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Georgia Public Service Commission

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DOCKET# 37064
DOCUMENT# 217779

Docket No. 37064

Liberty Utilities
2300 Victory Drive
Columbus, GA 31901-3455

REF: Operator Qualification Inspection # JH23-034

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Ms. Carolyn Bermudez

On December 20, 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 JH23-034 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. 37064 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: JH23-034

OPERATOR: Liberty Utilities

INVESTIGATOR: Jack Hewitt

INSPECTION DATE: December 20, 2023 REPORT MAILED DATE: February 28, 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

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.603(c)	General - The Associate Administrator or the State Agency that has submitted a current...	JB22-023	8/9/2022
192.1007(a)(5)	Provide for the capture and retention of data on any new pipeline installed.	AT23-044	11/27/2023
192.1007(d)	Identify and implement measures to address risks.	AT23-044	11/27/2023
192.1007(f)	Periodic Evaluation and Improvement.	AT23-044	11/27/2023
192.1007(e)	Measure performance, monitor results, and evaluate effectiveness.	AT23-044	11/27/2023

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On December 27, 2023, Pipeline Safety Staff conducted an Operator Qualification inspection on Liberty Utilities Operator Qualifications program as required by 49 CFR Parts 192 SubPart N.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by John Patton, Compliance Engineer.

Commission Staff was represented by:
Jack Hewitt - Lead Inspector
Brant Sweat - Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection Liberty Utilities was under five (5) previously existing probable violations against Liberty Corporate and 14 previously existing probable violations against Liberty Utilities - Columbus. Staff found that the Operator had an informal conference to discuss these probable violations on December 14, 2023. Staff also found that at the time of this inspection the Operator had not yet received their written notification for Inspection Number AT23-044. The Operators previously existing violations are addressed in Follow-up Inspection Number AT23-043.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection Staff reviewed Liberty Utilities Operator Qualification's Plan and records for compliance with Part 192 SubPart N of the Pipeline safety Regulations.

Staff performed a Protocol 9 field inspection of Brian Withrow. Mr. Withrow performed task #I-10 "Atmospheric Corrosion" he was qualified on 10/17/2023 and is good thru 10/17/2026, task #M-17 "Installing/Maintaining Pipeline Markers" he was qualified on 8/17/2023 and is good thru 8/17/2026, and task #I-1 "Conducting Pipe to Soil Measurements" he was 06/08/2022 and is good thru 06/08/2025. Mr. Withrow performed the tasks according to Liberty Utilities Procedures Manual, and he identified both task specific and generic abnormal operating conditions and the proper responses to these AOC's.

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. 37064**
Liberty Utilities –	)	
Inspection JH23-034 on December 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 *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 5th day of March 2024:

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