

U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration

2017 Gas State Program Evaluation

for

GEORGIA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Document Legend PART:

- O -- Representative Date and Title Information
- A -- Progress Report and Program Documentation Review
- B -- Program Inspection Procedures
- C -- Program Performance
- D -- Compliance Activities
- E -- Incident Investigations
- F -- Damage Prevention
- 1 Bulliage 1 leveller
- G -- Field Inspections
- H -- Interstate Agent State (If Applicable)
- I -- 60106 Agreement State (If Applicable)



2017 Gas State Program Evaluation -- CY 2017 Gas

State Agency: Georgia Rating:

Agency Status: 60105(a): Yes 60106(a): No Interstate Agent: No

Date of Visit: 05/07/2018 - 05/11/2018

Agency Representative: Michelle Thebert, Director

Jeff Baggett, Supervisor

PHMSA Representative: Agustin Lopez, State Liaison

Rex Evans, Supervisor, State Programs

Commission Chairman to whom follow up letter is to be sent:

Name/Title: Lauren "Bubba" McDonald, Chairman Agency: Georgia Public Service Commission

Address: 244 Washington Street, SW City/State/Zip: Atlanta, Georgia 30334

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete this evaluation in accordance with the Procedures for Evaluating State Pipeline Safety Program. The evaluation should generally reflect state program performance during CY 2017 (not the status of performance at the time of the evaluation). All items for which criteria have not been established should be answered based on the PHMSA representative's judgment. A deficiency in any one part of a multiple part question should be scored as needs improvement. Determine the answer to the question then select the appropriate point value. If a state receives less then the maximum points, include a brief explanation in the space provided for general comments/regional observations. If a question is not applicable to a state, select NA. Please ensure all responses are COMPLETE and ACCURATE, and OBJECTIVELY reflect state program performance. Increasing emphasis is being placed on performance. This evaluation together with selected factors reported in the state's annual progress report attachments provide the basis for determining the state's pipeline safety grant allocation.

Field Inspection (PART G):

The field inspection form used will allow different areas of emphasis to be considered for each question. Question 13 is provided for scoring field observation areas. In completing PART G, the PHMSA representative should include a written summary which thoroughly documents the inspection.

Scoring Summary

PARTS		Possible Points	Points Scored
Α	Progress Report and Program Documentation Review	10	10
В	Program Inspection Procedures	13	12
C	Program Performance	48	46
D	Compliance Activities	15	11
Е	Incident Investigations	11	10
F	Damage Prevention	8	8
G	Field Inspections	12	12
Н	Interstate Agent State (If Applicable)	0	0
I	60106 Agreement State (If Applicable)	0	0
TOTAI	LS	117	109
State R	ating	•••••	93.2

PART A - Progress Report and Program Documentation Review

Points(MAX) Score

1

Accuracy of Jurisdictional Authority and Operator/Inspection Units Data - Progress 1 1 Report Attachment 1

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Verified operator data in PDM and with their database. Track inspections in database to keep the number of inspections conducted yearly.

1 1 Review of Inspection Days for accuracy - Progress Report Attachment 2 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Verified total number of inspection days entered into Attachment 2 with their database. There was no issue with the number of inspection days submitted.

3 Accuracy verification of Operators and Operators Inspection Units in State - Progress 1 Report Attachment 3 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Verified operator and units with annual reports and compared with their database. The total number of operators was accurate when compared with database and PDM.

Were all federally reportable incident reports listed and information correct? - Progress 1 Report Attachment 4

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Compared the number of incident reports submitted to NRC in PDM with the number submitted in Attachment 4 and the number was accurate.

1 1 Accuracy verification of Compliance Activities - Progress Report Attachment 5

Evaluator Notes:

Verified compliance actions and there is no issues with the progress report numbers. There are open compliance actions dating back to 2008. Need improvement on closing out compliance actions specifically the older cases.

Attachment 6 Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1 2

2

Evaluator Notes:

6

Yes, files are kept in their office. Reviewed files during evaluation and they were organized and accessible.

Were pipeline program files well-organized and accessible? - Progress Report

7 Was employee listing and completed training accurate and complete? - Progress Report 1 1 Attachment 7

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Compared inspector training with SABA completed training and it was accurate. All inspectors are qualified to perform standard inspections except one. There are several inspectors who are qualified to lead IMP and DIMP inspections.

8 Verification of Part 192,193,198,199 Rules and Amendments - Progress Report Attachment 8

1

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

The GPSC automatically adopts changes in regulations. All regulations have been adopted. Only one that is not the same is the amount of civil penalty.

9 List of Planned Performance - Did state describe accomplishments on Progress Report in detail - Progress Report Attachment 10
Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Plan on conducting more construction activities due to up coming major construction projects. Major cases expected due to increase in damage prevention activities due to new fiber optics being installed.

10 General Comments: Info Only = No Points Info OnlyInfo Only

1

Evaluator Notes:

The GPSC is mainly complying with Part A of the Evaluation.

