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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 No. 37035



City of Claxton Gas Department
P. O. Box 829
204 West Railroad Street
Claxton, GA 30417

REF: Comprehensive Inspection # JH23-009

Certified Mail

Regular Mail

Email

Attention: Mr. Terry Branch

On June 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 JH23-009 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. 37035 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

COMMISSIONERS

JASON SHAW , Chairman
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REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: JH23-009

OPERATOR: City of Claxton Gas Department

INVESTIGATOR: Jack Hewitt

INSPECTION DATE: June 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 a comprehensive inspection of the Operators plans, programs, procedures, pipeline, and pipeline facilities for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards in 49CFR Parts 191 and 192.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.1007(d)	Identify and implement measures to address risks.	AT22-009	2/21/2022
192.1011	What records must an operator keep?	AT22-009	2/21/2022

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.615(b)(2)	Train the appropriate operating personnel to assure that they are knowledgeable of the emergency...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.465(d)	Each operator shall take prompt remedial action to correct any deficiencies indicated by the...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.619(a)	No person may operate a segment of steel or plastic pipeline at a pressure that exceeds a maximum...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.473(a)	Each operator whose pipeline system is subjected to stray currents shall have in effect a...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.479(a)	Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.605(b)(8)	Periodically reviewing the work done by operator personnel to determine the effectiveness and...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.181(b)	Each regulator station controlling the flow or pressure of gas in a distribution system must have...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.481(a)	Each operator must inspect each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.707(a)(1)	Line markers for mains and transmission lines. Buried pipelines. Except as provided in paragraph...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.751(c)	Post warning signs, where appropriate.	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.467(c)	Except for unprotected copper inserted in a ferrous pipe, each pipeline must be electrically...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.605(b)(3)	Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.721(b)	Mains in places or on structures where anticipated physical movement or external loading could...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.615(a)(6)	Emergency shutdown and pressure reduction in any section of the operator's pipeline system neces...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.723(b)	The type and scope of the leakage control program must be determined by the nature of the...	JH23-009	6/20/2023

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

CITY OF CLAXTON / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER DL23-017 / DOCKET NUMBER 37035

From June 12-22, 2023, Staff reported to the City of Claxton to conduct a comprehensive inspection of the Operators plans, programs, procedures, pipeline, and pipeline facilities for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards in 49CFR Parts 191 and 192

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:

Brad Jernigan – Gas Superintendent
Taylor Rush- Regulatory Compliance
Bishop Bullard - Service Technician
Chris Cawley – MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:

Jack Hewitt – Lead Inspector
Alan Towe – Pipeline Safety Inspector
David Lewis - Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Claxton was under two (2) previously existing probable violations. See Inspection number JH23-008 for details.

During this inspection, Pipeline Safety Staff examined the City of Claxton Gas System operations utilizing GA – PHMSA Form 2 (Procedures / Records / Field Observations) Gas Distribution Operator to record the findings of the inspection.

Staff reviewed the City of Claxton's:

- O&M Manual
- Emergency Plan
- MAOP Procedures and records
- 5-year Patrolling & Leakage records
- 5- year Regulator & Relief Insp.
- 5- year Work orders
- 5- year Corrosion Surveys
- 5- year Atmospheric Corrosion records
- 5- year Odorization Records
- 5- year O.Q. Procedures and records
- 5- year Valve maintenance and records
- 5-year Annual 7100 Reports

As a result of this inspection Staff found that the Operator was in probable violation of the minimum federal safety standards; specifically:

NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION

1. §192.615 Emergency plans.

- (a) Each operator shall establish written procedures to minimize the hazard resulting from a gas pipeline emergency. At a minimum, the procedures must provide for the following:
- (6) Taking necessary actions, including but not limited to, emergency shutdown, valve shut-off, or pressure reduction, in any section of the operator's pipeline system, to minimize hazards of released gas to life, property, or the environment.

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff reviewed the Operators procedure in their Emergency Plan Sec V and found that Item 4 refers to Appendix K for a listing

CITY OF CLAXTON / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER DL23-017 / DOCKET NUMBER 37035

of emergency valves that may be utilized for emergency shutdown or pressure reduction. Staff found that the Operator has not completed the valve records and their maps are insufficient because they fail to identify shutoff districts. The Operator also has a new high-pressure line under construction that will also need to be included in this plan.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The Operator failed to demonstrate that they have established sufficient written procedures to minimize the hazard resulting from a gas pipeline emergency that will assure that their personnel can take necessary actions to minimize hazards of released gas to life, property, or the environment.

2. §192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies
 - (b) Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to provide safety during maintenance and operations.
 - (3) Making construction records, maps, and operating history available to appropriate operating personnel.

