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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHELLE THEBERT
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. 37040

City of Covington Municipal Gas
P. O. Box 1527
Covington, GA 30015

REF: DIMP – Implementation Inspection # DJ24-023



Certified Mail

Regular Mail

Email

Attention: Mr. Tres Thomas

On May 14, 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 DJ24-023 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. 37040 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 L. Thebert
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection

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REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: DJ24-023

OPERATOR: City of Covington Municipal Gas

INVESTIGATOR: Daphne Jones

INSPECTION DATE: May 14, 2024

REPORT MAILED DATE: April 16, 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 implementation of their Distribution Integrity Management Program (DIMP) for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR Part 192, Subpart P.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On May 22, 2024, Staff reported to the City of Covington's Gas Department to perform a Distribution Integrity Management Plan (DIMP IMP) Implementation Inspection on the Operator's DIMP plans, records, and pipeline facilities for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards and conduct Protocol 9 inspections for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards. An exit meeting was conducted on May 22, 2024.

During this inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Robert Leigh – Operations Manager
Mike Jewell – Gas Director
Gary Cook – Service Supervisor
Dalton Chappellear – Crew Leader
Larry Taylor – Crew Leader
Lori Lamberth– MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

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

At the time of this inspection, the City of Covington had no previously existing probable violations.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection Staff performed a DIMP IMP Inspection of the Operator's written DIMP plan and records, and gas facilities for compliance with 49 CFR Parts 191 and 192, and the GPSC rules for safe operation of a natural gas distribution system.

During this inspection, The Operator had records on file to demonstrate they collected all the required data on any new pipeline and components installed from 2014 thru 2023. Staff verified that the Operator has documented the following: • Location • Material type and size • Wall thickness or SDR • Manufacturer • Lot or production number. The operator has documented all new construction and maintenance, and existing facilities, as it is exposed, by capturing the data on their work order specification sheet.

During the field evaluation, Staff also observed the Operator's personnel perform three Protocol 9 inspections in Covington, Ga. The Operator provided the individual qualifications for Gary Cook, Service Supervisor, Task #0001 Measuring Pipe to Soil Potentials: qualification expiration date, 4/18/2025 and Task #1211 Odorization Periodic Sampling: qualification expiration date 4/18/2025. Staff observed also observed Dalton Chappellear, Crew Leader, perform Task #1241 Outside Gas Leak Investigation: qualification expiration date, 9/17/2024. Staff observed also observed Larry Taylor, Crew Leader, perform Task #1231 Inside Gas Leak Investigation: qualification expiration date, 1/12/2025. Staff examined the individual records before observing the performance in the field. Staff verified that qualification records for these individuals were current.

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.

OPERATOR RESPONSE FORM

Operator Name: City of Covington

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37040

Responses required within **30 days of electronic mail**. Provide the following information for this report:

Response to Inspection Number: _____

Type of Enforcement Action(s) cited in report:

Informal Conference Requested

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Amendment (NOA) | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Warning Letter | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Letter of Concern | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Observed Issue | <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Continuing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Proposed Civil Penalty | \$ _____ | |

PCP \$ Amount (Total for report)

Indicate below (A-E) based on the type of Enforcement Actions in this report: (Check all that apply) Complete a separate copy of Page 2, Operator Response to Enforcement Action, for each cited item.

- A. Response for **Notice of Probable Violation** (with and without proposed civil penalty):
 - 1. Written statement indicating that corrective measures have achieved Compliance or
 - 2. Written plan of action outlining the corrective measures that will be taken to achieve compliance and when compliance is anticipated.

- B. Response for **NOA**:
 - 1. Contested: Attach written explanation, information, or other material in answer to the allegations in the Notice of Amendment stating your reasons for objecting to the NOA, in whole or in part; or
 - 2. Not Contested: Explanation, information, or other material believed to warrant modification of the NOA in whole or in part; or
 - 3. Written request for clarification. (Attached)

- C. Response for **Continuing** and/or **Existing** violations:

Current status, updates, expected completion dates, proposed modifications, etc., of the continuing and/or existing violations, even if this information was previously provided. Referencing a previously filed response letter, as status, updates, etc. alone is not sufficient for this response. Failure to provide this information may result in formal interrogatories from the Director through data requests.

