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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. 37035

DOCKET# 37035
DOCUMENT# 221406

City of Claxton Gas Department
P. O. Box 829
204 West Railroad Street
Claxton, GA 30417

REF: Operator Qualification Inspection # DL24-014

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Terry Branch

On April 30, 2024, a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline/Facilities Safety Office conducted an inspection of your gas system. The enclosed inspection report numbered DL24-014 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. 37035 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: DL24-014

OPERATOR: City of Claxton Gas Department

INVESTIGATOR: David Lewis

INSPECTION DATE: April 30, 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 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
192.1007(d)	Identify and implement measures to address risks.	AT22-009	2/21/2022
192.1011	What records must an operator keep?	AT22-009	2/21/2022
192.615(b)(2)	Train the appropriate operating personnel to assure that they are knowledgeable of the emergency...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.465(d)	Each operator shall take prompt remedial action to correct any deficiencies indicated by the...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.619(a)	No person may operate a segment of steel or plastic pipeline at a pressure that exceeds a maximum...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.473(a)	Each operator whose pipeline system is subjected to stray currents shall have in effect a...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.479(a)	Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.605(b)(8)	Periodically reviewing the work done by operator personnel to determine the effectiveness and...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.181(b)	Each regulator station controlling the flow or pressure of gas in a distribution system must have...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.481(a)	Each operator must inspect each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the atmosphere...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.707(a)(1)	Line markers for mains and transmission lines. Buried pipelines. Except as provided in paragraph...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.751(c)	Post warning signs, where appropriate.	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.467(c)	Except for unprotected copper inserted in a ferrous pipe, each pipeline must be electrically...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.605(b)(3)	Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.721(b)	Mains in places or on structures where anticipated physical movement or external loading could...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.615(a)(6)	Emergency shutdown and pressure reduction in any section of the operator's pipeline system neces...	JH23-009	6/20/2023
192.723(b)	The type and scope of the leakage control program must be determined by the nature of the...	JH23-009	6/20/2023

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On April 30, 2024, Staff requested information from the City of Claxton regarding their Operator Qualification program. Staff received this information over a period of time and conducted most of this inspection virtually. Staff completed the inspection and did an exit review on May 29, 2024.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:
Danny Hughs – Gas Superintendent
Taylor Rush- Regulatory Compliance
Bishop Bullard - Service Technician
Brad Jernigan - Service Technician
Chris Cawley – MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
David Lewis – Lead Inspector
Jack Hewitt - Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Claxton was under seventeen (17) previously existing probable violations. See Inspection number DL24-017 for details. Staff determined the following:

NO PROBABLE VIOLATIONS

Staff observed Operator personnel Bishop Bullard conduct Task #0301 Manually Opening & Closing Valves qualified through 5/30/2026 and Task #0141 Visual Inspection for Atmospheric Corrosion he is qualified through 5/30/2026. Staff observed Brad Jernigan perform Task #1301 Install & Maintain Pipeline Markers qualified 9/14/2025.

Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedures and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal conditions and define the applicable actions.

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:	)	
	)	
City of Claxton Gas Department	)	**DOCKET NO. 37035**
	)	
	)	
	)	

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

*The Honorable Terry Branch, Mayor
City of Claxton Gas Department
P.O. Box 829
204 West Railroad Street
Claxton, GA 30417
mayor@cityofclaxton.net

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

Respectfully Submitted this 5th day of February 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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