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff reviewed operator's construction records and maps that were last updated 6/2023. The Operator does not have a completed mapping system at the time of this inspection. Also, during this inspection Staff along with Operating personnel was attempting to try and determine how many services were being served on Sandhill, Shady Oaks and Elm roads in Effingham County. Operator personnel had to call a retired employee to come and assist since there were no maps or records showing the mains, services, and other pipeline facilities for this area.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to ensure that the appropriate construction records, maps, and operating history were available to their operating personnel.

3. §192.605 Procedural manual for operations, maintenance, and emergencies
 - (b) Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must include procedures for the following, if applicable, to provide safety during maintenance and operations.
 - (8) Periodically reviewing the work done by operator personnel to determine the effectiveness and adequacy of the procedures used in normal operation and maintenance and modifying the procedures when deficiencies are found.

STAFFS COMMENTS: In the City of Claxton O&M Manual, Section 12-E - Periodical Review of Work Done by Operator's Personnel, it refers to Non-OQ Procedure #04. Non-OQ Procedure #04 states that "Supervisory signature on completed work orders and other operational records will serve as documentation that the Review of Work Done by Operator's Personnel has been performed."

During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff observed that there were multiple work orders that were not signed by the gas supervisor.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to demonstrate that they have periodically reviewed the work done by their personnel as required by §192.605(b)(8) and their O&M Procedure.

4. §192.615 Emergency plans.

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INSPECTION NUMBER DL23-017 / DOCKET NUMBER 37035

(b) Each operator shall:

- (2) Train the appropriate operating personnel to assure that they are knowledgeable of the emergency procedures and verify that the training is effective.

COMMENTS: In the City of Claxton Plan for Natural Gas Emergencies, in Section IX, Item 2 it states: "The Gas Superintendent, or his/her designee, is responsible for ensuring that Operations and Maintenance personnel who perform emergency response activities are trained in the contents of this manual and are knowledgeable of the requirements contained therein annually. Training shall be documented on Appendix P.

During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff examined training records located in the Emergency Manual dated August 20, 2007, with the last review dated January 11, 2023. Training was last performed on 5-6-2023. The Operator was unable to provide documentation for annual training for the years 2018 and 2020.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to demonstrate that they trained the appropriate operating personnel to ensure that they are knowledgeable of the emergency procedures and verify that the training is effective.

5. 49 CFR §192.181 - Distribution line valves.

- (b) Each regulator station controlling the flow or pressure of gas in a distribution system must have a valve installed on the inlet piping at a distance from the regulator station sufficient to permit the operation of the valve during an emergency that might preclude access to the station.

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff performed a field inspection on the Operators regulator stations and found the following. At the Industrial Park station in Bryan County Staff found no inlet valve at a distance that could be used during an emergency. Also, at the North River Street station in Evans County Staff found the inlet valve within 1 foot of the station.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: Operator failed to install inlet valves at all their regulator stations constructed after 1970 and install them at a distance in case during an emergency they are not able to gain access to the station.

6. 49 CFR §192.751 - Prevention of accidental ignition.

- (c) Post warning signs, where appropriate.

STAFFS COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff performed a field inspection of the Operators regulator stations and found that their warning signs had faded and were not legible.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: Operator has failed to provide warning signs to minimize the danger of accidental ignition of gas around their regulator stations.

7. 49 CFR §192.619 - Maximum allowable operating pressure: Steel or plastic pipelines.

- (a) No person may operate a segment of steel or plastic pipeline at a pressure that exceeds a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) determined under paragraph (c), (d), or

CITY OF CLAXTON / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER DL23-017 / DOCKET NUMBER 37035

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) the Operator was unable to provide a determined Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) for their pressured downstream systems from their following Regulator Stations. Daisey Town Border, North River Street, Eden, Blitchton, Queens Way, and Pembroke.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to demonstrate that they have determined a MAOP for all their pipeline system in accordance with Part 192.619(a).

8. 49 CFR §192.723 Distribution systems: Leakage surveys.
 - (b) The type and scope of the leakage control program must be determined by the nature of the operations and the local conditions, but it must meet the following minimum requirements:
 - (1) A leakage survey with leak detector equipment must be conducted in business districts, including tests of the atmosphere in gas, electric, telephone, sewer, and water system manholes, at cracks in pavement and sidewalks, and at other locations providing an opportunity for finding gas leaks, at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.
 - (2) A leakage survey with leak detector equipment must be conducted outside business districts as frequently as necessary, but at least once every 5 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 63 months. However, for cathodically unprotected distribution lines subject to § 192.465(e) on which electrical surveys for corrosion are impractical, a leakage survey must be conducted at least once every 3 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 39 months.