Total points scored for this section: 10 Total possible points for this section: 10



Standard Inspection procedures should give guidance to state inspectors that insure consistency in all inspections conducted by the state? The following elements should be addressed at a minimum - pre-inspection activities, inspection activities, post-inspection

2 2

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Section IV of procedures states the inspection process. Procedures gives guidance to the inspector on how to perform an inspection.

2 IMP and DIMP Inspection procedures should give guidance to state inspectors that insure consistency in all inspections conducted by the state? The following elements should be addressed at a minimum - pre-inspection activities, inspection activities, post-inspection activities.

0.5

1

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

1

Section IV of procedures explains the process for conducting an IMP and DIMP inspection.

In reviewing the GPSC Pipeline Safety Procedures there is a need for improving the detail of conducting Integrity Management Program (IMP) field verification and implementation inspections. The current IMP procedures do not give enough guidance on how and when to conduct IMP field verification and implementation inspections to verify the pipeline operator is performing these types of activities.

3 OQ Inspection procedures should give guidance to state inspectors that insure consistency in all inspections conducted by the state? The following elements should be addressed at a minimum - pre-inspection activities, inspection activities, post-inspection activities.

1 1

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Section IV of procedures give guidance on performing OQ inspections.

4 Damage Prevention Inspection procedures should give guidance to state inspectors that insure consistency in all inspections conducted by the state? The following elements should be addressed at a minimum - pre-inspection activities, inspection activities, postinspection activities.

1

1

1

1

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Section IV #7 of Pipeline Safety Procedures gives guidance to inspectors.

Any operator training conducted should be outlined and appropriately documented as 5 needed.

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Section IV has operator training procedures.

6 Construction Inspection procedures should give guidance to state inspectors that insure consistency in all inspections conducted by the state? The following elements should be addressed at a minimum - pre-inspection activities, inspection activities, post-inspection activities.

1 0.5

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Section IV has construction procedures. The GPSC Pipeline Safety Procedures for Construction Inspections do not provide enough detail to give guidance to inspectors to conduct these types of inspections. The procedures should include pre and post inspection activities in order to guide an inspector on how to perform a construction inspection. Need to be more

detailed to give guidance to inspectors. Maybe include review GC1 forms that operator need to submit to PSC before construction commences. The number of construction days seem to low for the amount of growth in the Atlanta area.

7	u	Does inspection plan address inspection priorities of each operator, and if necessary each nit, based on the following elements? $Y = 6 \text{ No} = 0 \text{ Needs Improvement} = 1-5$	6		6
	a.	Length of time since last inspection (Within five year interval)	Yes •	No 🔘	Needs Improvement
	b.	Operating history of operator/unit and/or location (includes leakage, incident and ompliance activities)	Yes •	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
	c.	Type of activity being undertaken by operators (i.e. construction)	Yes •	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
	d. ar	Locations of operators inspection units being inspected - (HCA's, Geographic eas, Population Density, etc)	Yes •	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
		Process to identify high-risk inspection units that includes all threats - (Excavation amage, Corrosion, Natural Forces, Outside Forces, Material and Welds, Equipment, perators and any Other Factors)	Yes	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
	f.	Are inspection units broken down appropriately?	Yes •	No 🔾	Needs Improvement

Evaluator Notes:

- a. Inspetions are to be conducted every 60 months. LNG and propane every 24 months.
- b. Take into consideration history of operator.
- c. Type of activity is considered for inspection intervals.
- d. Location of operator is taken into consideration.
- e. Threats is taken into consideration.
- f. Inspection units are broken down by county.

8 General Comments:

Info OnlyInfo Only

Improvement

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

B.2-Section IV of procedures explains the process for conducting an IMP and DIMP inspection.

In reviewing the GPSC Pipeline Safety Procedures there is a need for improving the detail of conducting Integrity Management Program (IMP) field verification and implementation inspections. The current IMP procedures do not give enough guidance on how and when to conduct IMP field verification and implementation inspections to verify the pipeline operator is performing these types of activities.

B.6-Section IV has construction procedures. The GPSC Pipeline Safety Procedures for Construction Inspections do not provide enough detail to give guidance to inspectors to conduct these types of inspections. The procedures should include pre and post inspection activities in order to guide an inspector on how to perform a construction inspection. Need to be more detailed to give guidance to inspectors. Maybe include review GC1 forms that operator need to submit to PSC before construction commences. The number of construction days seem to low for the amount of growth in the Atlanta area.

