OPERATOR RESPONSE FORM

Operator Name: Dalton Utilities

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No x

Docket Number: 37042

Responses required within **30 days of electronic mail.** Provide the following information for this report:

Response to Inspection Number: JS23-011

Type of Enforcement Action(s) cited in report:			Informal Conference Requested	
☐ Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☒ Notice of Amendment (NOA)	☐ New	☒Continuing	☐ Yes	☒ No
☐ Warning Letter	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Letter of Concern	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Observed Issue	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ 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):
   1. ☐ Written statement indicating that corrective measures have achieved Compliance or
   2. ☐ Written plan of action outlining the corrective measures that will be taken to achieve compliance and when compliance is anticipated.

B. Response for **NOA**:
   1. ☐ 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
   2. ☒ Not Contested: Explanation, information, or other material believed to warrant modification of the NOA in whole or in part; or
   3. ☐ 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: Not Applicable
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 FORM

Operator Name: Dalton Utilities

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No x

Docket Number: 37042

Enforcement Action for: §192.615(c) ☐ 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: This Continuing Violation was Cleared in the Report on Inspection JS23-022.

Response Provided by: Ralph Smith/Natural Gas Regulatory & Pipeline Services Manager Date: 04/16/2024

Name / Title

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: _____

COMMISSIONERS

JASON SHAW , Chairman
TIM G. ECHOLS , Vice-Chairman
FITZ JOHNSON
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD
TRICIA PRIDEMORE

FILED
MAR 19 2024
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
G.P.S.C.

REECE McALISTER
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# 37042
DOCUMENT# 218051

Docket No. 37042

Dalton Utilities
P. O. Box 869
Dalton, GA 30722

REF: Follow Up Inspection # JS23-011

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. John Thomas

On March 14, 2023, a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection Office conducted an on-site inspection of your gas system and found that previously identified probable violation(s) of the Pipeline Safety Regulations have either been cleared or are continuing, as identified below.

- ☒ Previously existing probable violation(s) has/have been cleared.
- ☒ Previously existing probable violation(s) still exist.
- ☐ Additional Enforcement
  - ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation
  - ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation with Proposed Civil Penalty
  - ☐ Warning Letter
  - ☐ Letter of Concern
  - ☐ Observed Issue
- ☐ Consent Agreement Pending

The enclosed inspection report numbered JS23-011 is provided for your information and file.

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. 37042 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

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TIM G. ECHOLS , Vice-Chairman
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REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: JS23-011

OPERATOR: Dalton Utilities

INVESTIGATOR: Jason Smith

INSPECTION DATE: March 14, 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 follow-up on the Operator's previously existing probable violations

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.615(c)	Each operator shall establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other...	JS22-010	5/9/2022

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

Cleared on 3/14/2023

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.479	Atmospheric corrosion control: General.	JS22-010	5/9/2022
192.479(a)	Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the...	JS22-010	5/9/2022
192.491(c)	Each operator shall maintain a record of each test, survey, or inspection required by this sub...	JS22-010	5/9/2022
192.147(a)	Each flange or flange accessory (other than cast iron) must meet the minimum requirements of...	JS22-010	5/9/2022

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
Consent Agreement Pending	Operator is negotiating Consent Agreement with the FPU Director	JS23-011	3/14/2023

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:	)	
	)	
Clearing and Continuing Violation Report	)	**DOCKET NO. 37042**
Dalton Utilities	)	
Inspection JS23-011 on March 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 *Dalton 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

*John Thomas, CEO
Dalton Utilities
P.O. Box 869
Dalton, GA 30722
jthomas@dutil.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 26th day of March 2024:

Cathy Nesbitt

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