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Georgia Public Service Commission

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(800) 282-5813

244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

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

Docket No. 37032

DOCKET# 37032
DOCUMENT# 221407

City of Cartersville Gas Department
PO Box 1390
Cartersville, GA 30120

REF: Operator Qualification Inspection # JS24-029

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Dan Porta

On July 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 JS24-029 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. 37032 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: JS24-029

OPERATOR: City of Cartersville Gas Department

INVESTIGATOR: Jason Smith

INSPECTION DATE: July 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

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On July 30, 2024, Pipeline Safety Staff began reviewing the city of Cartersville Gas Department's Operator Qualification plan version 3.1; then on August 16, 2024, Staff reported to Cartersville to conduct an OQ program inspection for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards.

During the inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Greg Thacker - Regulatory & Compliance Supervisor
Chris Givens - Regulatory & Construction Coordinator
Jody Glassman - Lead CP / Leak Technician
Maurice Chaney - MGAG/SRCS (consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Jason Smith - Lead Inspector
Eric Atkins - Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Cartersville Gas Department had no previously existing probable violations.

During this inspection, Staff utilized PHMSA Operator Qualification Plan Review inspection form to review the City of Cartersville Gas Department's OQ plan and records, which includes their process on ensuring contractors compliance.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection, Staff conducted a review of the City of Cartersville Gas Department's Operator Qualification program to ensure they had and followed a written OQ plan, that covered tasks were being performed in accordance with appropriate operator-approved procedures, and that individuals performing the observed covered tasks were qualified and adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

While on site, Staff performed a protocol 9 OQ field verification inspection on gas department personnel. The Operator provided qualification records for Andy Knight, Seth Morton and Kason Miller for Staff to examine prior to observing performance of the task. Staff verified that qualification records for these individuals were current.

Andy Knight - Foreman / Welder, performed task #0051 'Installation of Exothermic Electrical Connections', qualified through 11/30/2025. Staff verified that Andy Knight was able to perform the covered task according to the procedure and identify abnormal operating conditions that may be encountered.

Seth Morton - Lead Service Worker, performed task #1141 'Squeeze Off Plastic Pipe', qualified through 04/10/2027. Staff verified Seth Morton was able to perform the covered task according to the procedure and was able to identify abnormal operating conditions.

Kason Miller - Lead Service Worker / Welder, performed task #1101 'Tapping a Pipeline with a Built-in Cutter', qualified through 01/25/2027. Staff verified Kason Miller was able to perform the covered task according to the procedure and was able to identify abnormal operating conditions.

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 Cartersville Gas Department	)	**DOCKET NO. 37032**
	)	
	)	
	)	

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

*Dan Porta, City Manager
City of Cartersville Gas Department
P.O. Box 1390
Cartersville, GA 30120
dporta@cityofcartersville.org

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

Respectfully Submitted this 13th day of February 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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