> Total points scored for this section: 12 Total possible points for this section: 13



Yes = 5 No = 0

1

5

5

	A. Total Inspection Person Days (Attachment 2): 858.50				
	B. Total Inspection Person Days Charged to the Program (220 X Inspection Person Years) (Attachment 7): 220 X 8.33 = 1833.33				
	Ratio: A / B 858.50 / 1833.33 = 0.47				
	858.50 B. Total Inspection Person Days Charged to the Program (220 X Inspection Person Years) (Attachment 7): 220 X 8.33 = 1833.33 Ratio: A / B 858.50 / 1833.33 = 0.47 If Ratio >= 0.38 Then Points = 5, If Ratio < 0.38 Then Points = 0 Points = 5 Points = 6 Caludor Notes: Reviewed total number of inspector days was verified. The GPSC met their inspection person-days to total person days ratio. 2 Has each inspector and program manager fulfilled the T Q Training Requirements? (See Guidelines Appendix C for requirements) Chapter 4.4 Yes = 5 No = 0 Necds Improvement = 1-4 a. Completion of Required OQ Training before conducting inspection as lead? Yes ● No ○ Improvement b. Completion of Required DIMP*/IMP Training before conducting inspection as lead? Yes ● No ○ Improvement d. Note any outside training completed Points = Root Cause Training by at least one inspector/program manager A. Note any outside training completed Points = Root Cause Training to mpleted Points = Root Cause Training to mpleted Points = Root Cause Training to the province of the				
2	Guidelines Appendix C for requirements) Chapter 4.4				
		Yes •	No 🔘		
		Yes •	No 🔾	Needs Improvement	
	c. Root Cause Training by at least one inspector/program manager	Yes 💿	No 🔾		
	d. Note any outside training completed	Yes 💿	No 🔘		
	standard inspection as the lead inspector. or Notes:	Yes •	No 🔾	Needs	
3	adequate knowledge of PHMSA program and regulations? Chapter 4.1,8.1	2		2	
4	or address any noted deficiencies? (If necessary) Chapter 8.1	2		2	
Evaluat					
Let	ter was sent on June 20, 2017 and received response on August 20, 2018				
5	Did State conduct or participate in pipeline safety training session or seminar in Past 3 Years? Chapter 8.5 Yes = 1 No = 0	1		1	
Evaluat	or Notes:				
Yes	s, conduct safety seminar every year. TQ conducted seminar in 2018.				
6	Did state inspect all types of operators and inspection units in accordance with time intervals established in written procedures? Chapter 5.1	5		4	

In reviewing the inspection reports there were several operators that had not been inspected within the sixty-month interval

Was ratio of Total Inspection person-days to total person days acceptable? (Director of

State Programs may modify with just cause) Chapter 4.3

Evaluator Notes:

Yes = 5 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-4

inspection reports to assure all applicable portions were completed. No issues were identified. Did the state review operator procedures for determining if exposed cast iron pipe was 1 examined for evidence of graphitization and if necessary remedial action was taken? (NTSB) Chapter 5.1 Yes = 1 No = 0**Evaluator Notes:** Yes, the only operator with cast iron is the City of Tallapoosa. 9 Did the state review operator procedures for surveillance of cast iron pipelines, including 1 appropriate action resulting from tracking circumferential cracking failures, study of leakage history, or other unusual operating maintenance condition? (Note: See GPTC Appendix G-18 for guidance) (NTSB) Chapter 5.1 Yes = 1 No = 0**Evaluator Notes:** Yes, the only operator with cast iron is the City of Tallapoosa. The GPSC inspects the operator and reviews their procedures. 10 Did the state review operator emergency response procedures for leaks caused by 1 excavation damage near buildings and determine whether the procedures adequately address the possibility of multiple leaks and underground migration of gas into nearby buildings Refer to 4/12/01 letter from PHMSA in response to NTSB recommendation P-00-20 and P-00-21? (NTSB) Chapter 5.1 Yes = 1 No = 0**Evaluator Notes:** Yes, review operator emergency response procedures during inspection. GPSC has a state form with supplemental questions. 11 Did the state review operator records of previous accidents and failures including 1 reported third party damage and leak response to ensure appropriate operator response as required by 192.617? Chapter 5.1 Yes = 1 No = 0**Evaluator Notes:** Yes, the GPSC reviews operator records of accidents to ensure appropriate response by operators is conducted. Operator is also required to submit report for third party damage incidents to GUFPA. 12 Has the state reviewed Operator Annual reports, along with Incident/Accident reports, for accuracy and analyzed data for trends and operator issues? Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1**Evaluator Notes:** Yes, the GPSC reviews annual reports for accuracy and analyze to risk rank their inspections. Keep data of leaks from annual reports to check for trends.

Has state confirmed intrastate transmission operators have submitted information into

NPMS database along with changes made after original submission?

for certain type of inspections. The GPSC needs to conduct each type of inspection at the interval established in their

been inspected since 2008. AGL Clayton District has no comprehensive in 5 years.

Did inspection form(s) cover all applicable code requirements addressed on Federal Inspection form(s)? Did State complete all applicable portions of inspection forms?

Not meeting the 5 interval for some master meters. Open compliance sheet demonstrates that some master meters haven't

Yes, the GPSC utilizes the Federal form and has created a State Form that covers NTSB and ADB questions. Reviewed

13

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procedures.

Evaluator Notes:

Chapter 5.1

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

1

2

1

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1

Yes, question is asked during the inspections and verified by the GPSC.

