

Information for Natural Gas Operators Regarding Enforcement Actions, Enforcement Letters, & Notifications Issued by the GPSC's Pipeline Safety Director

statement issued by the Director. If the information provided is not acceptable to the Director, then the Operator will be given the option of an Informal Conference with the Director or the case will be referred to the Commission for a formal resolution on the contested issue.

D. Continuing and/or Existing Violations

Continuing and/or existing violations that were not cleared as a result of the current inspection must be addressed in the response letter. The Operator shall provide the current status, updates, expected completion dates, proposed modifications, etc., of the continuing and/or existing violations in each response letter, even if this information was provided in a previously filed response letter. Failure to provide this information may result in formal interrogatories from the Director through data requests. **Please Note:** Referencing a previously filed response letter does not meet the intent of this provision.

III. Procedures for Requesting a Hearing

The Operator has the right to request a hearing 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. Your request must also indicate whether or not you will be represented by counsel at the hearing.

You are 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.