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FACILITIES PROTECTION UNIT DIRECTOR

## 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 No. 37025

City of Austell Natural Gas System  
P. O. Box 685  
Austell, GA 30168

REF: Operator Qualification Inspection # DJ23-028

Certified Mail

Regular Mail

Email



Attention: Mr. Robert Register

On August 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 DJ23-028 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. 37025 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 L. Thebert  
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection

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### REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: DJ23-028

OPERATOR: City of Austell Natural Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Daphne Jones

INSPECTION DATE: August 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 Operator's operator qualification (OQ) program for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192, Subpart N.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On August 15, 2023, Commission Staff reported to the City of Austell to conduct an Operator Qualification (OQ) program inspection and a Protocol 9 inspection for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards.

During the inspection, the Operator was represented by:  
Jamie Sewell – Director of Operations  
Scott Bostic – Utilities Supervisor  
Lamon Ware - Dispatch & Line Locate Supervisor  
Tim Franklin – MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

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

At the time of this inspection, the City of Austell had no previously existing probable violation.

During this Operator Qualification inspection, Staff utilized PHMSA Operator Qualification Plan Review Form14 to review the City of Austell's Gas Department's OQ plan and records, which includes their process on ensuring contractors compliance.

#### NO PROBABLE VIOLATIONS

During this inspection Staff conducted a review of the Operator's Qualifications to ensure that the Operator had and followed a written qualification program, that covered task (s) were being performed in accordance with appropriate operator-approved procedures, that the procedures were present at the job site, and that the individuals performing the observed covered task(s) were qualified and adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

During the field evaluation, Staff observed the Operator's personnel perform three protocol 9 inspections in Austell, Ga. The Operator provided the individual qualifications for Austin McAdams, Brian Rogers, and Joe Thomas to perform covered tasks. Staff examined the individual records before observing the performance. Staff verified that qualification records for all individuals were current.

Austin McAdams, Crew Leader for the City of Austell, performed Task #0001 Measure Structure-to-Electrolyte Potential, qualified on 1/11/2023 and expires 1/11/2028. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedure and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.

Brian Rogers, Crew Leader for the City of Austell, performed Task #0301 Manually Opening and Closing Valves, qualified on 1/12/2021 and Expires 1/12/2024. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedure and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.

Joe Thomas, Crew Leader for the City of Austell, performed Task #1291 Locate Underground Pipelines, qualified on 2/27/2023 and Expires 2/27/2024. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedure and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.

As a result of this inspection, Staff found no probable violations of the Operator's written Operator Qualification program required by 49 CFR, Sub-Part N. Staff determined that the Operator has met minimum 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. 37025  
City of Austell Natural Gas System )  
Inspection DJ23-028 on August 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 *City of Austell Natural Gas System* was served a hard copy of the above-stated document by U.S. Mail, certified/return receipt requested.

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

\*Rob Register, General Manager and CEO  
City of Austell Natural Gas System  
P.O. Box 685  
Austell, GA 30168  
rregister@austellgas.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 14<sup>th</sup> day of February 2024:

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