14 Is the state verifying operators are conducting drug and alcohol tests as required by regulations? This should include verifying positive tests are responded to in accordance with program. 49 CFR 199
Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

2

2

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, the GPSC conducts drug and alcohol inspections to assure the operator is in compliance. They conducted 16 days of drug and alcohol inspections in 2017.

Is state verifying operators OQ programs are up to date? This should include verification of any plan updates and that persons performing covered tasks (including contractors) are properly qualified and requalified at intervals determined in the operators plan. 49 CFR 192 Part N

2

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, the GPSC has reviewed operator OQ Programs are up to date. Procedures state that programs will be inspected every 5 years. The GPSC also performs OQ Protocol 9 during inspections to assure operator personnel are qualified to perform tasks.

Is state verifying operator's gas transmission integrity management programs (IMP) are up to date? This should include a previous review of IMP plan, along with monitoring progress on operator tests and remedial actions. In addition, the review should take in to account program review and updates of operators plan(s). (Are the State's largest operators programs being contacted or reviewed annually? Are replies to Operator IM notifications addressed? (formerly part of Question C-13)). 49 CFR 192 Subpart 0 Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

1

2

Evaluator Notes:

During the records review it was found that the GPSC has not conducted field/implementation inspections of operator IMP field activities. The GPSC needs to conduct field/implementation inspection of operators IMP activities to monitor and assure proper remedial actions are being conducted. These might include dig visits, PIG runs, etc..

Is state verifying operator's gas distribution integrity management Programs (DIMP)? This should include a review of DIMP plans, along with monitoring progress. In addition, the review should take in to account program review and updates of operators plan(s). (Are the State's largest operators programs being contacted or reviewed annually?). 49 CFR 192 Subpart P

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

2 2

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, the GPSC conducts DIMP inspections to verify operators are in compliance. The GPSC needs to assure they contact the larger operator's on an annual basis to review their DIMP program for any changes or field digs being performed.

Is state verifying operators Public Awareness programs are up to date and being followed. State should also verify operators have evaluated Public Awareness programs for effectiveness as described in RP1162. PAPEI Effectiveness Inspections should be conducted every four years by operators. 49 CFR 192.616

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

2 2

Evaluator Notes

Yes, the GPSC reviews the operator's Public Awareness programs in accordance with their procedures. Also complete Public Awareness questions that are in the inspection forms.

Does the state have a mechanism for communicating with stakeholders - other than state pipeline safety seminar? (This should include making enforcement cases available to public)

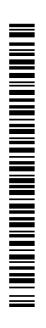
1

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

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20	Did state execute appropriate follow-up actions to Safety Related Condition (SRC) Reports? Chapter 6.3 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	N	A
Evaluato	or Notes:			
Did	I not have any SRCR in 2017.			
21	Did the State ask Operators to identify any plastic pipe and components that has shown a record of defects/leaks and what those operators are doing to mitigate the safety concerns? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1		1
Yes	or Notes: s the GPSC has form "State and PSC Rules Inspection Form" that has all the NTSB and advisasked at every comprehensive inspection.	sory bull	etin ques	stions that
22	Did the state participate in/respond to surveys or information requests from NAPSR or PHMSA? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1		1
Evaluato	or Notes:			
Yes	s, Michelle Thebert responds to surveys requests from NAPSR and PHMSA.			
23	If the State has issued any waivers/special permits for any operator, has the state verified conditions of those waivers/special permits are being met? This should include having the operator amend procedures where appropriate. No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5 Yes = 1	1		1
The	or Notes: e GPSC has no open waivers. The last one was in 1993 involving Anahueser Busch which has trater was added to their inspection schedule and Progress Report.	s been c	ompleted	l. The
24	Did the state attend the National NAPSR Board of Directors Meeting in CY being evaluated? No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5 Yes = 1	1		1
Evaluato	or Notes:			
Yes	s, Michelle Thebert attended the National meeting in 2017.			
25	Discussion on State Program Performance Metrics found on Stakeholder Communication site - http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/states.htm No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1 Yes = 2	2		2
	a. Discussion of Potential Accelerated Actions (AA's) based on any negative trends	Yes ①	No ()	Needs
	, , , , , ,	Yes •	No ()	Improvement Needs
Exc traii	b. NTSB P-11-20 Meaningful Metrics or Notes: cavation Damages per 1,000 tickets increased due to fiber optics being installed in the last send stakeholders on third party damage and on hand digging to limit the damages. There was gram. Docket #40720. Issued order required training for hand digging.	veral yea	ars. The (
26	Discussion with State on accuracy of inspection day information submitted into State Inspection Day Calculation Tool (SICT) Has the State updated SICT data? No = 0 Yes = 1	1		1
	or Notes: cussed the numbers entered into the SICT and there is no issue in meeting the inspector days	. Discus	sed the n	eed for



construction days. There is no issue in meeting the inspector days.

27 Did the State verify Operators took appropriate action regarding Pipeline Flow Reversals, 1
Product Changes and Conversions to Service? See ADP-2014-04
Needs Improvement = .5 No = 0 Yes = 1

Evaluator Notes:

The GPSC added the question to their State Form to ask operators during the comprehensive inspections.

