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Georgia Public Service Commission

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(800) 282-5813

244 Washington Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334-5701

FAX: (404) 463-6532
psc.ga.gov

Docket No. 37082

DOCKET# 37082
DOCUMENT# 225797

City of Sparta Gas System
P. O. Box H
Sparta, GA 31087

REF: Follow Up Inspection # JS25-011

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☒ Email

Attention: Mr. Allen Haywood

On April 30, 2025, 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 JS25-011 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. 37082 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

COMMISSIONERS

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REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: JS25-011

OPERATOR: City of Sparta Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Jason Smith

INSPECTION DATE: April 30, 2025 REPORT MAILED DATE: March 11, 2026

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 Operator's previously existing probable violations.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
199.101	Anti-Drug Plan	JJ20-014	3/10/2020
192.147	Flanges and flange accessories.	JS20-042	11/16/2020
192.479(a)	Each operator must clean and coat each pipeline or portion of pipeline that is exposed to the...	JS20-042	11/16/2020
192.615(a)(2)	Each operator shall establish written procedures to minimize the hazard resulting from a...	JS20-042	11/16/2020

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

Cleared on 4/30/2025

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
191.11	Distribution system: Annual report.	JS20-042	11/16/2020
192.605(a)	Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for...	JS20-042	11/16/2020
192.603(c)	General - The Associate Administrator or the State Agency that has submitted a current...	KR22-009	4/20/2022

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

On May 12, 2025, Pipeline Safety Staff reported to the City of Sparta Natural Gas System to perform a follow-up inspection on the Operator's previously existing probable violations.

During this inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Amanda Akins - Utility Director
Bobby Gunter - Gas Superintendent
Peter Schultz - Harp and Associates (consultant)

Commission Staff was represented by:
Jason Smith - Lead Inspector
Jack Hewitt - Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection, the City of Sparta Natural Gas System was under seven (7) previously existing probable violations. Staff reviewed these probable violations with the Operator and determined that:

PROBABLE VIOLATION CLEARED

1. In regard to the probable violation of 49CFR §191.11(a) which was cited under Inspection Number JS20-042; in that inspection Staff stated: The City of Sparta Natural Gas System failed to demonstrate that they have complete and accurate numbers submitted on their annual 7100 report.

   OPERATOR RESPONSE: In their response letter to Inspection #JS20-042; dated May 14, 2021, the Operator stated: "The City of Sparta along with its consultant has performed a Leak Survey of its gas system and the following number were detected: there were 41.9 miles of main and 557 services checked during this survey. I believe you will find that this corrects the Problem detected by your inspectors."

   REVIEW OF OPERATOR RESPONSE: In July 2023 Staff reviewed Sparta Natural Gas System's response to probable violation §191.11(a) and found it is not sufficient to address the probable violation.

   Staff will need to see documentation of the system-wide leak survey that was performed and verify the survey numbers are similar to the numbers on their 2020 & 2021 annual (7100) reports.

   2019 annual (7100) report states 42.11 miles of main and 557 services
   2020 annual (7100) report states 41.9 miles of main and 557 services
   2021 annual (7100) report states 41.9 miles of main and 556 services
   2022 annual (7100) report states 41.9 miles of main and 555 services

   Staff determined that this probable violation; §191.11(a) could not be cleared at this time.

   FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: On May 12, 2025, Staff conducted a follow-up inspection #JS25-011 of the Operator's previously existing probable violations. During this inspection Sparta Natural Gas System provided their leak survey records for review and reminded Staff that 2018 - 2020 was a whole system leak survey; 2021 - 2023 is a whole system survey, and 2024 - 2026 would be the next entire system leak survey.

   Sparta's leak survey records for 2018 – 2020 indicated:

2018	24.9 miles of main	business main: 2.5 & high pressure main: 14
2019	7.9 miles of main	business main: 2.5
2020	21.5 miles of main	business main: 2.5 & high pressure main: 14

Total 54.3 miles of main
(54.3 – 2.5 – 14 – 2.5) = 35.3 miles of main

2018	439 services	business services: 116
2019	251 services	business services: 112
2020	238 services	business services: 109 & 9

Total 928 services
(928 – 116 – 112) = 700 services

Sparta's leak survey records for 2021 – 2023 indicated:

2021	24.9 miles of main	business main: 2.5 & high pressure main:14
2022	22 miles of main	business main: 2.5
2023	21.5 miles of main	business main: 2.5 & high pressure main:14

Total 68.4 miles of main
(68.4 – 2.5 – 14 – 2.5) = 49.4 miles of main

2021	437 services	business services: 15 & 96 & 9
2022	257 services	business services: 15 & 94 & 9
2023	241 services	business services: 15 & 95 & 10

Total 934 services
(934 – 15 – 96 – 9 – 15 – 94 – 9) = 696 services

Staff also reviewed the Operator's annual 7100 reports.

