COMMISSIONERS

JASON SHAW , Chairman
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD , Vice-Chairman
PETER HUBBARD
DR. ALICIA M. JOHNSON
TRICIA PRIDEMORE

REECE McALISTER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHELLE THEBERT
FACILITIES PROTECTION UNIT DIRECTOR

FILED
JUL 30 2026
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
GPSC

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. 37082

DOCKET# 37082
DOCUMENT# 227406

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

ATTN: Allen Haywood

On September 18, 2025 a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline/Facilities Safety Office conducted an informal conference as requested by the gas operator. The enclosed inspection report numbered JS25-039 is provided for your information and file.

Please submit a written response outlining the proposed mitigation measures to this inspection as specified in the attached report by U.S. Mail or e-mailing me at michellet@psc.state.ga.us. Please refer to Docket No. 37082 in your response.

Thank you for your continuing contribution toward increased pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

Michelle Thebert

Michelle Thebert
Director, Office of Pipeline/Facilities Safety

COMMISSIONERS

JASON SHAW , Chairman
LAUREN "BUBBA" McDONALD , Vice-Chairman
PETER HUBBARD
DR. ALICIA M. JOHNSON
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: JS25-039

OPERATOR: City of Sparta Gas System

INVESTIGATOR: Jason Smith

INSPECTION DATE: September 18, 2025 REPORT MAILED DATE: July 29, 2026

Any questions concerning this report may be directed to the above address or by telephoning (404) 463-6526.

1. PURPOSE OF INSPECTION

To attend an informal conference with the Operator as requested in their response to Inspection Numbers JJ20-014 and JS20-042.

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
192.1007(c)	Evaluate and rank risk.	JS25-020	6/18/2025
192.1007(f)	Periodic Evaluation and Improvement.	JS25-020	6/18/2025
192.1011	What records must an operator keep?	JS25-020	6/18/2025
192.1007(d)	Identify and implement measures to address risks.	JS25-021	6/18/2025
192.1007(f)	Periodic Evaluation and Improvement.	JS25-021	6/18/2025
192.1011	What records must an operator keep?	JS25-021	6/18/2025
192.1007(e)	Measure performance, monitor results, and evaluate effectiveness.	JS25-021	6/18/2025

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECITON REPORT

CITY OF SPARTA NATURAL GAS SYSTEM / INFORMAL CONFERENCE
INSPECTION NUMBER JS25-039 / DOCKET NUMBER 37082

On September 18, 2025, Pipeline Safety Staff conducted an informal conference with the City of Sparta Natural Gas System as requested in their response letter to Inspection Number JJ20-014. The Operator's response letter for Inspection Number JS20-042 does not request for an informal conference, but during April and June 2025 follow-up inspections they did inform Staff that they would like to also discuss the proposed civil penalty in this report.

During this inspection the Operator was represented by:
Allen Haywood - Mayor
Amanda Martin Akins - Utility Director
Bobby Ginter - Gas Superintendent
Peter Schultz - Harp and Associates (Consultant)

Commission Staff were represented by:
Michelle Thebert - Director, Facilities Protection Unit
Jason Smith - Lead Pipeline Safety Inspector
Jeff Baggett - Supervisor, Facilities Protection Unit

INFORMAL CONFERENCE:

During this meeting, the Operator discussed possible mitigative measures for the proposed civil penalties in Inspection Numbers JJ20-014 and JS20-042. The City of Sparta requested an informal conference to discuss the probable violations and possible mitigation measures.

The Director of Facilities Protection Unit advised the Operator to submit a proposal in writing on how they are planning to mitigate the proposed civil penalty. The Operator was directed to submit their proposals for mitigation of the proposed civil penalties in writing no later than 14 days following this informal conference. The Operator was advised that if their proposals were found to be acceptable, they would be provided with a consent agreement to review which would address the mitigation of the proposed civil penalty and the measures required to address the probable violations.

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 3rd day of August 2026:

Cathy Nesbitt

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