28 General Comments:

Info OnlyInfo Only

Info Only = No Points

Evaluator Notes:

C.6-In reviewing the inspection reports there were several operators that had not been inspected within the sixty-month interval for certain type of inspections. The GPSC needs to conduct each type of inspection at the interval established in their procedures.

C.16-During the records review it was found that the GPSC has not conducted field/implementation inspections of operator IMP field activities. The GPSC needs to conduct field/implementation inspection of operators IMP activities to monitor and assure proper remedial actions are being conducted. These might include dig visits, PIG runs, etc..

Not meeting the 5 interval for some master meters. Open compliance sheet demonstrates that some master meters haven't been inspected since 2008. AGL Clayton District has no comprehensive in 5 years.

Total points scored for this section: 46 Total possible points for this section: 48



1

2

resolution of a probable violation? Chapter 5.1 Yes = 4 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-3			
a. Procedures to notify an operator (company officer) when a noncompliance is	Yes •	No 🔘	Needs Improvement
identifiedb. Procedures to routinely review progress of compliance actions to prevent delays or	•		Maada
breakdowns	Yes 🔾	No 🔘	Improvement
c. Procedures regarding closing outstanding probable violations	Yes 🔾	No 🔾	Needs Improvement •
Evaluator Notes: Although the GPSC have procedures for taking steps from the discovery to resolution of a probe an improvement of the procedure due to recent breakdowns in the system. During the review seems to be a breakdown from the issuance to the resolution of probable violations. There are staking months to a couple of years to resolve probable violations. The issue has been identified need for amending the procedures is needed to avoid future breakdowns. Specifically, AGL are take a long time to get resolved.	v of comp several ins l in previo	ation, ther diance file stances in ous evalua	re needs to es there which it is tions so the
Did the state follow compliance procedures (from discovery to resolution) and adequated document all probable violations, including what resolution or further course of action is needed to gain compliance? Chapter 5.1 Yes = 4 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-3		2	2
a. Were compliance actions sent to company officer or manager/board member if municipal/government system?	Yes	No 🔘	Needs Improvement
b. Document probable violations	Yes	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
c. Resolve probable violations	Yes 🔾		Needs Improvement
d. Routinely review progress of probable violations	Yes 🔘		Needs Improvement
e. Within 30 days, conduct a post-inspection briefing with the owner or operator of the gas or hazardous liquid pipeline facility inspected outlining any concerns; and	Yes •		Needs Improvement
f. Within 90 days, to the extent practicable, provide the owner or operator with writte preliminary findings of the inspection. Evaluator Notes:	Yes •	No 🔘	Needs Improvement
In reviewing the GPSC compliance files there seems to be an issue with the long period of time monitor the progress of probable violations. There are several inspections with probable violations back to 2008, specifically Master Meter operators. In addition, there are some cases that take me probable violation to the operator response received. The IMP inspection of AGL in 2016 is an open and there has not been a resolution to the probable violations. There needs to be improved close or monitor probable violations. There was a two-point deduction from the evaluation scott probable violations in a timely manner.	ions that he nonths from example ment in the	nave been m the issu in which e timely r	open dating nance of a it is still nanner to
3 Did the state issue compliance actions for all probable violations discovered? Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2	2	2
Evaluator Notes: Yes, reviewed inspection records and it seems that the GPSC is issuing compliance actions for discovered.	all probat	ole violati	ions
4 Did compliance actions give reasonable due process to all parties? Including "show cause" hearing if necessary. Yes = 2 No = 0	2	2	2
Evaluator Notes: The GPSC gives due reasonable process to every operator.			
5 Is the program manager familiar with state process for imposing civil penalties? Were civil penalties considered for repeat violations (with severity consideration) or violations	2	2	2

Does the state have written procedures to identify steps to be taken from the discovery to



resulting in incidents/accidents? (describe any actions taken)

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, Michelle Thebert is familiar with the process for imposing civil penalties. There were several civil penalties issued in 2017.

6 Can the State demonstrate it is using their enforcement fining authority for pipeline safety 1 violations?

Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, the GPSC issued several civil penalties in the past years and in 2017. There were no civil penalties collected in 2017.

General Comments:Info Only = No Points

Info OnlyInfo Only

Evaluator Notes:

D.1-Although the GPSC have procedures for taking steps from the discovery to resolution of a probable violation, there needs to be an improvement of the procedure due to recent breakdowns in the system. During the review of compliance files there seems to be a breakdown from the issuance to the resolution of probable violations. There are several instances in which it is taking months to a couple of years to resolve probable violations. The issue has been identified in previous evaluations so the need for amending the procedures is needed to avoid future breakdowns. Specifically, AGL and master meter cases seem to take a long time to get resolved.

