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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 No. 37049

DOCKET# 37049
DOCUMENT# 222433

City of Eatonton Gas System
P. O. Box 3820
Eatonton, GA 31024

REF: Follow Up Inspection # DL24-006

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Gary Sanders

On February 5, 2024, a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection Office conducted an on-site inspection of your gas system and found that previously identified probable violation(s) of the Pipeline Safety Regulations have either been cleared or are continuing, as identified below.

- ☐ Previously existing probable violation(s) has/have been cleared.
- ☒ Previously existing probable violation(s) still exist.
- ☐ Additional Enforcement
  - ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation
  - ☐ Notice of Proposed Violation with Proposed Civil Penalty
  - ☐ Warning Letter
  - ☐ Letter of Concern
  - ☐ Observed Issue
- ☐ Consent Agreement Pending

The enclosed inspection report numbered DL24-006 is provided for your information and file.

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. 37049 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: DL24-006

OPERATOR: City of Eatonton Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: David Lewis

INSPECTION DATE: February 5, 2024 REPORT MAILED DATE: April 29, 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 a follow-up inspection of the Operators previously existing probable violations.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

| Violation | Description | Inspection# | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| 192.181(a) | Each high-pressure distribution system must have valves spaced so as to reduce the time to... | AT21-025 | 9/20/2021 |
| Consent Agreement Pending | Operator is negotiating Consent Agreement with the FPU Director | AT23-003 | 1/10/2023 |
| 515-9-3-.09 | Response Options Open to the Operator | AT23-003 | 1/10/2023 |

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On March 6, 2024, Pipeline Safety Staff reported to the City of Eatonton Gas System to perform a follow-up inspection on the Operator's existing probable violations.

The Operator was represented by:
Charles Bales - Gas Superintendent
Ms. Pat Welch - Gas Department Administrative Support
Wade Sharpe - MGAG/SRCS (consultant)

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

At the time of this inspection the City of Eatonton Gas System was under two (2) previously existing probable violations. The Operator is also negotiating a consent agreement with the FPU Director. Staff determined the following:

During the review of this follow-up inspection, it was found that there appears to be significant confusion around the actions required to address these continuing violations. The FPU Supervisor has been directed to contact the Operator and schedule an in-person meeting to discuss these violations and find a resolution for them.

No response is required to this inspection.

# OPERATOR RESPONSE FORM

Operator Name: City of Eatonton

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No ☐

Docket Number: 37049

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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 | $_____ 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

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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 Eatonton Gas System** | ) | **DOCKET NO. 37049** |
| | ) | |
| | ) | |
| | ) | |

**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

*Gary M Sanders, City Administrator
City of Eatonton Gas System
P.O. Box 3820
Eatonton, GA 31024
gsanders@eatontonga.us

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

Respectfully Submitted this 5th day of May 2025:

*Cathy Nesbitt*

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