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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. 37039

DOCKET# 37039
DOCUMENT# 218914

City of Cordele Gas System
PO Box 569
501 N. Seventh Street
Cordele, GA 31010

REF: Comprehensive Inspection # JJ23-019

Certified Mail

Regular Mail

Email

Attention: Ms. Angela Redding

On April 25, 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 JJ23-019 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. 37039 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: JJ23-019

OPERATOR: City of Cordele Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Joe Jones

INSPECTION DATE: April 25, 2023

REPORT MAILED DATE: May 30, 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

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.467(d)	Inspection and electrical tests must be made to assure that electrical isolation is adequate.	JJ23-019	4/25/2023

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

CITY OF CORDELE / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER JJ23-019 / DOCKET NUMBER 37039

From April 24 through 27, Staff reported to the City of Cordele Gas Department to perform a comprehensive inspection on the Operator's plans, procedures, programs, records and pipeline facilities for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards and conduct Protocol 9 OQ inspections for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:

Tina Bearden – Gas Supervisor
Chris Welborn - MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:

Joseph Jones – Lead Inspector
Daphne Jones – Pipeline Safety Inspector
Daniel Clemmons – Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Cordele was under was under one (1) previously existing probable violation. These violations will be addressed under Follow-Up Inspection Number DJ23-018.

During this inspection Staff reviewed the City of Cordele's Gas System written operations and maintenance procedures, records, and gas facilities for compliance with 49 CFR Parts 191 and 192, and the GPSC rules for safe operation of a natural gas distribution system. Staff reviewed the City of Cordele's Emergency Manual, the Operations and Maintenance Manual and the records for conducting regular operations on their gas system including the collection of field data required for the Operator's DIMP program. Staff also conducted field inspection of randomly selected pipeline field facilities located within the City of Cordele including leak repairs, pressure stations and pressure recording devices, right of way conditions, atmospheric corrosion control, odorant testing, and accessibility of critical valves.

In addition to the comprehensive inspection Staff conducted four Operator Qualification Protocol 9 field reviews. Staff observed William Gibbs, Asst. Superintendent as he performed Task # 1211- Periodic Sampling; and Task # 0001 – Measure Structure-to-Electrolyte (pipe to Soil) Potential; and Latrince Hayes Task #0101- Inspect Rectifier and Obtain Readings; and Task # 0301 – Manually Opening and Closing valves.

The Operator provided the current qualification records for the individual before he performed each of the covered tasks. During the field reviews, Staff verified that the individual was able to perform each task by following the company approved procedures and that he was able to identify the abnormal conditions associated with each task and explain a course of action to mitigate the condition.

NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION

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

49CFR §192.467 External corrosion control: Electrical isolation.

(d) Inspection and electrical tests must be made to assure that electrical isolation is adequate.

COMMENTS: Staff reviewed the Operator's CY2018 to CY2022 Casing Inspection Records and found out they did not perform any casing inspections or have any documentation showing casing inspections were performed. Staff asked the Operator for documentation on what inspection had been completed regarding each casing and the Operator could not provide Staff with any documentation for the casing

CITY OF CORDELE / COMPREHENSIVE INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER JJ23-019 / DOCKET NUMBER 37039

inspections. The Casing Inspections for CY2023 were completed, and the documentation for that year was provided to Staff for review.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Cordele failed to demonstrate that they conducted inspections of their casings to ensure they were electrically isolated as required during CY's 2018 to 2022.

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 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 Cordele 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.

Code / Rule	Description	Proposed Penalty
<u>§192.467(d)</u>	<u>External corrosion control: Electrical isolation.</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTY		\$5,000.00

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 Cordele

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37039

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:

- Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)
- Notice of Amendment (NOA)
- Warning Letter
- Letter of Concern
- Observed Issue
- Proposed Civil Penalty

- New Continuing
- New Continuing
- New Continuing
- New Continuing
- New Continuing

Informal Conference Requested

- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No

\$ _____
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: _____
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:

- Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)
- Notice of Amendment (NOA)
- Warning Letter
- Letter of Concern
- Observed Issue
- Proposed Civil Penalty

Conference Requested:

- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No

\$ _____
Proposed Penalty for this violation

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 Cordele

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37039

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 Report with Proposed) **DOCKET NO. 37039**
Civil Penalty)
City of Cordele Gas System)
Inspection JJ23-019 on April 25, 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 Cordele Gas Systems* 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

*Angela Redding, City Manager
City of Cordele Gas System
PO Box 569
501 N. Seventh Street
Cordele, GA 31010
angelaredding@cityofcordele.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this _____ day of June 2024:



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