D.2-In reviewing the GPSC compliance files there seems to be an issue with the long period of time it takes to resolve and monitor the progress of probable violations. There are several inspections with probable violations that have been open dating back to 2008, specifically Master Meter operators. In addition, there are some cases that take months from the issuance of a probable violation to the operator response received. The IMP inspection of AGL in 2016 is an example in which it is still open and there has not been a resolution to the probable violations. There needs to be improvement in the timely manner to close or monitor probable violations. There was a two-point deduction from the evaluation score due to not resolving probable violations in a timely manner.

Total points scored for this section: 11 Total possible points for this section: 15



	Does the state have written procedures to address state actions in the event of an incident/accident? Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1 or Notes: cion IIIV has Incident investigation procedures. All inspectors are on call and each is responsators. List of inspectors are provided to the operators.			2 g calls from
2	Does state have adequate mechanism to receive and respond to operator reports of incidents, including after-hours reports? And did state keep adequate records of Incident/Accident notifications received? Chapter 6 Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2		2
	a. Acknowledgement of MOU between NTSB and PHMSA (Appendix D)	Yes 💿	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
Evaluato	b. Acknowledgement of Federal/State Cooperation in case of incident/accident (Appendix E)	Yes •	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
nun a.Ye	the GPSC has mechanism to receive incident reports from operators. Each operator is given the sand all inspectors are on-call to receive notifications. The GPSC is aware of the MOU between NTSB and cooperation with PHMSA are the GPSC is aware of the federal/state cooperation in case of an incident.	i the ins	pectors c	ontact pnone
3	If onsite investigation was not made, did state obtain sufficient information from the operator and/or by other means to determine the facts to support the decision to not go on-site? Chapter 6 Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1		1
Evaluato				
	reportable incidents were investigated but no onsite was made on a couple. GPSC will amen te investigation was not made and that enough information is obtained to make the decision.		lure to in	clude if an
4	Were all incidents investigated, thoroughly documented, and with conclusions and recommendations? Yes = 3 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1-2	3		2
	a. Observations and document review	Yes 💿	No 🔘	Needs Improvement
	b. Contributing Factors	Yes •	No 🔾	Needs Improvement
	c. Recommendations to prevent recurrences when appropriate	Yes 🔘	No 🔘	Needs Improvement
Evaluato a. Ir	or Notes: acident investigation report has details of incident and documents reviewed.			Improvement

E

- b. Contributing factors are mentioned in the investigation reports.
- c. There is a lack of recommendations to prevent recurrence. GPSC did not give recommendation to incident that occurred on 12/21/2017 (AGL) they only issued a Letter of Concern. This is the 2nd type of incident that involves posi-grip couplings. They demonstrate that they are enforcing the regulations during accident investigation but do need to improve on the severity of the compliance actions. For example on the AGL 12/21/2017 incident. Similar incident occurred in 2016 in which AGL sent letter stating they identified 450 couplings and will replace all by 2022. No correspondence was sent to AGL to either confirm with replacement program. JL17-001
- 5 Did the state initiate compliance action for violations found during any incident/accident investigation?

Yes = 1 No = 0

Yes, issued NOPV, CP and Letter of Concern to operators involved in incidents.

Did the state assist Region Office or Accident Investigation Division (AID) by taking appropriate follow-up actions related to the operator incident reports to ensure accuracy and final report has been received by PHMSA? (validate report data from operators concerning incidents/accidents and investigate discrepancies) Chapter 6
Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, the GPSC interacts with the AID members to validate follow up actions.

Does state share lessons learned from incidents/accidents? (sharing information, such as: 1
 at NAPSR Region meetings, state seminars, etc)
 Yes = 1 No = 0

Evaluator Notes:

Yes, Michelle Thebert presented at the NAPSR meeting during the State of The State report and shared lessons learned.

8 General Comments: Info Only = No Points Info OnlyInfo Only

Evaluator Notes:

E.4-There is a lack of recommendations to prevent recurrence. GPSC did not give recommendation to incident that occurred on 12/21/2017 (AGL) they only issued a Letter of Concern. This is the 2nd type of incident that involves posi-grip couplings. They demonstrate that they are enforcing the regulations during accident investigation but do need to improve on the severity of the compliance actions. For example on the AGL 12/21/2017 incident. Similar incident occurred in 2016 in which AGL sent letter stating they identified 450 couplings and will replace all by 2022. No correspondence was sent to AGL to either confirm with replacement program. JL17-001

Total points scored for this section: 10 Total possible points for this section: 11



Yes, the GPSC has additional State form that includes directional drilling/boring procedures review.

Did the state inspector verify pipeline operators are following their written procedures pertaining to notification of excavation, marking, positive response and the availability and use of the one call system?

2

2

2

2

2

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Evaluator Notes:

Review Damage prevention procedures during the Comprehensive inspections. Verify the operators one call system.

Did the state encourage and promote practices for reducing damages to all underground facilities to its regulated companies? (i.e. such as promoting/adopting the CGA Best Practices encouraging adoption of the 9 Elements, etc.)

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

2

Evaluator Notes:

Conduct Seminar every year to operators. Work hand in hand with GUFPA to encourage and promote practices. Commissioner also introduced a docket to educate excavators on hand digging.

