

ATLANTA GAS LIGHT COMPANY – WAYCROSS SVC CNTR / INCIDENT INVESTIGATION
INSPECTION NUMBER DL19-004 / DOCKET NUMBER 42166

On August 17 2018, Staff was notified of an explosion in Homerville, Ga. in the Waycross service area of Atlanta Gas Light Company.

During this investigation, the Operator was represented by:

Julie Adkins – Counsel, Litigation
Rick Slagle – Director Compliance & Quality Assurance
Steve Fivish – Operations Superintendent
Jeff Busby – Operations Foreman
Everett Lee – Crew Leader
Promes Life – Asset Protection
Samuel James (Jamie) Harper - Field Specialist B
Nathan Bass - Field Tech C
Zane Stalvey - General Tech / AMR
Nicholas Cox - USIC District Manager for South Georgia
Anne Marie Schloemmer - Attorney / USIC (Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP)
Demetrius Barnes - Utility Locator / USIC (AGLC Contractor)
Carlos Wilkinson - Utility Locator / USIC (AGLC Contractor)

Commission Staff was represented by:

David Lewis – Lead Investigator
Michelle Thebert - Director, Facilities Protection Unit
Jeff Baggett – Supervisor, Facilities Protection Unit
Alan Towe – Pipeline Safety Inspector
Joe Jones – Pipeline Safety Inspector
Jack Hewitt – Pipeline Safety Inspector
Will Culbreath – GUFPA Case Manager

At the time of this investigation the AGLC - Waycross Service Center was under one (1) previously existing probable violation. Because this investigation was specifically to address the explosion/incident in the City of Homerville, Staff did not review this item.

NOTICE OF PROBABLE VIOLATION

As a result of this inspection Staff found that Atlanta Gas Light Company was in probable violation of the minimum federal safety standards; specifically:

1. 49 CFR §192.605(a) - Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response.
 - a) 192.614(a) - Except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section, each operator of a buried pipeline shall carry out, in accordance with this section a written program to prevent damage to that pipeline from excavation activities. For the purpose of this section, "excavation activities" includes excavation, blasting, boring, tunneling, backfilling, the removal of aboveground structures by either explosive or mechanical means, and other earth moving operations.
 - 1) Staff determined that the Operator failed to identify and mark their facilities as required by their procedures in Division II, Section 3.3, of their Operations and Procedural Manual (Staking and Marking Facilities) which states: "Before staking or marking underground gas facilities, the exact area where the blasting or excavation is to take place must be verified. If there is any