2018 annual (7100) report states 42.11 miles of main & 550 services (amended on 3/15/2019)
2019 annual (7100) report states 35.04 miles of main & 700 services (amended on 7/24/2024)
2020 annual (7100) report states 35.04 miles of main & 700 services (amended on 7/24/2024)
2021 annual (7100) report states 35.04 miles of main & 699 services (amended on 7/24/2024)
2022 annual (7100) report states 35.04 miles of main & 698 services (amended on 7/24/2024)
2023 annual (7100) report states 35.06 miles of main & 697 services (amended on 7/24/2024)
2024 annual (7100) report states 35.06 miles of main & 697 services

Staff believes the Operator has addressed this violation.

Staff determined that this probable violation can be cleared at this time.

2. In regard to the probable violation of 49CFR §192.605(a) with a deficiency under §192.707(a)(1) which was cited under Inspection Number JS20-042; in that report Staff stated: The City of Sparta Natural Gas System failed to install and maintain pipeline markers as required by their procedures.

   OPERATOR RESPONSE: In their response letter to Inspection Number JS20-042; dated May 14, 2021, the Operator stated: "This will be checked on next trip Up to Sparta by consultants."

   REVIEW OF OPERATOR RESPONSE: In July 2023 Staff reviewed Sparta Natural Gas System's response to probable violation §192.605(a) with a deficiency of 192.707(a)(1) and found it is not

sufficient to address the probable violation. Staff will need to verify that Sparta has installed pipe markers at the locations mentioned during the comprehensive inspection.

Staff determined that this probable violation; §192.605(a) with a deficiency of 192.707(a)(1) could not be cleared at this time.

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: On May 12, 2025, Staff conducted Follow-Up Inspection Number JS25-011 on the Sparta Natural Gas System's previously existing probable violations. During this inspection the Operator informed Pipeline Safety Staff that pipeline markers had been placed at the locations mentioned in the comprehensive inspection. Staff confirmed pipeline markers had been installed through a field check.

Staff determined that this probable violation can be cleared at this time.

3. In regard to the probable violation of 49CFR §192.603(c) which was cited under Inspection Number KR22-009, in that report Staff stated that: Staff found that the City of Sparta's plan for compliance with the requirements of Section 114 of the Protecting our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020, was deficient. The City of Sparta must amend their procedures to address the deficiencies identified in this report.

   OPERATOR RESPONSE: Staff found no response letter from the Operator for Inspection #KR22-009.

   FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: On May 12, 2025, Staff conducted Follow-Up inspection #JS25-011 on the Operator's previously existing probable violations. During this inspection Sparta Natural Gas informed Staff that their Methane Emission Mitigation Plan has been fixed and now does address the issues that were raised during the 2022 inspection. Staff reviewed this updated plan and found it has been amended to address issues identified under inspection form questions #5, 7, 8, 11, 16, 17, and #18.

   Staff determined that this probable violation can be cleared at this time.

PROBABLE VIOLATION CONTINUING

1. In regard to the probable violation of 49CFR §192.615(a)(2) which was cited under Inspection Number JS20-042; in that inspection Staff stated:

   "COMMENTS: Page 30 of the Operator's Emergency Procedures Plan states "Sparta Natural Gas shall conduct liaison meetings with Public Officials, Emergency Response Organizations, and other Operators of facilities in the vicinity of City of Sparta Natural Gas pipeline annually not to exceed 15 months"

   During this inspection (#JS20-042) Staff reviewed records of the Operator's liaison with appropriate fire, police and other public officials from 2015 to present and discovered they did not have records demonstrating it was done in 2019.

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Sparta Natural Gas System failed follow their emergency plan procedure which states they will perform an annual liaison with fire, police and other public officials."

OPERATOR RESPONSE: In their response letter to Inspection #JS20-042; dated May 14, 2021, the Operator stated: "The City of Sparta will hold an annual Liaison Meeting during the calendar year 2021. We are trying to get things set up at this time."

REVIEW OF OPERATOR RESPONSE: In July 2023, Staff reviewed Sparta Natural Gas System's response to §192.615(a)(2) and found it is not sufficient to address this probable violation.
Staff will need to see records that show the Operator has conducted annual liaison meetings since the Nov. 2020 comp inspection took place (2021, 2022 and maybe even 2023).