Has the agency or another organization within the state collected data and evaluated trends on the number of pipeline damages per 1,000 locate requests? (This can include DIRT and other data shared and reviewed by the pipeline safety program)

Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

2

Evaluator Notes:

GUFPA collects data on the number of pipeline damages per 1,000 locate request. The rate is about 1% base on the data collected by 811 and GUFPA.

5 General Comments: Info Only = No Points Info OnlyInfo Only

Evaluator Notes:

The GPSC is mainly complying with Part F of the Evaluation.

Total points scored for this section: 8 Total possible points for this section: 8



1	Operator, Inspector, Location, Date and PHMSA Representative Info Only = No Points	Info OnlyInfo	Only
	Name of Operator Inspected: 1. City of Lawrenceville 2. City of Toccoa Natural Gas System		
	Name of State Inspector(s) Observed: 1. Lynn Buffington 2. Alan Towe		
	Location of Inspection: 1. Lawrenceville, GA 2. Toccoa, GA		
	Date of Inspection: 1. March 26-30, 2018 2. June 12-13,2018		
Evaluat	Name of PHMSA Representative: 1. Agustin Lopez 2. Don Martin		
	or Notes: ere were two field inspection Evaluations performed:		
rev ma	Evaluated Mr. Lynn Buffington conduct a distribution inspection of the City of Lawrenceville iewed procedures, records and field inspection. This was a team inspection and Mr. Buffingto intenance for this week. Evaluated Mr. Towe conducting a follow-up inspection of Probable Violations corrections from the conduction of Probable Violation of Probable Violations corrections from the conduction of Probable Violation of Probable Violations corrections from the conduction of Probable Violation of Probabl	on was lookin	g at valve
2	Was the operator or operator's representative notified and/or given the opportunity to be present during inspection? Yes = $1 \text{ No} = 0$	1	1
1. N 2.	or Notes: Yes the operator was notified with enough time and given the opportunity to have any represe. Yes, the Utility Director and Superintendent were provided notification on May 17, 2018. A perintendent and Rocky Bowen, Assistant Superintendent, were present during the inspection	nthony Adams	
3	Did the inspector use an appropriate inspection form/checklist and was the form/checklist used as a guide for the inspection? (New regulations shall be incorporated) Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2	2
	or Notes: Yes, the inspector was a form to guide him during the inspection and to document his results.		
	Yes, the inspector utilized a form to guide through the follow-up questions.		
4	Did the inspector thoroughly document results of the inspection? Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2	2
1. \	or Notes: Yes, the inspector documented his results on the inspection form. Yes, the operator responses were documented on the form.		
5	Did the inspector check to see if the operator had necessary equipment during inspection to conduct tasks viewed? (Maps,pyrometer,soap spray,CGI,etc.) Yes = 1 No = 0	1	1
1. N pip	or Notes: Yes, the inspector verified the technicians had their equipment to operate valves. He also had eline facilities when he found missing signs. Testing equipment was not required during the inspection.	them put up s	igns on the
6	Did the inspector adequately review the following during the field portion of the state	2	2

DUNS: 110305872

2017 Gas State Program Evaluation

evaluation? (check all that apply on list) Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1

Procedures

 \boxtimes

7	Did the inspector have adequate knowledge of the pipeline safety program and regulations? (Evaluator will document reasons if unacceptable) Yes = 2 No = 0 Needs Improvement = 1	2	2
Evalua	or Notes:		
	Yes, Mr. Buffington has been with the GA PSC for a long time and is very knowledgeable of th	e pipeline sat	fety program
	l regulations.		
	Yes, Allan Towe has been with the GA PSC for 28 years and completed all necessary training. by	He exhibited	d excellent
8	Did the inspector conduct an exit interview? (If inspection is not totally complete the interview should be based on areas covered during time of field evaluation) $Yes = 1 No = 0$	1	1
	or Notes:		
iss	Yes, at the end of the inspection, the GA PSC conducted an exit briefing with the operator to discuss.		
	Yes, an exit interview was conducted to discuss whether or not the correction actions were acceptable and would require further action by the operator to close the inspection.	eptable. One	was not
9	During the exit interview, did the inspector identify probable violations found during the inspections? (if applicable) $Yes = 1 No = 0$	1	1
Evalua	Yes = 1 No = 0 or Notes:		
	Yes, there were several issues brought up by the GA PSC. Mr. Buffington had an issue with a brought up by the GA PSC.	uried emerge	ncy valve that
	s not accessible and an alternative valve had not been assigned. He also had an issue with the pl	_	-
an	I not routing to the appropriate personnel. The operator stated that it was due to the phone lines	being down a	and would
	rk on having a back up.		
	Yes, information was provided on violations that were still outstanding on the regulator stations		
	needed at locations determined to have local and general corrosion. Some regulator stations wil		
	talled at a safe distance from the stations. Relief valve capacity calculations will need to conduct		•
	ef valves will need to be installed at some locations. Signs with information preventing accidentalled.	ntai ignition i	need to be
10		fo OnlyInfo (Only
	description of field observations and how inspector performed) 2) Best Practices to Share		
	with Other States - (Field - could be from operator visited or state inspector practices) 3)		
	Other. Info Only = No Points		
	a. Abandonment		
	b. Abnormal Operations		
	c. Break-Out Tanks		
	d. Compressor or Pump Stations		
	e. Change in Class Location		
	f. Casings		
	g. Cathodic Protection		
	h. Cast-iron Replacement		
	i. Damage Prevention		
	j. Deactivation		
	k. Emergency Procedures		
0305872	- <i>U</i> J		

