Butler – Gas Superintendent
Bobby Boyd – City Services, Inc. (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Alan Towe - Lead Inspector
Jack Hewitt - Inspector

At the time of this inspection, the City of Andersonville had six (6) previously existing probable violations. During this inspection Staff determined the following.

PROBABLE VIOLATIONS CLEARED

1. In regard to the Probable Violation of 49CFR, §192.616, which was cited in Inspection Number JH22-041; in that inspection Staff stated: "Based on the deficiencies identified under Questions 6, 10, 11, 15, and 22 of the PHMSA Public Awareness Program Effectiveness Inspection Checklist, the City of Andersonville has failed to conduct a Public Awareness Program as required by 49CFR §192.616."

   OPERATORS FIRST RESPONSE: In their revised response letter to Inspection number JH22-041, dated November 18, 2023, the City Andersonville stated: "Question #6- Since this inspection, the operator has developed a current list of non-customers. This list, as well as the list of all stakeholder audiences will be reviewed annually in conjunction with the annual audit. Attached along with this response is the stakeholder breakdown forementioned for your review. Question #10 & #15- The City of Andersonville as stated in the inspection report, has retained baseline messages for the previous two years, but not before. The City will continue retaining these baseline messages and annual audits as required by state and federal regulations. Attached with this response are copies of message delivery receipts and audits since this inspection. Question #11 & #22- The City of Andersonville as stated in the inspection report, has added GA Power to its list of annual Liaison Meeting invites and annual mailouts. The operator will review this list of Liaison invitees and message recipients in conjunction with their annual audit. Attached with this response is a copy of the invitees for the Liaison Meetings and a list of excavator/contractors who receive mailouts."

   FIRST FOLLOWUP INSPECTION: During this inspection (AT23-041) Staff reviewed the Operator's response and determined the following. Question #6 Staff has reviewed the Operator's records and found approximately 101 non-customers who will receive notices from their Public Awareness program. Questions #10 & #15 Staff has reviewed Operator's records and found that they are maintaining records demonstrating baseline and delivery frequency. Questions #11 & #22 Staff has reviewed the Operator's list of Liaison Meeting Invitees which now includes all stakeholders.

   Staff determined that this violation could be cleared at this time.

2. In regard to the Probable Violation of 49CFR, §192.1007(a)(5) which was cited in Inspection Number AT22-044; in that inspection Staff stated: "Operator failed to capture and perform retention of material and component data on any new pipeline installed as required under §192.1007(a)(5)."

   OPERATOR'S RESPONSE: In their revised response letter to Inspection number AT22-044, dated November 18, 2023, the City Andersonville stated: "The operator failed to retain data on any new pipe installed. Operator failed to produce record of new pipe installed on 10/28/21. Since this time, the operator has installed another new service and has collected and retained all necessary information for this installation. For your review, attached is a work order for new service installed since this inspection."

   FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: During this inspection (AT23-041) Staff reviewed the Operator's documentation showing the material specifications for newly installed pipe and components.

   Staff determined that this violation could be cleared at this time.

3. In regard to the Probable Violation of 49CFR, §192.1007(a)(3) which was cited in Inspection Number AT22-044; in that inspection Staff stated: "Operator failed to identify additional information needed for gaining information of material and component data on operations and maintenance repairs made as required under Part 192.1007(a)(3)."

   OPERATOR'S RESPONSE: In their revised response letter to Inspection number AT22-044, dated November 18, 2023, the City of Andersonville stated: "The City of Andersonville failed to collect and retain records of repair to a plastic line on Cinamid Lane. Since this inspection, the operator has made a repair to natural gas facilities. Attached with this response is a record of repair on a gas facility for your review."

   FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: During this inspection (AT23-041) Staff reviewed the Operator's records for leakage repairs and found that the Operator is gathering information and recording data for the material and components used.

   Staff determined that this violation could be cleared at this time.

4. In regard to the Probable Violation of 49CFR, §192.1007(e) which was cited in Inspection Number AT22-044; in that inspection Staff stated: "Operator failed to established baseline to evaluate the effectiveness of its IM program."

   OPERATOR'S RESPONSE: In their revised response letter to Inspection number AT22-044, dated November 18, 2023, the City Andersonville stated: "At the time of this inspection, the operator had failed to establish a baseline for monitoring its IM program. The operator has since revised its DIMP to reflect a baseline to effectively evaluate its IM program. Attached is the section of the Operator's DIMP that includes this information for your review."

   FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: During this inspection (AT23-041) Staff reviewed the Operator's plan and found that they have set a baseline for evaluating the effectiveness of this plan as indicated on page 26.

   Staff determined that this violation could be cleared at this time.