Staff determined that this probable violation; §192.615(a)(2) could not be cleared at this time.

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: On May 12, 2025, Staff conducted Follow-Up Inspection Number JS25-011 on Sparta Natural Gas System's previously existing probable violations. During this inspection the Operator informed Staff that regarding the §192.615(a)(2) probable violation, they have not been able to locate any documentation to show liaison being done 2021, 2022 and 2023. This would have been done under the previous gas superintendent, James 'Timmy' Griffin.

Amanda Akins - Utility Director (started position June 1, 2024), did make sure a liaison meeting with public officials and emergency responders was done 8/08/2024. However, there was no record of the Hancock Sheriff, City of Warthen Fire Department, Washington County Emergency Officials and Public Officials (that were listed under section 1.4 'Stake Audience Identification') attending the liaison meeting or the Operator following up with them since they did not attend.

Staff determined that this probable violation; §192.615(a)(2) could not be cleared at this time.

2. In regard to the probable violation of 49CFR §192.479(a) which was cited under Inspection Number JS20-042; in that report Staff stated:

   "COMMENTS: During this. inspection (#JS20-042) Staff observed, at the Town Border regulator station, numerous places on the pipe with pitting, and it appeared that the pipe had been painted without being properly prepared. The inlet pipe wrapping was found approximately 4-inches below the ground line. Also, Staff found numerous locations throughout the system with meter sets in need of maintenance; cleaning and painting.

   PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Sparta Natural Gas System failed to clean and coat their pipeline facilities as required by §192.479."

A $2500 civil penalty was proposed with this probable violation.

OPERATOR RESPONSE: Sparta Natural Gas System's response letter to Inspection #JS20-042; dated May 14, 2021, failed to address §192.479(a).

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: On May 12, 2025, Staff conducted a Follow-Up inspection #JS25-011 of Sparta Natural Gas System's previously existing probable violations. During this inspection, the Operator informed Staff that in regard to §192.479(a) they took pit depth readings

on the piping in question. Due to the findings the operating pressure at the Gettis Street location was lowered from 75 psi to 55 psi. In addition, they applied a solvent and cold wrap to inhibit rate of the pitting. Due to the pit depth readings at the Main Gate Station in town the operating pressure was reduced from 95 psi to 50 psi. The Operator intends on replacing this station and at the time of this inspection were in the beginning phases of bidding the project out.

Staff determined that this probable violation; §192.479(a) could not be cleared at this time.

3. In regard to the probable violation of 49CFR §192.147(a) which was cited under Inspection Number JS20-042, in that report Staff stated that:

> "COMMENTS: During this inspection (#JS20-041) Staff identified, at the Town Border Station that flange bolts were left with no threads extending through the nut. In addition, one nut was missing from the flange assembly.
>
> PROBABLE VIOLATION: The City of Sparta Natural Gas System failed to ensure that each of their flanges or flange accessories meet the minimum requirements of ASME/ANSI B 16.5 and MSS SP-44 as required by §192.147(a)."

OPERATOR RESPONSE: Sparta Natural Gas System's response letter to Inspection #JS20-042; dated May 14, 2021, failed to address §192.147(a).

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: On May 12, 2025, Staff conducted Follow-up Inspection Number JS25-011 of the Operator's previously existing probable violations. During this inspection Sparta Natural Gas System informed Staff that they intend on replacing this station and at the time of this inspection were in the beginning phases of bidding the project out.

Staff visited the Town Border regulator station and made the determination that the violation should continue until the station is replaced.

Staff determined that this probable violation; §192.147(a) could not be cleared at this time.

4. In regard to the probable violation of 49CFR §199.101(a) which was cited under Inspection Number JJ20-014, in that report Staff stated that:

> "STAFFS COMMENTS: During this inspection Staff found that the Operator could not produce any records which would demonstrate that they had followed the procedure required by their drug and alcohol program. This included:
>
> (a) Records that demonstrate the collection process conforms to this part must be kept for at least 3 years. (Ref. PHMSA DA Insp Form. Sec E-2 / §199.117(a)(1))
>
> (b) Records to support MIS annual report data shall be maintained for a minimum of five year. (Ref. PHMSA DA Insp Form. Sec E-2 / §199.117(a)(2))
>
> (c) Records of employee drug test results that show employees passed a drug test must be kept for at least 1 year. (Ref. PHMSA DA Insp Form. Sec E-2 / §40.333(a)(4) & §199.117(a)(3))

(d) Records for pre-employment testing and records checks required by §40.25.

