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FACILITIES PROTECTION UNIT DIRECTOR

Georgia Public Service Commission

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244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

FAX: (404) 463-6532
psc.ga.gov

Docket No. 37036

DOCKET# 37036
DOCUMENT# 221405

City of Cochran Gas System
112 West Dykes St
PO Box 8
Cochran, GA 31014

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail

Attention: Mr. Richard Newbern

On June 10, 2024, a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection Office conducted a review of the terms of your Consent Agreement and found that the previously agreed upon items have either been addressed, or are continuing, as identified below.

☐ Consent Agreement complied with - All provisions have been completed

☒ Consent Agreement has not yet been complied with

- ☐ Operator is still working to address the provisions of the Consent Agreement / Staff to schedule followup based on Operators response to this inspection.
- ☒ Operator has addressed the provisions of the Consent Agreement / Monitoring by Staff will continue as required under the terms of the Consent Agreement.

☐ Consent Agreement not complied with - Additional Enforcement

- ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation with Proposed Civil Penalty
- ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation
- ☐ Warning Letter
- ☐ Letter of Concern
- ☐ Observed Issue

The enclosed inspection report numbered DL24-020 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. 37036 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: DL24-020

OPERATOR: City of Cochran Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: David Lewis

INSPECTION DATE: June 10, 2024 REPORT MAILED DATE: February 5, 2025

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 follow-up inspection of the Operators previously existing probable violations.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
Under Consent Agreement	Operator is under a Consent Agreement.	DL22-011	2/21/2022

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

CITY OF COCHRAN / FOLLOWUP INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER DL24-020 / DOCKET NUMBER 37036

On June 10, 2024, Staff met with the City of Cochran to perform a follow-up inspection of the Operator's previously existing probable violations and Consent Agreement.

During this review, the Operator was represented by:
Tracy Jones – City Clerk
Wade Sharpe – MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by David Lewis, Lead Inspector.

At the time of this inspection, the City of Cochran was under one (1) previously existing Consent Agreement with the Director to address a total of $20,000 in outstanding proposed civil penalties for probable violations which were cited in Inspection Number DL17-014. Staff reviewed these items with the Operator and determined the following:

CONSENT AGREEMENT CONTINUING

The Operator entered into a Consent Agreement with the Director to address the outstanding penalties. This agreement was approved by the Commission on January 7, 2022.

Under the Consent Agreement, the City of Cochran agreed that:

1. Cochran shall replace the Empire regulator station at an estimated cost of $16,000. This shall be completed within six (6) months of the Commission approved order in this case.
2. Cochran shall replace cathodic protection ground bed for Empire Community rectifier at an estimated cost of $13,500. This shall be completed within six (6) months of the Commission-approved order in this case.
3. Cochran shall provide online training for Designated Employee Representative (DER) in Drug and Alcohol Plan at an estimated cost of $200. This shall be completed within six (6) months of the Commission approved order in this case.
4. Cochran shall participate in the Georgia Pipeline Emergency Response Initiative (GPERI) for a period of three (3) years at an estimated cost of $275 per year.

FIRST FOLLOWUP INSPECTION: In inspection (DL22-011) Staff found that:

1. The City of Cochran, upon further investigation, determined that the Empire Regulator Station is not their facility, and that it belongs to the Mid-State Energy Commission.
2. The City of Cochran provided Staff with a statement of charges for the replacement of the Empire Community cathodic protection ground bed.
3. The City of Cochran provided Staff with a certificate for training for their DER for Drug and Alcohol training.
4. Staff verified that the City of Cochran did participate in the GPERI program CY's 2020 and 2021.

Due to the issue with the Empire Regulator Station Staff referred this issue back to the Director for resolution. In Inspection DL22-011 the Director advised that: "Due to the fact that the regulator station does not belong to the City of Cochran, Cochran contact the Director to discuss an alternative option to resolve the outstanding civil penalty."

SECOND FOLLOWUP INSPECTION: During this inspection (DL24-020) Staff noted that there was no response from the City of Cochran to Inspection Number DL22-011. Staff advised the Operator that they still need to contact the Director to discuss an alternative option to resolve the outstanding civil penalty.

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:	)	
	)	
City of Cochran Gas System	)	**DOCKET NO. 37036**
	)	
	)	
	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, do hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the within and foregoing document on the following persons via email or United States Mail as follows:

*Sallie Tanner, Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

*Richard Newbern, City Manager/Utilities
City of Cochran Gas System
112 West Dykes Street
P.O. Box 8
Cochran, GA 31014
rnewbern@cityofcochran.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 17th day of February 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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