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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHELLE THEBERT
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. 37054




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

ATTN: Mr. Clay Walker

On August 22, 2023 a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline/Facilities Safety Office conducted an on-site inspection of your gas system and found no violation of the Pipeline Safety Regulations. The enclosed inspection report numbered JS23-023 is provided for your information and file.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this report, please contact me at (404) 985-4271 or mthebert@psc.ga.gov. If you submit a written response to this inspection, please refer to Docket No. 37054.

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: JS23-023

OPERATOR: Fort Valley Utility Commission

INVESTIGATOR: Jason Smith

INSPECTION DATE: August 22, 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 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 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

On August 22, 2023, Staff reported to Fort Valley Utilities Commission to conduct an inspection of the Operator's operator qualification (OQ) program for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192, SubPart N.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:
Robert Johns – Operations Manager
Clay Walker – General Manager
Wade Sharpe – Consultant (MGAG/SRCS)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Jason Smith – Lead Inspector
Brant Sweat – Pipeline Safety Inspector
Daniel Clemmons – Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the Fort Valley Utility Commission had no previously existing probable violations.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this Operator Qualification inspection, Staff utilized PHMSA Operator Qualification Plan Review form #14 to review Fort Valley Gas Department's OQ plan and records, which includes their process on ensuring contractors compliance.

During this inspection Staff conducted OQ Protocol 9 field verification inspection and PHMSA Form 14 to ensure 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 adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

During the field evaluation Staff observed the Operators personnel Luis Torres, Dontavious Elliot, James Pittman Employees performed:
-Task #0141 – Visual Inspection of Atmospheric Corrosion, James Pittman Qualified Thru 12/16/27
-Task #1001 – Coating Application and repair – Spray, Dontavious Elliot Qualified Thru 10/06/25
-Task #0681 – Joining of Plastic Pipe - Stab, Luis Torres Qualified Thru 02/17/24

Staff observed that the Operators personnel followed the task procedure and applicable manufactures written procedure.

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 JS23-023 on August 22, 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 28th day of March 2024:

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