STAFFS COMMENTS: In the City of Claxton O&M Procedures Manual, in section 13-P it refers to Procedure # 1261. In the Additional Instructions for Procedure # 1261 it states:

If access cannot be obtained to any location necessary to perform this Procedure, document and report address of the inaccessible location to Claxton Natural Gas's Gas Superintendent or his/her designee.

Claxton Natural Gas's Gas Superintendent or his/her designee will notify the customer of inability to gain access to the location and will arrange for access so that performance of this Procedure can be completed.

During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff reviewed the Operators leakage survey records and found that in their 2021 Leak Survey there were multiple locations that they recorded as not being able to access or being able to locate. The Operator could not demonstrate that they had taken any action to address these locations. Also, during field inspections Staff and Operator personnel attempted to locate a high-pressure aboveground facility. (farm tap) The Operators personnel were unable to locate the facility and they had to contact a retired former employee for assistance in locating the facility. Once personnel located the facility Staff found that that the facility was leaking, and that the leak was due to atmospheric corrosion.

Staff is concerned that not all facilities are being leak surveyed since the Operators personnel could not locate all of their facilities, and the Operators personnel did not accompany the leak survey technician in order to show them where their facilities are located.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: Operator failed to perform leakage surveys on all of their system as required under Part 192.723.

9. 49 CFR §192.465 - External corrosion control: Monitoring and remediation.

CITY OF CLAXTON / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER DL23-017 / DOCKET NUMBER 37035

- (d) Each operator must promptly correct any deficiencies indicated by the inspection and testing required by paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section. For onshore gas transmission pipelines, each operator must develop a remedial action plan and apply for any necessary permits within 6 months of completing the inspection or testing that identified the deficiency. Remedial action must be completed promptly, but no later than the earliest of the following: prior to the next inspection or test interval required by this section; within 1 year, not to exceed 15 months of the inspection or test that identified the deficiency; or as soon as practicable, not to exceed 6 months, after obtaining any necessary permits.

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff reviewed the Operators cathodic protection survey records for CY2022 and CY2023 and found readings below cathodic protection criteria at the Buck Lane Regulating Station, two (2) locations on Hwy 280, and locations in the Pembroke Rectifier System for over one (1) year.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to take prompt remedial action to correct deficiencies found during their cathodic protection annual surveys as required under Part 192.465(d).

10. 49 CFR §192.467 - External corrosion control: Electrical isolation.

- (c) Except for unprotected copper inserted in ferrous pipe, each pipeline must be electrically isolated from metallic casings that are a part of the underground system. However, if isolation is not achieved because it is impractical, other measures must be taken to minimize corrosion of the pipeline inside the casing.

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff read a casing on Hwy 280 just North of I-16 that did not have a wire on the carrier pipe but was reading -1.65 mV the same as the regulator station on the east side of Hwy 280.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: Operator failed to isolate their casing from carrier pipe as required under Part 192.467(c).

11. 49 CFR §192.473 - External corrosion control: Interference currents.

- (a) Each operator whose pipeline system is subjected to stray currents shall have in effect a continuing program to minimize the detrimental effects of such currents.

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff determined that the Operator did not have test wires at a foreign line crossing (Blue Jay Road) to determine if their pipe was being adversely affected by the foreign line rectifier system they crossed.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to ensure that they have a way to determine if they are affected by stray current as required under 192.467(c).

12. 49 CFR §192.481 - Atmospheric corrosion control: Monitoring.

- (a) Each operator must inspect and evaluate each pipeline or portion of the pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere for evidence of atmospheric corrosion

STAFFS COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009), Staff reviewed documentation from the Operators atmospheric corrosion surveys. While performing field observations Staff

CITY OF CLAXTON / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
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determined that the Operator had more property line regulators in their system than were inspected in their atmospheric corrosion survey program.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to demonstrate that they inspected and evaluated each pipeline or portion of the pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere for evidence of atmospheric corrosion as required under 192.481(a)

13. 49 CFR §192.721 - Distribution systems: Patrolling.

(b) Mains in places or on structures where anticipated physical movement or external loading could cause failure or leakage must be patrolled—

- (1) In business districts, at intervals not exceeding 4 1/2 months, but at least four times each calendar year; and
- (2) Outside business districts, at intervals not exceeding 7 1/2 months, but at least twice each calendar year.

COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff determined that the Operator had not performed any patrols since 2022, and in 2022 only three (3) patrols were performed.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to perform distribution pipeline patrols as required under 192.721(b).

14. 49 CFR §192.479(a) Atmospheric corrosion control: General.

(a) Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere, except pipelines under paragraph (c) of this section.

STAFFS COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff found numerous locations throughout the City of Claxton Natural Gas System where the coating had deteriorated, and the facility had atmospheric corrosion.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton failed to clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere as required under 192.479(a).