5. Regarding the Probable Violation of 49CFR, §192.1011 which was cited in Inspection Number AT22-044; in that inspection Staff stated: "Operator failed to maintain records demonstrating compliance with the requirements of this subpart for at least 10 years."

   OPERATOR'S RESPONSE: In their revised response letter to Inspection number AT22-044, dated November 18, 2023, the City Andersonville stated: "At the time of this inspection the operator had failed to maintain records for this subpart for at least 10 years. The operator will continue to maintain these records moving forward."

   FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: During this inspection (AT23-041) Staff was able to review the Operator's revised plan and records were provided indicating that they are being maintained at this time.

   Staff determined that this violation could be cleared at this time.

PROBABLE VIOLATION CONTINUING

Regarding the Notice of Amendment for the Probable Violation of 49CFR, §192.603(c) which was cited in Inspection Number AT22-043; in that inspection Staff identified six (6) observed deficiencies and stated:

1. The Operator must amend their procedures to include a methodology to collect, retain and analyze detailed information from detected natural gas leaks, including those eliminated by lubrication, adjustment, tightening or otherwise below thresholds for regulatory reporting.

2. The Operator must amend their procedures to include instructions for personnel to detect leaks to help further reduce emission in stations and along the right of way.

3. The Operator must amend their procedures to define a process to identify, classify, mitigate and repair all leaks, not just hazardous leaks.

4. The Operator must amend their procedures to contain measures for identifying potential configuration changes that would reduce natural gas releases from regulators.

5. The Operator must amend their procedures to include a methodology to collect, retain and analyze detailed information from detected leaks, including those eliminated by lubrication, adjustment, tightening.

6. The Operator must amend their procedures to clearly define a process to address replacement or remediation of pipe segments with known leak issues beyond those specifically identified in Section 114.

OPERATOR'S RESPONSE: In their revised response letter to Inspection number AT22-043, dated November 18, 2023, the City Andersonville stated:

1) Inspection Question #8 Leaks & Releases- The Operator has amended its methodology for collecting, retaining, and analyzation of detailed information from detected natural gas leaks per PSC guidance. These records can be found attached with this response letter.

2) Inspection Question #9 Leaks & Releases- The City has amended their O&M to include facilities in their patrolling activities. These facilities could include Regulator Stations, Rectifiers, Line Markers, etc. This information can be found attached along with this response letter.

3) Inspection Question #10 Leak Mitigation & Repair- The operator has amended its procedure to define a process in which ALL (hazardous and non-hazardous) leaks are identified, classified, and mitigated. This information is available attached along with this response letter.

4) Inspection Question #13 Regulator Stations Configuration- The operator has amended its O&M to include measures to identify any configuration changes that would reduce release of gas from regulators. This information is attached along with this response letter.

5) Inspection Question #18 Leak Prone: Leaks & Releases- The Operator has amended its methodology for collecting, retaining, and analyzation of detailed information from detected natural gas leaks per PSC guidance. These records can be found attached with this response letter.

6) Inspection Question #20- Leak Prone: Leak Mitigation & Repair-The City amended its O&M to clearly define and mitigate "leak prone" pipe. This definition and remediation information is attached along with this response letter.

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: During this inspection (AT23-041) Staff was unable to review the Operator's revised plan at this time as they are still currently making amendments.

Staff determined that this probable violation could not be cleared at this time.

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.

OPERATOR RESPONSE FORM

Operator Name: City of Andersonville

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No ☐

Docket Number: 37022

Responses required within **30 days of electronic mail.** Provide the following information for this report:

Response to Inspection Number:_____

Type of Enforcement Action(s) cited in report:			Informal Conference Requested	
☐ Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Notice of Amendment (NOA)	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Warning Letter	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Letter of Concern	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Observed Issue	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Proposed Civil Penalty	$ _____ PCP $ Amount (Total for report)			

Indicate below (A-E) based on the type of Enforcement Actions in this report: (Check all that apply)
Complete a separate copy of Page 2, Operator Response to Enforcement Action, for each cited item.

A. Response for **Notice of Probable Violation** (with and without proposed civil penalty):
   1. ☐ Written statement indicating that corrective measures have achieved Compliance or
   2. ☐ Written plan of action outlining the corrective measures that will be taken to achieve compliance and when compliance is anticipated.

B. Response for **NOA**:
   1. ☐ Contested: Attach written explanation, information, or other material in answer to the allegations in the Notice of Amendment stating your reasons for objecting to the NOA, in whole or in part; or
   2. ☐ Not Contested: Explanation, information, or other material believed to warrant modification of the NOA in whole or in part; or
   3. ☐ Written request for clarification. (Attached)

C. Response for **Continuing** and/or **Existing** violations:
   Current status, updates, expected completion dates, proposed modifications, etc., of the continuing and/or existing violations, even if this information was previously provided. Referencing a previously filed response letter, as status, updates, etc. alone is not sufficient for this response. Failure to provide this information may result in formal interrogatories from the Director through data requests.

