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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. 37024

DOCKET# 37024
DOCUMENT# 222313

AGL - Operations and Engineering
Ten Peachtree Place, NE Suite 1000
Location 1365
Atlanta, GA 30309

REF: Construction Inspection # JH24-020

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Pedro Cherry

On April 24, 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 JH24-020 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. 37024 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: JH24-020

OPERATOR: AGL - Marietta

INVESTIGATOR: Jack Hewitt

INSPECTION DATE: April 24, 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 construction project for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR Part 192.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

| Violation | Description | Inspection# | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 192.616 | Public education. | AT19-009 | 2/11/2019 |
| 192.613(a) | Continuing Surveillance - Each operator shall have a procedure for continuing surveillance of... | AT19-009 | 2/11/2019 |
| 192.467(d) | Inspection and electrical tests must be made to assure that electrical isolation is adequate. | AT19-009 | 2/11/2019 |
| 192.473(a) | Each operator whose pipeline system is subjected to stray currents shall have in effect a... | AT19-009 | 2/11/2019 |
| 192.479(a) | Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the... | AT19-009 | 2/11/2019 |
| 192.605(a) | Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for... | JH20-023 | 5/26/2020 |
| 192.605(a) | Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for... | JJ20-027 | 5/27/2020 |
| 192.465(d) | Each operator shall take prompt remedial action to correct any deficiencies indicated by the... | JJ20-027 | 5/27/2020 |
| 192.605(b)(1) | Operating, maintaining, and repairing the pipeline in accordance with each of the requirements of... | JJ20-027 | 5/27/2020 |
| 192.605(a) | Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for... | JH20-028 | 7/28/2020 |
| 192.605(a) | Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for... | AT20-035 | 10/22/2020 |
| 192.605(b)(3) | Maintenance and normal operations. The manual required by paragraph (a) of this section must... | AT20-035 | 10/22/2020 |
| 192.605(a) | Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for... | JJ23-001 | 1/3/2023 |

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

During this inspection, Staff reviewed the Atlanta Gas Light Company (Southern Company) construction project specifications for a service being installed on Commerce Lane Ballground, Ga. Pride Utilities (AGL Contractor) construction crew was installing 106' PE service. Staff reviewed the materials being used, excavation for the pipe, damage prevention procedures, along with an operator qualification field inspection on personnel performing construction tasks.

During this inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Kenneth Johns - AGLC Inspector
Jay Royal - Pride Utilities Safety and Compliance - AGLC Project Coordinator
Ronald Pelham – Foreman Pridfe Utilities (AGL Contractor)
Joe Thomason – Operator Pride Utilities (AGL Contractor)

Commission Staff was represented by Jack Hewitt, Lead Inspector.

At the time of this inspection, AGLC-Marietta was under one (13) probable violation. Because this inspection was conducted in the field Staff did not review these violations during this inspection.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection, Staff reviewed the Atlanta Gas Light Company (Southern Company) construction specifications for a service being installed on Commerce Lane Ballground, Ga. Pride Utilities (AGL Contractor) construction crew was installing 106' PE service, Staff observed the Pride Utilities the crew locate and spot the existing steel gas main by hand. Staff observed the crew use a directional boring rig bore across Commerce Lane and install the service line and tracer wire under the road and then trench the line to the building wall.
During this inspection, Staff conducted OQ Protocol 9 field verification inspections. In the field evaluations, Staff observed an AGLC contractor construction crew (Pride Utilities) During the field evaluations, Staff observed Construction Foreman Ronald Pelham / Pride Utilities (AGL Contractor) Perform Task # 045(a)-Pressure Test and verified his qualifications were current and good thru 9/4/2026; and Task #044(a) Locating Underground Pipe. His qualifications were verified and good thru 6/8/2024. Staff also observed Joe Thomason / Operator Pride Utilities (AGL Contractor) perform Task 022(b) Installation of plastic pipe via bore, Staff verified his qualification were current and good thru 4/4/26.

Staff verified that covered tasks 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 cognizant of abnormal operating conditions that could be encountered with their task.

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: ATLANTA GAS LIGHT COMPANY

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No ☐

Docket Number: 37024

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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) | | | |

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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 | $_____ |
| ☐ Notice of Amendment (NOA) | ☐ Yes ☐ No | Proposed Penalty for this violation |
| ☐ 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:** | ) | |
| | ) | |
| **Atlanta Gas Light Company** | ) | **DOCKET NO. 37024** |
| | ) | |
| | ) | |
| | ) | |

**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

* Pedro Cherry, President and CEO
Southern Company Gas
Ten Peachtree Place, NE,
Atlanta, GA 30309
ppcherry@southernco.com

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

Respectfully Submitted this 2nd day of April 2025:

*Cathy Nesbitt*

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