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MICHELLE THEBERT
FACILITIES PROTECTION UNIT DIRECTOR

Georgia Public Service Commission

(404) 463-6526
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244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

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psc.ga.gov

Docket No. 37054

DOCKET#37054
DOCUMENT#217464

Fort Valley Utility Commission
P. O. Box 1529
Fort Valley, GA 31030

REF: 199 Inspection # DJ23-038

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Clay Walker

On November 14, 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 DJ23-038 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. 37054 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: DJ23-038

OPERATOR: Fort Valley Utility Commission

INVESTIGATOR: Daphne Jones

INSPECTION DATE: November 14, 2023 REPORT MAILED DATE: February 8, 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 an inspection of the Operators anti-drug and alcohol programs required by 49CFR Parts 40 and 199.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
Consent Agreement Pending	Operator is negotiating Consent Agreement with the FPU Director	JJ23-008	1/30/2023
192.747(a)	Each valve, the use of which may be necessary for the safe operation of a distribution system, m...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.465(d)	Each operator shall take prompt remedial action to correct any deficiencies indicated by the...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.553(a)(1)	At the end of each incremental increase, the pressure must be held constant while the entire...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.181(b)	Each regulator station controlling the flow or pressure of gas in a distribution system must have...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.721(b)(1)	Mains in places or on structures where anticipated physical movement or external loading could...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.481(a)	Each operator must inspect each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.467(c)	Except for unprotected copper inserted in a ferrous pipe, each pipeline must be electrically...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.553(b)	Records. Each operator who uprates a segment of pipeline shall retain for the life of the segment...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.553(d)	Limitation on increase in maximum allowable operating pressure. Except as provided in §192.555(c)...	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.353(a)	Each meter and service regulator, whether inside or outside a building, must be installed in	JS23-013	3/27/2023
192.727(d)	Whenever service to a customer is discontinued, one of the following must be complied with:	JS23-013	3/27/2023

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

From November 14-16, 2023, Commission Staff reported to the Fort Valley Utility Commission to conduct an inspection of the Operator's Drug and Alcohol misuse plan for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards and Protocol 9 inspections for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192, Subpart N. Staff conducted an exit interview on November 14, 2023.

During this Inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Jessica Robinson– HR/Dedicated Employee Representative (DER)
Robert Johns – Operations Manager
Wade Sharpe – MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

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

At the time of this inspection, the Fort Valley Utility Commission had one Consent Agreement pending. (Refer to Follow-up Inspection #JJ23-008, dated 1/30/2023.) They also had eleven probable violations [ending from Inspection Number JS23-013, however this report had not been processed for delivery to the operator.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection, Staff reviewed the Fort Valley Utility Commission natural gas system drug & alcohol plan and records for compliance with Part 199 & 40 of the Pipeline safety Regulations. Staff examined the operator's policies, provisions for education and training, drug and alcohol testing, and when needed, referral for evaluation and treatment.

During the field evaluation, Staff observed the Operator's personnel perform three protocol 9 inspections in Peach County. The Operator provided the individual qualifications for Jose Ochoa, James Pittman, and Dontavious Elliott to perform covered tasks. Staff examined the individual records before observing the performance in the field. Staff verified that qualification records for these individuals were current.

Jose Ochoa, Gas Service Technician for the Fort Valley Utility Commission, performed Task #1241– Outside Gas Leak Investigation, qualified 10/27/2023 through 10/27/2026. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform these covered tasks according to the procedures and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.

James Pittman, Gas Service Technician for the Fort Valley Utility Commission, performed Task #0301– Manually Opening and Closing Valves, qualified 12/16/2022 through 12/16/2025. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform these covered tasks according to the procedures and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.
Dontavious Elliott, Gas Service Technician for the Fort Valley Utility Commission, performed Task #1231 – Inside Gas Leak Investigation, qualified 05/19/2023 through 05/19/2026. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform these 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. 37054**
Fort Valley Utility Commission	)	
Inspection DJ23-038 on November 14, 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 *Fort Valley Utility Commission* 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

*Clay Walker, General Manager
Fort Valley Utility Commission
P.O. Box 1529
Fort Valley, GA 31030
(cwalker@fvutil.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 14th day of February 2024:

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