(e) Operator could not produce the document showing that random drug tests had been conducted at a 50% rate spread throughout the year for the past five years. (Ref. §199.105(c))

PROBABLE VIOLATION: The Operator failed to conduct their DOT drug and alcohol testing program in accordance with the requirements of 49CFR, §199.101 and their program procedures."

A $2500 civil penalty was proposed with this probable violation.

OPERATOR RESPONSE: In their response letter to Inspection #JJ20-014; dated July 16, 2020, the Operator stated: The City of Sparta has started making the necessary corrections to it Anti-Drug and Alcohol Plan by first changing the DER from Ms. Virginia Brown to Ms. Virginia Webb. Also Harp and Associates will pull operator's numbers for correct person to be tested by the operator for that quarter. All records should be corrected and on file as required.

The City of Sparta does not question the violation detected and written up by the inspector Joe Jones, however, we do request an Informal Hearing with the Director and the Inspector that performed the inspection to discuss the Civil Penalty of $2,500.00 issued to the operator as it would be a hardship for the city to pay and also make the corrections.

The City of Sparta along with its consultant, Harp and Associates are working diligently to bring all probable violations into compliance and to ensure total compliance with all Pipeline Safety Regulations in the future.

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION: On May 12, 2025, Staff conducted a Follow-Up inspection #JS25-011 on Sparta Natural Gas System's previously existing probable violations. During this inspection Staff sat with the Operator's Designated Employer Representative (DER) to review the documentation they were not able to produce during the 2020 drug & alcohol inspection.

a. Records that demonstrate the collection process conforms with Part 199 (retained for 3-Years)

Sparta Natural Gas System had a certificate that shows Sylvia Culver successfully completed a urine drug screening proficiency demonstration that meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 40.33 "What training requirements must a collector meet for urine collection?".

This deficiency has been addressed.

b. MIS annual report data regardless of whether or not an annual MIS report was submitted (retained for 5-Years)

Pipeline Safety Staff requested to review the Operators MIS data info since the last D&A inspection (March 2020) through the present, calendar year 2024. The Operator was not able to demonstrate they had been keeping up with the MIS annual report data for the last 5 years.

This deficiency could not be cleared.

c. Records of employee drug test results that show employees passed a drug test must be kept for at least 1 year. Records of negative and cancelled drug test results (retained for 1-Year)

Staff reviewed the Operator's 2024 drug testing records and found they were missing a pre-employment drug test. The person worked for Sparta in previous years. He left and was removed from the random testing pool. When he returned to work for the Operator, he was placed back into the random drug testing pool. There was no indication or record of a pre-employment drug test before he was placed back into the random testing pool.

This deficiency could not be cleared.

d. Information obtained from previous operator under §40.25 concerning drug testing results of employees (retained for 3-Years)

The Operator was able to provide documentation showing they did check on the drug & alcohol testing records for the gas superintendent hired in the 1st quarter of 2025.

This deficiency has been addressed.

e. Operator could not produce documents showing that random drug tests had been conducted at a 50% rate spread throughout the year for the past five years.

During this follow-up inspection, Staff reviewed the Operator's random drug testing records and found the following:
In 2020, the percentage rate was 50% - seven (7) employees were in the random pool. Three (3) were tested in the year. One (1) random was missed. (tested 3, but should have tested 4)
In 2021, the percentage rate was 50% - eight (8) employees were in the random pool. Three (3) were tested in the year. One (1) random was missed. (tested 3, but should have tested 4)
In 2022, the percentage rate was 50% - ten (10) employees were in the random pool. Three (3) were tested in the year. Two (2) random were missed. (tested 3, but should have tested 5)
In 2023, the percentage rate dropped to 25% - six (6) employees were in the random pool. Two (2) were tested in the year.
In 2024, the percentage rate was 25% - five (5) employees were in the random pool. Three (3) were tested in the year.

Sparta Natural Gas System was not able to demonstrate they conducted random drug testing for the last five years at the proper percentage rate.

This deficiency could not be cleared.

Staff determined that this probable violation; §199.101(a) could not be cleared at this time.

Sparta Natural Gas System has requested an informal conference with the director.

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 Sparta Gas System

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No ☐

Docket Number: 39082

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	$ _____
☐ 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:	)	
	)	
City of Sparta Gas System	)	**DOCKET NO. 37082**
	)	
	)	
	)	

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

*The Honorable Allen Haywood, Mayor
City of Sparta Gas System
P.O. Box H
Sparta, GA 31087
allensusan6@bellsouth.net

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

Respectfully Submitted this _____ day of March 2026:

Cathy Nesbitt

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