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FACILITIES PROTECTION UNIT DIRECTOR

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. 37093

DOCKET# 37093
DOCUMENT# 221694

Tri-County Natural Gas Authority
P. O. Box 247
Union Point, GA 30669

REF: 199 Inspection # RS24-009

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Lanier Rhodes

On January 31, 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 RS24-009 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. 37093 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: RS24-009

OPERATOR: Tri-County Natural Gas Authority

INVESTIGATOR: Brant Sweat

INSPECTION DATE: January 31, 2024 REPORT MAILED DATE: February 26, 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 anti-drug and alcohol programs required by 49CFR Parts 40 and 199

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.619(a)	No person may operate a segment of steel or plastic pipeline at a pressure that exceeds a maximum...	JS18-042	12/17/2018
192.181(a)	Each high-pressure distribution system must have valves spaced so as to reduce the time to...	JB22-001	3/7/2022

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On January 31st, 2024, Staff went to Union Point, Georgia and reported to Tri-County Natural Gas System to conduct a drug & alcohol inspection on the Operator's anti-drug & alcohol plan and records.

During this inspection The City of Monroe was represented by:
Denise Channell - Designated Employer Representative (DER)
Lori Lambert - MGAG/SRCS (consultant)

During this inspection, the Operator was represented by Brant Sweat, Lead Inspector.

NO VIOLATION FOUND

At the time of this inspection Tri-County was under One (1) existing probable violation and Eleven (11) Notice of Amendments which were cited under comprehensive inspection #JB22-001. Staff reviewed these violations and Notice of Amendments during Follow-Up Inspection (Ref Inspection Number RS24-008) and collected evidence to try and clear these violations.

During this inspection, Staff reviewed Tri-County's natural gas department's anti-drug & alcohol plan for compliance with Part 40 & 199 of the Pipeline Safety Regulations utilizing PHMSA's drug & alcohol inspection form.

Staff examined the Operator's drug and alcohol testing records for covered employees who fall under the plan, Management Information System (MIS) data, qualification documentation for service agents, and records demonstrating how Tri-County Natural Gas ensures their contractors who perform covered functions for them are following the drug & alcohol regulations.

Staff also performed three (3) Protocol 9 Inspection on Tri-County's Foreman Joshua Campbell. Staff watched Mr. Campbell perform Task #0141Visual Inspection for Atmospheric Corrosion Qualified through 05/28/2024, Task #0681 Joining of Plastic Pipe – Stab Fittings Qualified through 11/09/2024, and Task #1141 Squeeze off Plastic Pipe qualified through 11/09/2026. Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedure 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:	)	
	)	
Tri – County Natural Gas Authority	)	**DOCKET NO. 37093**
	)	
	)	
	)	

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

*The Honorable Lanier Rhodes, Mayor
Tri-County Natural Gas
P.O. Box 247
Union Point, GA 30669
mayorlrhodes@gmail.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 5th day of March 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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