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Georgia Public Service Commission

(404) 463-6526
(800) 282-5813

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Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

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psc.ga.gov

DOCKET# 37048
DOCUMENT# 222306

Docket No. 37048

City of Dublin Gas System
P. O. Box 690
Dublin, GA 31040

REF: DIMP Inspection # JS24-005

☒ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☐ Email

Attention: Mr. Josh Powell

On January 10, 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 JS24-005 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. 37048 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: JS24-005

OPERATOR: City of Dublin Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Jason Smith

INSPECTION DATE: January 10, 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 Operator's 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

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.723(b)(2)	A leakage survey with leak detector equipment must be conducted outside business districts as...	JS24-005	1/10/2024
192.1007(a)	Knowledge. An operator must demonstrate an understanding of its gas distribution system ...	JS24-005	1/10/2024

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

CITY OF DUBLIN GAS SYSTEM / DIMP INSPECTION
INSPECTION NUMBER JS24-005 / DOCKET NUMBER 37048

On January 10, 2024, Pipeline Safety Staff began reviewing the City of Dublin Gas System's Distribution Integrity Management Plan. Then on February 27, 2024, Staff conducted a Teams Meeting with the city of Dublin Gas System representatives to complete the DIMP inspection.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:
Joshua Loyd - Natural Gas Compliance Officer
Tim Franklin - MGAG/SRCS (consultant)

Pipeline Safety Staff was represented by:
Jason Smith - Lead Inspector
David Lewis - Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Dublin Gas System had no previously existing probable violations.

NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION

As a result of this inspection Staff found the City of Dublin Gas System in probable violation of the minimum federal safety standards; specifically:

1. §192.1007 - What are the required elements of an integrity management plan?
   A written integrity management plan must contain procedures for developing and implementing the following elements:
   (a) Knowledge. An operator must demonstrate an understanding of its gas distribution system developed from reasonably available information.
      (1) Identify the characteristics of the pipeline's design and operations and the environmental factors that are necessary to assess the applicable threats and risks to its gas distribution pipeline.
      (2) Consider the information gained from past design, operations, and maintenance.
      (3) Identify additional information needed and provide a plan for gaining that information over time through normal activities conducted on the pipeline (for example, design, construction, operations or maintenance activities).

   STAFFS COMMENTS: PHMSA Gas Distribution Integrity Management inspection form question # 7 - System Knowledge – Implementation asks – Do records demonstrate implementation of the element "Knowledge of the System"?

   - Dublin Gas System lists annual 7100 reports and leak survey records as data sources utilized in developing their DIMP.
   - During this inspection Dublin Gas advised Staff that their leak survey is done on a 3-year calendar cycle in order for the entire system to be completed within 3-years.
   - Staff reviewed the leak survey summary sheets provided by Dublin's leak survey contractor and determined the following:
     - In CY2020, 48.7 miles of main was surveyed in the business district and 89.6 miles of main was surveyed in their non-business district.
     - In CY2021, 51.1 miles of main was surveyed in the business district and 59.1 miles of main was surveyed in their non-business district.
     - In CY2022, 51.5 miles of main was surveyed in the business district and 51.03 miles of main was surveyed in their non-business district.

Staff added up the calendar years 2020 through 2022 *(89.6+59.1+51.03+51.5(BD))* leak survey miles of main and came up with approximately 251.23 miles of main in their distribution system being leak surveyed between 2020 and 2022.

The City of Dublin Gas System's Gas Distribution Annual Report (PHMSA Form 7100.1-1) was reported as:

- For CY 2020: 284.10 miles of main; and 3,957 services
- For CY2021: 287.30 miles of main; and 4,000 services
- For CY2022: 288.97 miles of main; and 4,042 services

Staff determined that the City of Dublin Gas System's leak survey has failed to account for ~37.74 miles of main within their distribution system. Subsequent to this inspection the City of Dublin filed a supplemental report to their CY2023 Gas Distribution Annual Report (PHMSA Form 7100.1-1) and revised their system mileage to 262.49 miles of main. If this number is correct the Operators leak survey has still failed to account for ~11.26 miles of main.

