

COMMISSIONERS

JASON SHAW , Chairman
TIM G. ECHOLS , Vice-Chairman
FITZ JOHNSON
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD
TRICIA PRIDEMORE

FILED
MAY 01 2025
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
GPSC



REECE McALISTER
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. 37066

City of Lumpkin Gas Department
P. O. Box 278
522 MLK Jr. Drive
Lumpkin, GA 31815

REF: Operator Qualification Inspection # JJ24-009

Certified Mail

Regular Mail

Email



Attention: Ms. Anne Holloway

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 JJ24-009 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. 37066 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

COMMISSIONERS

JASON SHAW , Chairman
TIM G. ECHOLS , Vice-Chairman
FITZ JOHNSON
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD
TRICIA PRIDEMORE



REECE McALISTER
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

REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: JJ24-009

OPERATOR: City of Lumpkin Gas Department

INVESTIGATOR: Joe Jones

INSPECTION DATE: January 31, 2024

REPORT MAILED DATE: May 1, 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 operator qualification (OQ) program for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192, SubPart N.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.455	External corrosion control: Buried or submerged pipelines installed after July 31	LB10-047	5/4/2010
Consent Agreement Pending	Operator is negotiating Consent Agreement with the FPU Director	JS18-001	1/23/2018
192.453	General.	JJ21-050	10/19/2021
192.605(a)	Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for...	JJ21-050	10/19/2021
192.615(c)	Each operator shall establish and maintain liaison with appropriate fire, police, and other...	JJ21-050	10/19/2021
192.603(b)	Each operator shall keep records necessary to administer the procedures established under §192.605.	JJ21-050	10/19/2021
192.805(b)	Ensure through evaluation that individuals performing covered tasks are qualified.	JJ21-050	10/19/2021
192.467(c)	Except for unprotected copper inserted in a ferrous pipe, each pipeline must be electrically...	JJ21-050	10/19/2021
192.481(c)	If atmospheric corrosion is found during an inspection, the operator must provide protection...	JJ21-050	10/19/2021

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

On January 31, 2024, Staff reported to the City of Lumpkin to conduct an inspection of the Operator's operator qualification (OQ) program for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192, SubPart N.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:
Anne Holloway – Acting City Manager
Willie Clark – Gas Superintendent
Chris Welborn – MGAG/SRCS (Consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Joseph Jones – Lead Inspector
Glen Murphy – Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Lumpkin was under (9) nine previously existing probable violations. Staff determined that the time required to follow up on these violations would require a separate inspection. Staff requested that the Operator update the status of their existing violations in their response to this inspection.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this inspection Staff conducted a review of the Operator's Qualifications to ensure that the Operator had and followed a written qualification program, that covered tasks were being performed in accordance with appropriate operator-approved procedures, that the procedures were present at the job site, and that the individuals performing the observed covered task(s) were qualified and adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

During the field evaluations, Staff observed Willie Clark Gas Supervisor, performed:

- Task #0331 – Visual Inspection & Partial Operation, qualified 02/03/2021 through 02/03/2026
- Task #0301 – Manually Opening and Closing Valves, qualified 02/03/2021 through 02/03/2024.
- Task #1241 – Outside Gas Leak Investigation, qualified 07/10/23 through 07/10/2026.

Staff observed Operators personnel follow the task procedure and applicable manufactures written procedure and identify the AOC's.

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 Lumpkin

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37066

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):
- Written statement indicating that corrective measures have achieved Compliance or
 - Written plan of action outlining the corrective measures that will be taken to achieve compliance and when compliance is anticipated.

- B. Response for **NOA**:
- 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
 - Not Contested: Explanation, information, or other material believed to warrant modification of the NOA in whole or in part; or
 - 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 Lumpkin

Informal Conference Requested: Yes No

Docket Number: 37066

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 Lumpkin Gas Department

)
)
)
)
)

DOCKET NO. 37066

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

*Anne Holloway, City Manager
City of Lumpkin Gas Department
P.O. Box 278
522 MLK Jr. Drive
Lumpkin, GA 31815
lumpkincity@bellsouth.net

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

Respectfully Submitted this 12th day of May 2025:

Cathy Nesbitt

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