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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. 37029

DOCKET# 37029
DOCUMENT# 221408

City of Buford Gas System
2300 Buford Highway
Buford, GA 30518

REF: Construction Inspection # DC24-022

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Bryan Kerlin

On May 6, 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 DC24-022 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. 37029 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: DC24-022

OPERATOR: City of Buford Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Daniel Clemmons

INSPECTION DATE: May 6, 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 Operators construction project for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR Part 192.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On May 06-09, 2024, Staff reported to Nicholasville, Ga and Auburn, Ga to conduct an unannounced inspection of the City Buford Gas construction project for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR Part 192 and Protocol 9 inspections for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:
David McGrew – Buford Inspector
Marcus Hernandez – Southern Pipeline Foreman

Commission Staff was represented by:
Daniel Clemmons - Lead Inspector
Daphne Jones – Public Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection, the City of Buford does not have any existing probable violations.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection, Staff performed an unannounced inspection of a Buford contract construction crew (Southern Pipeline) installing new 5/8" inch plastic service lines at Creekside Crossing in Nicholasville, Ga and at Woodline View Circle in Auburn, Ga. The pipeline project consisted of a 943 ft of 5/8" inch plastic pipeline. The project was listed as new business for the City of Buford Gas. Staff reviewed the materials being used, excavation for the pipe, damage prevention procedures, and qualification records along with a qualification field inspection on personnel performing construction tasks.

From May 6-7, 2024, Staff observed a Buford contractor construction crew (Southern Pipeline) perform OQ Protocol 9 field tasks. Staff verified that covered task(s) were being performed in accordance with appropriate Operator-approved procedures, that the procedures were available at the job site, and that the individuals performing the observed covered task(s) were adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

During the protocol field evaluations, Staff observed Southern Pipeline, Inc. personnel perform the following tasks:
1. Marcus Hernandez / Southern Pipeline Foreman, performed:
   - Task #0791 – Joining Plastic Pipe – Socket Fusion, qualified 01/25/2024, through 01/25/2025.
   - Task #0941 – Tracer Wire installation qualified 09/23/2022 through 09/23/2025.
2. Brandon Spinks / Southern Pipeline Gas Technician, performed:
   - Task #0981 – Backfilling, qualified 08/18/2023, through 08/18/2026.

Staff verified that Southern Pipeline personnel had access to electronic copies of the procedures and all observed tasks were performed by adhering to the requirements of the Buford Gas Operations and Procedures manual. Staff also conducted a review of the surrounding area and indicated the existing utilities had been located and marked in the construction area.

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 Buford Gas System	)	**DOCKET NO. 37029**
	)	
	)	
	)	

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

*Bryan Kerlin, City Manager
City of Buford Gas System
2300 Buford Highway
Buford, GA 30518
bkerlin@cityofbuford.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 19th day of February 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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