15. 49 CFR §192.707 - Line markers for mains and transmission lines.

(a) Buried pipelines. Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a line marker must be placed and maintained as close as practical over each buried main and transmission line:

- (1) At each crossing of a public road and railroad

STAFFS COMMENTS: During this inspection (Inspection # JH23-009) Staff found that the Operator did not have markers at required locations, and that many of the markers were not legible due to fading.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Claxton did not place and maintain pipeline markers at all required locations as required under 192.707(a).

PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Under Commission Rule 515-9-1.01, by virtue of the authority vested in the Commission by law and pursuant to orders issued by the Commission on May 4, 1967, July 6, 1967, April 23, 1968, and October

CITY OF CLAXTON / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
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29, 1970, all Rules and Regulations prescribed by the United States Department of Transportation applicable to the "Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Safety Standards" (C.F.R. 49, Parts 191 and 192) are by this Rule made the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Public Service Commission for the safe installation and operation of all natural gas transmission and distribution facilities by companies subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission within this State.

Under Commission Rule 515-9-3-.08 (Written Formal Notice of Violation), the Commission may propose a civil penalty in conjunction with this notice of probable violation. Further, the City of Claxton is subject to civil penalties under O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91(b) which states that: Any operator which violates any rule or regulation of the commission prescribed pursuant to subsection (i) of Code Section 46-2-20, or which fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any order after notice thereof, shall be liable to a penalty not to exceed the maximum penalties provided for in 49 C.F.R. Section 190.223.

Staff has reviewed the circumstances surrounding the probable violations cited in this report and has recommended the civil penalty/penalties listed below. Please note that this recommended amount is less than the amount authorized by Georgia law.

Item #	Code / Rule	Description	Proposed Penalty
8	§192.723(b)	Leakage Surveys	\$5,000.00
9	§192.465(d)	Corrosion Control / Remediation	\$5,000.00
13	§192.721(b)	Distribution System: Patrolling	\$5,000.00
TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTY			\$15,000.00

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 Claxton

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37035

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

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Amendment (NOA) | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warning Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Concern | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observed Issue | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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):
- Written statement indicating that corrective measures have achieved Compliance or
 - Written plan of action outlining the corrective measures that will be taken to achieve compliance and when compliance is anticipated.

- B. Response for **NOA**:
- 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
 - Not Contested**: Explanation, information, or other material believed to warrant modification of the NOA in whole or in part; or
 - 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

\$

Proposed Penalty for this violation

Notice of Amendment (NOA)

Yes No

Warning Letter

Yes No

Letter of Concern

Yes No

Observed Issue

Yes No

Proposed Civil Penalty

Yes No

OPERATORS RESPONSE: _____

Response Provided by: _____
Name / Title

Date: _____

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: _____

OPERATOR RESPONSE FORM

Operator Name: City of Claxton

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37035

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:)
)
Probable Violation(s) Report with) **DOCKET NO. 37035**
Proposed Civil Penalty)
City of Claxton Gas Department)
Inspection JH23-009 on June 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 Claxton Gas Department* 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 Terry Branch, Mayor
City of Claxton Gas Department
P.O. Box 829
204 West Railroad Street
Claxton, GA 30417
mayor@cityofclaxton.net

*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:

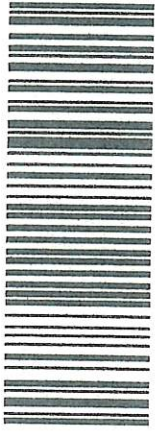


Cathy Nesbitt, Administrative Assistant
Georgia Public Service Commission
Facilities Protection Unit
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

7011 3500 0001 0594 4637

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT OF THE RETURN ADDRESS. FOLD AT DOTTED LINE.

CERTIFIED MAIL™



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OFFICIAL USE

Postage	\$	Postmark Here
Certified Fee		
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)		
Restrict (Endorse)	*The Honorable Terry Branch, Mayor	
Total F	City of Claxton Gas Department	
Sent To	P.O. Box 829	
Street, or PO Box	204 West Railroad Street	
City, State, ZIP+4	Claxton, GA 30417	
	DOCKET NO. 37035	
	JH 23-009	

PS Form 3800, August 2006

See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

*The Honorable Terry Branch, Mayor
 City of Claxton Gas Department
 P.O. Box 829
 204 West Railroad Street
 Claxton, GA 30417

DOCKET NO. 37035
Inspection JH23-009

2. Article Number

(Transfer from service label)

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

X

- Agent
 Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
 If YES, enter delivery address below: No

3. Service Type

- Certified Mail Express Mail
 Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise
 Insured Mail C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)

Yes