



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 304260
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

CYNTHIA LEE ALMOND, PRESIDENT

JEREMY H. ODEN, COMMISSIONER, PLACE 1

CHRIS V. BEEKER, III, COMMISSIONER, PLACE 2

JOHN A. GARNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHEROKEE WATERWORKS AND GAS BOARD IN RE: INSTITUTION OF INVESTIGATION

Respondent

DOCKET 33612

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

Between November 2024 and August 2025, the Commission's Gas Pipeline Safety Division ("GPS") conducted standard investigations of the natural gas distribution facilities at the Cherokee Waterworks and Gas Board ("Cherokee") in Cherokee, Alabama. As a natural gas distribution operator, Cherokee is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to Ala. Code § 37-4-80 et seq. During the August 2024 investigation of its facilities, GPS Staff noted 17 violations of the safety provisions in 49 C.F.R. § 192. After repeated follow-up inspections and reissued citations, Cherokee addressed 12 of its 17 violations. However, after the most recent follow-up inspection, August 14, 2025, the following items were found to still be in non-compliance, which may pose a risk to public safety, system integrity, and regulatory compliance if not addressed promptly:

1. § 192.281(a) – Plastic pipe;
2. § 192.321(a) – Installation of plastic pipe;
3. § 192.727(a) – Abandonment or deactivation of facilities;
4. § 192.65(f)(1)(2) – Odorization of gas; and
5. § 192.723(b)(1)(2) – Distribution systems: Leak surveys.

Having considered the above violations and Cherokee's failure to respond, the Commission found that an investigation into its operations was warranted, pursuant to Ala. Code §§ 37-4-83 and 37-4-87, to determine whether Cherokee should be fined and/or steps should be taken to cease the company's operation of natural gas distribution facilities. A hearing was held on October 15, 2025, in which representatives for the Respondent participated.

At the hearing the Respondents testified that all violations had been corrected. During the hearing Commission staff indicated its satisfaction with the documents provided to support the Respondents testimony. Commission staff did request a couple additional documents post hearing. Respondents testified those documents could be provided shortly following the proceeding. The Administrative Law Judge gave the Respondents until October 24, 2025, to provide the documents. Respondents provided all documents within days.

Due to the Respondents correcting all violations prior to the hearing, and providing all documents post hearing within a timely manner, Respondents are due to be dismissed from this proceeding with no fine.

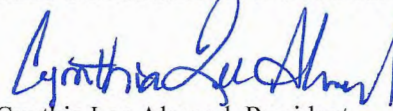
IT IS ORDERED that Cherokee Waterworks and Gas Board shall be dismissed from this proceeding.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that jurisdiction in this cause is hereby retained for the issuance of any further order or orders as this Commission may find just and reasonable in the premises.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall be effective as of the date hereof.

DONE at Montgomery, Alabama, this 4th day of November, 2025.

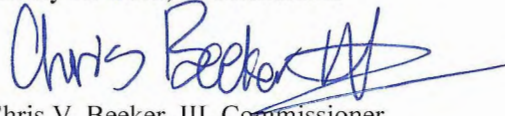
ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Cynthia Lee Almond, President

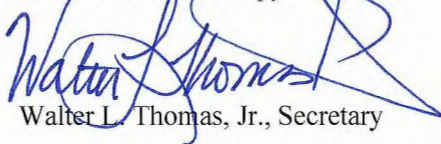


Jeremy H. Oden, Commissioner



Chris V. Beeker, III, Commissioner

ATTEST: A True Copy



Walter L. Thomas, Jr., Secretary