- D. Response for **Letter of Concern** / **Warning Letter**

I acknowledge receipt of the Letter of Concern/Warning Letter: _____

SIGNATURE / TITLE

Additional Comments: (Optional) _____

- E. Response for **Observed Issue** and **No Violation**: (Optional Response)

Staff requests that the Operator acknowledge receipt of the Observed Issue/No Violation in writing, or by submitting an email to the FPU Director

Operator Response to Enforcement Action

Enforcement Action for: _____ New Violation Continuing Violation
Enter Code / Commission Rule (Complete a separate attachment for each enforcement action)

Enforcement Action(s) cited in report:

- Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)
- Notice of Amendment (NOA)
- Warning Letter
- Letter of Concern
- Observed Issue
- Proposed Civil Penalty

Conference Requested:

- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No
- Yes No

\$ _____
Proposed Penalty for this violation

OPERATORS RESPONSE: _____

Response Provided by: _____ Name / Title Date: _____

Internal use only:

Lead Inspector: _____ Date Response Reviewed: _____

Actions Acceptable: Yes No Re-inspection Needed: Yes No Clear Violation: Yes No

Supervisor Review by: _____ Date Reviewed: _____

Additional Enforcement Recommended: Yes No

Director Review

Approved: Yes No Schedule Special Follow-up Inspection: Yes No

Cleared Violation: Yes No

Comments: _____

OPERATOR RESPONSE FORM

Operator Name: City of Covington

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37040

Filings:

For all written responses or any other official correspondence, the Operator shall file the response at the following address:

Ms. Sallie Tanner, Executive Secretary
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The Operator must file **five (5)** copies of any response and/or official correspondence, as well as a CD with an electronic version of the response in Microsoft Word and/or a PDF, if applicable.

Informal Conference:

Any Operator who chooses to request an informal conference shall request such a conference through emailing the Director (michellet@psc.state.ga.us), calling the Director (404-463-2765), or selecting the "Request Conference" choice.

Civil Penalty Payments:

Certified check for the full amount of the recommended civil penalty or consent agreement amount made payable to the Georgia Public Service Commission. The Operator's name, applicable Docket No., and Inspection Report No. must be included on the certified check. Mail payment to:

Ms. Michelle Thebert, Director, Facilities Protection Unit
Georgia Public Service Commission
244 Washington Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Hearing Requests:

The Operator has the right to request a hearing before the full Commission to contest the alleged probable violations, recommended civil penalties, and all other proposed actions of enforcement. A request for a hearing must be submitted in writing and in accordance with Commission Rule 515-2-1-.04. The Operator must include a statement of the issues that you intend to raise at the hearing. The issues may relate to the allegations, new information, proposed compliance order, proposed civil penalty, or any other recommendation for enforcement action. Please refer to Commission Rule 515-9-3-.11 and O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91 for assessment considerations upon which civil penalties are based. An operator's failure to specify an issue may result in a waiver of the right to raise that issue at hearing. The request must also indicate whether or not the Operator will be represented by counsel at the hearing.

Open Records and Trade Secret Filings:

The Operator is advised that any material provided to the Commission, and all materials prepared by the Commission, including the Notice of Probable Violations and any Orders issued in this case, may be considered public information and subject to disclosure under the Georgia Open Records Act (O.C.G.A. § 50-18-70 et seq.). If you believe that any portion of your response material is security sensitive, privileged, confidential or may cause your company competitive disadvantages and would qualify for protection under the Commission's "Trade Secret Rule" (Commission Rule 515-3-1-.11), you must, along with the complete original document clearly marked "TRADE SECRET" on each page, provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for trade secret treatment redacted, and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for such trade secret treatment. Should the Commission receive a request for disclosure of any "TRADE SECRET" material, you will be notified, if after review, the materials and your provided justification are deemed not to meet any exemptions provided in the Georgia Open Records Act. You may appeal the Commission's decision to release material at that time. Your appeal will stay the release of those materials until a final decision is made.

BEFORE THE GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF GEORGIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

City of Covington Municipal Gas

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DOCKET NO. 37040

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

*Tres Thomas, Interim City Manager
City of Covington Municipal Gas
P.O. Box 1527
Covington, GA 30015
tthomas@cityofcovington.org

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

Respectfully Submitted this 22nd day of April 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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