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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# 37081
DOCUMENT#221636

Docket No. 37081

City of Social Circle Gas Department
P. O. Box 310
Social Circle, GA 30025

REF: Public Awareness Inspection # JJ24-048

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Eric Taylor

On August 29, 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 JJ24-048 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. 37081 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: JJ24-048

OPERATOR: City of Social Circle Gas Department

INVESTIGATOR: Joe Jones

INSPECTION DATE: August 29, 2024 REPORT MAILED DATE: February 19, 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 Public Awareness Program (PAP) for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192.616.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.465(d)	Each operator shall take prompt remedial action to correct any deficiencies indicated by the...	KR22-038	12/12/2022
192.625(f)	To assure the proper concentration of odorant in accordance with this section, each operator must...	KR22-038	12/12/2022

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

From August 28th, 2024, through August 29th, 2024. Staff conducted an inspection of the Operators Public Awareness Program (PAP) for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192.616 and conduct Protocol 9 inspections for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards. An exit meeting was performed on August 29th, 2024.

During this Inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Rusty Johnson– Gas Superintendent
Rhonda Bell – Administrative Assistant
Lori Lamberth – MAG/SRCS (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Joseph Jones – Lead Inspector
Chuck Whitaker – Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Social Circle was under six (6) previously existing probable violation (s). These violations will be addressed under Follow-Up Inspection Number JJ24-046.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this Inspection, Staff examined the Operator's Public Awareness Plan (PAP) and utilized the PHMSA checklist to record the findings of the inspection. Commission Staff examined the supporting records provided by the Operator that verified compliance with the minimum safety standards.

The City of Social Circle's existing Public Awareness Committee consists of personnel involved in regulatory compliance, operations, and damage prevention. All these functions support the execution of Social Circle's Public Awareness Program (PAP).

The City of Social Circle's Public Awareness Program (PAP) was developed following the guidance provided in the American Petroleum Institute's (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162. The objectives of this Public Awareness Program and Plan are "to raise the awareness of the affected public and key stakeholders of the presence of buried pipelines and other related gas facilities in the communities where we serve. It is the intent of this plan to accomplish this by educating and bringing awareness to each stakeholder audience regarding the presence of our pipelines in their communities through education, awareness, response, and plan flexibility".

As a result of the City of Social Circle's Public Awareness Program inspection, Staff noted no probable violations of the minimum federal safety standards.

While on Site, Staff conducted three Operator Qualification Protocol 9 field verification inspections to ensure that covered task(s) were being performed in accordance with appropriate operator-approved procedures, that the procedures were present at the job site, and that the individuals performing the observed covered task(s) were adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

Robert Hammock / Senior Gas Technician, performed:
1. EWN-PE Join Pipe Using Bottom-Out Compression Couplings Task #0691 / Qualification verified as current Qualifications good through 8/14/2025
2. Installation of Customer Meters and Regulators- Residential and Small Commercial Task #80851 / Qualification verified as current Qualifications good through 7/30/2027
3. Travis Wright / Gas Technician, performed:
EWN-PE of Plastic Pipe: Stab Fitting Task #80833 - Task / Qualification verified as current Qualifications good through
7/30/2024

Staff verified that the individuals were able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedures and were 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 Social Circle Gas Department	)	**DOCKET NO. 37081**
	)	
	)	
	)	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

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

*Eric Taylor, City Manager
City of Social Circle Gas Department
P. O. Box 310
Social Circle, GA 30025
etaylor@socialcirclega.gov

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

Respectfully Submitted this 4th day of March 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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