D. Response for ☐ **Letter of Concern** / ☐ **Warning Letter**
   I acknowledge receipt of the Letter of Concern/Warning Letter:_____
   SIGNATURE / TITLE

   Additional Comments: (Optional) _____

E. Response for **Observed Issue** and **No Violation**: (Optional Response)
   Staff requests that the Operator acknowledge receipt of the Observed Issue/No Violation in writing, or by submitting an email to the FPU Director

Operator Response to Enforcement Action

Enforcement Action for:_____ ☐ New Violation ☐ Continuing Violation
Enter Code / Commission Rule (Complete a separate attachment for each enforcement action)

Enforcement Action(s) cited in report:	Conference Requested:	
☐ Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)	☐ Yes ☐ No	$ _____
☐ Notice of Amendment (NOA)	☐ Yes ☐ No	Proposed Penalty for this violation
☐ Warning Letter	☐ Yes ☐ No	
☐ Letter of Concern	☐ Yes ☐ No	
☐ Observed Issue	☐ Yes ☐ No	
☐ Proposed Civil Penalty	☐ Yes ☐ No	

OPERATORS RESPONSE: _____

Response Provided by: _____ Date:_____
Name / Title

Internal use only:

Lead Inspector: _____ Date Response Reviewed:_____

Actions Acceptable: ☐ Yes ☐No Re-inspection Needed:☐ Yes ☐ No Clear Violation:☐ Yes ☐ No

Supervisor Review by:_____ Date Reviewed:_____

Additional Enforcement Recommended: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Director Review

Approved: ☐ Yes ☐No Schedule Special Follow-up Inspection: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Cleared Violation: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments:_____

Filings:
For all written responses or any other official correspondence, the Operator shall file the response at the following address:

Ms. Sallie Tanner, Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Operator must file **five (5)** copies of any response and/or official correspondence, as well as a CD with an electronic version of the response in Microsoft Word and/or a PDF, if applicable.

Informal Conference:
Any Operator who chooses to request an informal conference shall request such a conference through emailing the Director (michellet@psc.state.ga.us), calling the Director (404-463-2765), or selecting the "Request Conference" choice.

Civil Penalty Payments:
Certified check for the full amount of the recommended civil penalty or consent agreement amount made payable to the Georgia Public Service Commission. The Operator's name, applicable Docket No., and Inspection Report No. must be included on the certified check. Mail payment to:

Ms. Michelle Thebert, Director, Facilities Protection Unit
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Hearing Requests:
The Operator has the right to request a hearing before the full Commission to contest the alleged probable violations, recommended civil penalties, and all other proposed actions of enforcement. A request for a hearing must be submitted in writing and in accordance with Commission Rule 515-2-1-.04. The Operator must include a statement of the issues that you intend to raise at the hearing. The issues may relate to the allegations, new information, proposed compliance order, proposed civil penalty, or any other recommendation for enforcement action. Please refer to Commission Rule 515-9-3-.11 and O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91 for assessment considerations upon which civil penalties are based. An operator's failure to specify an issue may result in a waiver of the right to raise that issue at hearing. The request must also indicate whether or not the Operator will be represented by counsel at the hearing.

Open Records and Trade Secret Filings:
The Operator is advised that any material provided to the Commission, and all materials prepared by the Commission, including the Notice of Probable Violations and any Orders issued in this case, may be considered public information and subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.). If you believe that any portion of your response material is security sensitive, privileged, confidential or may cause your company competitive disadvantages and would qualify for protection under the Commission's "Trade Secret Rule" (Commission Rule 515-3-1-.11), you must, along with the complete original document clearly marked "TRADE SECRET" on each page, provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for trade secret treatment redacted, and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for such trade secret treatment. Should the Commission receive a request for disclosure of any "TRADE SECRET" material, you will be notified, if after review, the materials and your provided justification are deemed not to meet any exemptions provided in the Georgia Open Records Act. You may appeal the Commission's decision to release material at that time. Your appeal will stay the release of those materials until a final decision is made.

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Cleared and Continuing Violation Report	)	**DOCKET NO. 37022**
City of Andersonville Gas System	)	
Inspection AT23-041 on November 20, 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 *City of Anderson 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

*The Honorable Eddie D. Hill, Mayor
City of Andersonville Gas System
P.O. Box 35
Andersonville, GA 31711
andersonville@bellsouth.net

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

Respectfully Submitted this 16th day of February 2024:

Cathy Nesbitt

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