Staff also noted that in CY2013 the City of Dublin reported an increase of 21.8 miles of main based on a query of their system maps from their CAD system. Between CY2014 and CY2024 the operators' annual reports showed an increase of 21.27 miles of main. Following this inspection the Operator filed an amendment to their CY2023 annual report to reflect a decrease of 26.48 miles of main based on a review of their GIS data.

Staff contends the Operator's 3-Year complete system leak survey records do not demonstrate implementation of the element "Knowledge of the System".

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Dublin Gas System failed to demonstrate that they understand their gas distribution system through maintenance records and annual report records that have conflicting facility information.

2. §192.723 Distribution systems: Leakage surveys.
   (b) The type and scope of the leakage control program must be determined by the nature of the operations and the local conditions, but it must meet the following minimum requirements:
      (2) A leakage survey with leak detector equipment must be conducted outside business districts as frequently as necessary, but at least once every 5 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 63 months. However, for cathodically unprotected distribution lines subject to § 192.465(e) on which electrical surveys for corrosion are impractical, a leakage survey must be conducted at least once every 3 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 39 months.

STAFFS COMMENTS: During this inspection the Operator advised Staff that their leak survey is done on a 3-year calendar cycle, in order for the entire system to be completed within 3-years.

- Staff reviewed the leak survey summary sheets provided by Dublin's leak survey contractor and determined the following:
  - In CY2020, 48.7 miles of main was surveyed in the business district and 89.6 miles of main was surveyed in their non-business district.
  - In CY2021, 51.1 miles of main was surveyed in the business district and 59.1 miles of main was surveyed in their non-business district.
  - In CY2022, 51.5 miles of main was surveyed in the business district and 51.03 miles of main was surveyed in their non-business district.

Staff added up the calendar years 2020 through 2022 *(89.6+59.1+51.03+51.5(BD))* leak survey miles of main and came up with approximately 251.23 miles of main in their distribution system being leak surveyed between 2020 and 2022.

The City of Dublin Gas System submitted the following facility information on their Gas Distribution Annual Report (PHMSA Form 7100.1-1):

- For CY 2020: 284.10 miles of main; and 3,957 services
- For CY2021: 287.30 miles of main; and 4,000 services
- For CY2022: 288.97 miles of main; and 4,042 services

Staff determined that the City of Dublin Gas System's leak survey records demonstrate they have failed to account for ~37.74 miles of main within their distribution system.

Subsequent to this inspection the City of Dublin filed a supplemental report to their CY2023 Gas Distribution Annual Report (PHMSA Form 7100.1-1) and revised their system mileage to 262.49 miles of main. In the comments section (Part H) of the filing they stated: "System wide survey was done on entire steel system and identified a total of 71 Services in the system. After a review of our GIS data the mileage reported was incorrect, the mileage has been corrected and supported by our GIS system." Staff determined that if the revised system total is correct the Operators leak survey records have still failed to account for ~11.26 miles of main.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Dublin failed to demonstrate that they have leak surveyed all of their distribution system as required.

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

§192.723 Distribution systems: Leakage surveys.

(b) The type and scope of the leakage control program must be determined by the nature of the operations and the local conditions, but it must meet the following minimum requirements:

(2) A leakage survey with leak detector equipment must be conducted outside business districts as frequently as necessary, but at least once every 5 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 63 months. However, for cathodically unprotected distribution lines subject to § 192.465(e) on which electrical surveys for corrosion are impractical, a leakage survey must be conducted at least once every 3 calendar years at intervals not exceeding 39 months.

STAFFS COMMENTS: Under §192.605 each operator must prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities, and this manual must include procedures for operating, maintaining, and repairing the pipeline in accordance with each of the requirements of this subpart and Subpart M of this part.