1. Yes, Mr. Buffington reviewed certain procedures which dealt with his portion of the inspection. He also reviewed valve

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b.

c.

d.

Evaluator Notes:

Records

Field Activities

2. Yes, as appropriate for a follow-up inspection.

Other (please comment)

inspection records and concluded with a field inspection of the valve sites.

 \boxtimes \boxtimes

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l.	Inspection of Right-of-Way	\boxtimes
m.	Line Markers	\boxtimes
n.	Liaison with Public Officials	
0.	Leak Surveys	
p.	MOP	
q.	MAOP	\boxtimes
r.	Moving Pipe	
S.	New Construction	
t.	Navigable Waterway Crossings	
u.	Odorization	
V.	Overpressure Safety Devices	\boxtimes
W.	Plastic Pipe Installation	
X.	Public Education	
y.	Purging	
Z.	Prevention of Accidental Ignition	\boxtimes
A.	Repairs	\boxtimes
B.	Signs	\boxtimes
C.	Tapping	
D.	Valve Maintenance	\boxtimes
E.	Vault Maintenance	
F.	Welding	
G.	OQ - Operator Qualification	
H.	Compliance Follow-up	
I.	Atmospheric Corrosion	
J.	Other	

Evaluator Notes:

- 1. Mr. Lynn Buffington inspected the valve maintenance part of the inspection. During the field he inspected condition of valves, operated valves, checked ROW condition and checked for signs/line markers. He performed and excellent job and conducted himself very professionally.
- 2. Alan Towe discussed the details of the probable violations from the previous inspections, the operator's response, the details of the corrective actions stated by the operator and the acceptability of the corrective actions.

Total points scored for this section: 12 Total possible points for this section: 12

PAR	Γ H - Interstate Agent State (If Applicable) Poi	ints(MAX)	Score
1	Did the state use the current federal inspection form(s)? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
	SC is not an interstate agent.		
2	Are results documented demonstrating inspection units were reviewed in accordance wing "PHMSA directed inspection plan"? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	ith 1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC is not an interstate agent.		
3	Did the state submit documentation of the inspections within 60 days as stated in its late Interstate Agent Agreement form? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	est 1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC is not an interstate agent.		
4	Were probable violations identified by state referred to PHMSA for compliance? (NOT PHMSA representative has discretion to delete question or adjust points, as appropriate based on number of probable violations; any change requires written explanation.) Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5		NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
	SC is not an interstate agent.		
5	Did the state immediately report to PHMSA conditions which may pose an imminent safety hazard to the public or to the environment? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	NA
	or Notes:		
GPS	SC is not an interstate agent.		
6	Did the state give written notice to PHMSA within 60 days of all probable violations found? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC is not an interstate agent.		
7	Did the state initially submit documentation to support compliance action by PHMSA of probable violations?	n 1	NA
Evaluate	Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5 or Notes:		
	SC is not an interstate agent.		
8	General Comments: Info Only = No Points	Info Onlyli	nfo Only

Total points scored for this section: 0
Total possible points for this section: 0



Evaluator Notes:

GPSC is not an interstate agent.

PAR	Γ I - 60106 Agreement State (If Applicable) P	oints(MAX)	Score
1	Did the state use the current federal inspection form(s)? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC does not have a 60106 Agreement.		
2	Are results documented demonstrating inspection units were reviewed in accordance state inspection plan? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	with 1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC does not have a 60106 Agreement.		
3	Were any probable violations identified by state referred to PHMSA for compliance? (NOTE: PHMSA representative has discretion to delete question or adjust points, as appropriate, based on number of probable violations; any change requires written explanation.) Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC does not have a 60106 Agreement.		
4	Did the state immediately report to PHMSA conditions which may pose an imminent safety hazard to the public or to the environment? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC does not have a 60106 Agreement.		
5	Did the state give written notice to PHMSA within 60 days of all probable violations found? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC does not have a 60106 Agreement.		
6	Did the state initially submit adequate documentation to support compliance action by PHMSA on probable violations? Yes = 1 No = 0 Needs Improvement = .5	, 1	NA
Evaluato	or Notes:		
GPS	SC does not have a 60106 Agreement.		



Total points scored for this section: 0 Total possible points for this section: 0

Info OnlyInfo Only

7

Evaluator Notes:

General Comments: Info Only = No Points

GPSC does not have a 60106 Agreement.