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Georgia Public Service Commission

(404) 463-6526
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244 Washington Street, SW
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DOCKET# 37079
DOCUMENT# 218043

Docket No. 37079

City of Royston Gas Department
684 Franklin Springs Street
Royston, GA 30662

REF: Operator Qualification Inspection # JS23-028

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Edward Andrews

On September 27, 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 JS23-028 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. 37079 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: JS23-028

OPERATOR: City of Royston Gas Department

INVESTIGATOR: Jason Smith

INSPECTION DATE: September 27, 2023 REPORT MAILED DATE: March 19, 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
192.465(d)	Each operator shall take prompt remedial action to correct any deficiencies indicated by the...	DJ20-036	11/9/2020
192.479(a)	Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the...	DJ20-036	11/9/2020

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On September 28, 2023, Pipeline Safety Staff reported to the City of Royston Gas Department to conduct an Operator Qualification (OQ) program inspection for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards.

During the inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Travis Quarles - Gas Superintendent
Bryan Garrett - Gas Service Technician
Lori Lamberth - MGAG/SRCS (consultant)
Tim Franklin - MGAG/SRCS (consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Jason Smith - Lead Inspector
Brant Sweat - Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Royston had two (2) previously existing probable violations. Staff reviewed these probable violations with the Operator under follow-up inspection # JS23-027.

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

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection Staff conducted a review of the City of Royston's Operator Qualifications to ensure that the Operator had and followed a written qualification program, that covered tasks 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 OQ protocol 9 inspections. The Royston Gas Department provided qualifications for Tyler Coile and Bryan Garrett to perform covered tasks. Staff examined the individual records before observing the performance. Staff verified that qualification records for these individuals were current.

Tyler Coile, Gas Service Technician, performed task #0101: Inspect Rectifier & Obtain Reads, qualified through 02/05/2024 and task #0001: Measure Structure to Electrolyte Potential, qualified through 02/05/2024. Staff verified that Tyler Coile was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedure and identify abnormal conditions that may be encountered.

Bryan Garrett, Gas Service Technician, performed task #1241: Outside Leak Investigation, qualified through 12/02/2023. Staff verified Bryan Garrett was able to perform the covered task according to the procedure and was able to identify abnormal conditions.

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. 37079**
City of Royston Gas Department	)	
Inspection JS23-028 on September 27, 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 Royston 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

*Mr. Edward Andrews, City Manager
City of Royston Gas Department
684 Franklin Springs Street
Royston, GA 30662
citymanager@cityofroyston.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 7th day of March 2023:

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