During this inspection Staff noted that the City of Dublin's procedure for compliance with the requirements of §192.723 (O&M Manual Section 13-P) is not a procedure, but merely a restating of the 192 code requirement to perform leakage surveys outside of business districts as frequently as necessary but at intervals not exceeding 5 years and fails to fails to address their specific requirement to perform leak surveys outside of business districts on a 3-year cycle.

REQUIRED AMENDMENT: The City of Dublin must amend their procedure for compliance with §192.723 to address their 3-year leak survey requirement.

PROPOSED CIVIL PENALTY

Under Commission Rule 515-9-1.01, by virtue of the authority vested in the Commission by law and pursuant to orders issued by the Commission on May 4, 1967, July 6, 1967, April 23, 1968, and October 29, 1970, all Rules and Regulations prescribed by the United States Department of Transportation applicable to the "Transportation of Natural and Other Gas by Pipeline: Minimum Safety Standards" (C.F.R. 49, Parts 191 and 192) are by this Rule made the Rules and Regulations of the Georgia Public Service Commission for the safe installation and operation of all natural gas transmission and distribution facilities by companies subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission within this State.

Under Commission Rule 515-9-3-.08 (Written Formal Notice of Violation), the Commission may propose a civil penalty in conjunction with this notice of probable violation. Further, THE City of Dublin is subject to civil penalties under O.C.G.A. § 46-2-91(b) which states that: Any operator which violates any rule or regulation of the commission prescribed pursuant to subsection (i) of Code Section 46-2-20, or which fails, neglects, or refuses to comply with any order after notice thereof, shall be liable to a penalty not to exceed the maximum penalties provided for in 49 C.F.R. Section 190.223.

Staff has reviewed the circumstances surrounding the probable violations cited in this report and has recommended the civil penalty listed below. Please note that this recommended amount is less than the amount authorized by Georgia law.

Item #	Code / Rule	Description	Proposed Penalty
2	§192.723(b)(2)	Distribution systems: Leakage surveys	$5,000.00
TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTY			$5.000.00

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 Dublin

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No ☐

Docket Number: 37048

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	
☐ Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Notice of Amendment (NOA)	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Warning Letter	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Letter of Concern	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ Observed Issue	☐ New	☐Continuing	☐ Yes	☐ No
☐ 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:	Conference Requested:	
☐ Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV)	☐ Yes ☐ No	$_____ Proposed Penalty for this violation
☐ Notice of Amendment (NOA)	☐ Yes ☐ No	
☐ Warning Letter	☐ Yes ☐ No	
☐ Letter of Concern	☐ Yes ☐ No	
☐ Observed Issue	☐ Yes ☐ No	
☐ Proposed Civil Penalty	☐ Yes ☐ No	

OPERATORS RESPONSE: _____

Response Provided by: _____ Date:_____
Name / Title

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:_____

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 Dublin Gas System	)	**DOCKET NO. 37048**
	)	
	)	
	)	

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

*Josh Powell, Interim City Manager
City of Dublin Gas System
P.O. Box 690
Dublin, GA 31040
powell@dublinga.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, Administrative Assistant
Georgia Public Service Commission
Facilities Protection Unit
244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

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Sent To: *Josh Powell, Interim City Manager

Street, Apt. No.; or PO Box No.: City of Dublin Gas System
P.O. Box 690

City, State, ZIP+4: Dublin, GA 31040

DN 37048.222306. JS24-005

PS Form 3800, August 2006 — See Reverse for Instructions

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- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

*Josh Powell, Interim City Manager
City of Dublin Gas System
P.O. Box 690
Dublin, GA 31040

DN 37048.222306. JS24-005

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature
X ☐ Agent ☐ Addressee

B. Received by *(Printed Name)* | C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
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☐ Insured Mail ☐ C.O.D.

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