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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. 37074

City of Ocilla Gas Department
PO Box 626
113 North Erwin St
Ocilla, GA 31774

DOCKET# 37074
DOCUMENT# 229298

REF: Public Awareness Inspection # JJ25-048

☐ Certified Mail ☐ Regular Mail ☑ Email

Attention: Mr. Melvin D. Harper II

On August 11, 2025, a representative of the Georgia Public Service Commission Pipeline/Facilities Safety Office conducted an inspection of your gas system. The enclosed inspection report numbered JJ25-048 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. 37074 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 by mt

Michelle L. Thebert
Director, Office of Pipeline Safety/Facilities Protection

COMMISSIONERS

JASON SHAW , Chairman
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REPORT OF NATURAL GAS SAFETY

INSPECTION NO: JJ25-048

OPERATOR: City of Ocilla Gas Department

INVESTIGATOR: Joe Jones

INSPECTION DATE: August 11, 2025 REPORT MAILED DATE: October 23, 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 an inspection of the Operator's Public Awareness Program (PAP) for compliance with the minimum federal standards in 49CFR §192.616.

2. CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

Violation	Description	Inspection#	Date
192.13(c)	Each operator shall maintain, modify as appropriate, and follow the plans, procedures, and...	AT19-022	5/29/2019
199.241	Training for supervisors.	JS19-034	7/23/2019
199.117	Recordkeeping	JS19-034	7/23/2019
40.333	What records must employers keep?	JS19-034	7/23/2019
199.105(c)(6)	The operator shall randomly select a sufficient number of covered employees for testing during...	JS19-034	7/23/2019
199.115(a)	The operator remains responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this part are complied with	JS19-034	7/23/2019
199.113(c)	Supervisory Personnel Training (Drug)	JS19-034	7/23/2019
40.11	What are the general responsibilities of employers under this regulation?	JS19-034	7/23/2019
40.15(b)	As an employer, you are responsible for ensuring that the service agents you use meet the...	JS19-034	7/23/2019
515-9-3-.08	Written Formal Notice of Violation	JJ20-015	3/16/2020
192.605(a)	Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for...	JJ20-016	3/10/2020
192.613(a)	Continuing Surveillance - Each operator shall have a procedure for continuing surveillance of...	JJ22-016	3/15/2022
192.703(c)	Hazardous leaks must be repaired promptly.	JJ22-016	3/15/2022
192.199(h)	Except for a valve that will isolate the system under protection from its source of pressure...	JJ22-016	3/15/2022
192.481(c)	If atmospheric corrosion is found during an inspection, the operator must provide protection...	JJ22-016	3/15/2022
192.455 (e)	Aluminum may not be installed in a buried or submerged pipeline if that aluminum is exposed to an...	JJ22-016	3/15/2022
192.605(b)(2)	Controlling corrosion in accordance with the operations and maintenance requirements of Subpart...	JJ22-016	3/15/2022
192.723(b)	The type and scope of the leakage control program must be determined by the nature of the...	JJ22-016	3/15/2022
192.147(a)	Each flange or flange accessory (other than cast iron) must meet the minimum requirements of...	JJ22-016	3/15/2022

3. CLEARED VIOLATIONS

4. NEW VIOLATIONS

5. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS

SEE ATTACHED INSPECTION REPORT

CITY OF OCILLA NATURAL GAS / PUBLIC AWARENESS
INSPECTION NUMBER JJ25-048 / DOCKET NUMBER 37074

From August 11, 2025, through August 12, 2025, Staff conducted an inspection of the Operators Public Awareness Program (PAP) and to conduct Operator Qualification Protocol 9 inspections for compliance with the minimum federal safety standards. An exit meeting was held on August 13, 2025.

During this Inspection, the Operator was represented by:
Bruce Wilder – Gas Superintendent
Peter Schultz – Harp Associates Consultant

Commission Staff were represented by:
Joseph Jones – Lead Inspector
Chuck Whitaker – Pipeline Safety Inspector

At the time of this inspection the City of Ocilla had (19) nineteen previously existing probable violations. These violations were addressed under Inspection Number JJ25-050.

NO VIOLATIONS FOUND

During this Inspection, Staff examined the Operator's PAP and utilized the PHMSA checklist to record the findings of the inspection. Commission Staff examined the supporting records provided by the Operator that verified compliance with the minimum safety standards.

The City of Ocilla's existing Public Awareness Committee consists of personnel involved in regulatory compliance, operations, and damage prevention. All these functions support the execution of Ocilla's Public Awareness Program (PAP).

The City of Ocilla's Public Awareness Program (PAP) was developed following the guidance provided in the American Petroleum Institute's (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162. The objectives of this Public Awareness Program and Plan are "to raise the awareness of the affected public and key stakeholders of the presence of buried pipelines and other related gas facilities in the communities where we serve. It is the intent of this plan to accomplish this by educating and bringing awareness to each stakeholder audience regarding the presence of our pipelines in their communities through education, awareness, response, and plan flexibility".

While on site, Staff conducted three Operator Qualification Protocol 9 field verification inspections to ensure 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 adhering to the operator-approved procedures as written.

Wayne Coney – City of Ocilla Employee Performed:
1. Locate Underground Pipelines– Task #1291, qualified trough 4/27/2026.
2. Performed Outside Gas Leak Investigation – Task 1241, qualified through 6/11/2026
3. Performed Inside Gas Leak Investigation– Task #1231, qualified through 6/11/2026

Staff verified that the individual was able to perform the covered tasks according to the procedures and was able to identify generic and task specific abnormal operating conditions and define the applicable actions.

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: City of Ocilla

Informal Conference Requested: Yes ☐ No ☐

Docket Number: 37074

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 Ocilla Gas Department	)	**DOCKET NO. 37074**
	)	
	)	
	)	

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

* Melvin D. Harper II, Mayor
City of Ocilla Gas Department
P. O. Box 626
113 North Erwin Street
Ocilla, GA 31774
mayor@cityofocillaga.net

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

Respectfully Submitted this _____ day of November 2026:

Morgan Mitchell

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