



PREBLE-RISH INC
CONSULTING ENGINEERS & SURVEYORS

November 24, 2010

Via email at Sam.Hall@dot.gov

Mr. Sam Hall
U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
Office of Pipeline Safety, PHP-20
2180 Adventure Lane
Maidens, VA 23102

**RE: City of Blountstown Technical Assistance Grant – Final Report
Preble-Rish, Inc. Project No.: 013.059**

Dear Mr. Hall:

Preble-Rish is pleased to provide you with this final report and to inform you of the completion of the Technical Assistance Grant for the City of Blountstown. Please find attached one copy of the final report, one copy of the gas utility base map, one copy of the gas customer list. A Federal Financial Report (SF425) will follow soon from the City of Blountstown.

If you should have any questions regarding the City of Blountstown's Technical Assistance Grant, please do not hesitate to contact me at 850.522.0644 or by email at fieldingj@preble-rish.com.

Sincerely,
PREBLE-RISH, INC.


John Fielding, E.I.
Project Engineer

JCF/alf

Enclosures (3)

cc: Mr. James Woods, City Manager, City of Blountstown (via james.a.woods@blountstown.org)
Mr. Justin Ford, E.I., Project Engineer, PRI (via fordj@preble-rish.com)
Mr. Travis Justice, PE, Senior Project Manager, Associate, PRI (via justice@preble-rish.com)

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Bay County

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Panama City, FL 32405

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F 850.522.1011

Walton County

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Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459

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Gadsden County

20 East Washington Street
Quincy, FL 32351

P 850.875.4751

Calhoun County

20684 Central Avenue East
Blountstown, FL 32424

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Wakulla County

36 Jasper Thomas Road
Crawfordville, FL 32327

P 850.274.9866

Jefferson County

Garden Square
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Monticello, FL 32344

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Dixie County

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P.O. Box 3
Suwannee, FL 32692

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Project Purpose:

The purpose of this technical assistance grant (TAG) is to provide the City of Blountstown, FL with a GIS database of all gas utility systems located within the City. The completion of this project will greatly enhance the safety of the City as construction projects develop. The GIS database will allow for quick and simple location of gas utilities in order to prevent interference with construction.

Project Methods:

In order to successfully create a database of gas system utilities, it was necessary to pool information from several different sources. These sources include the following:

- Existing Utility Maps of Gas Lines
- Utility Customer Lists
- Valve Location Books

These sources were consulted in order to gain a preliminary idea of where utility systems were located. These locations were then confirmed by field crews using GPS coordinates and field surveys. As locations were confirmed, they were added in to the database as survey points. These surveys located gas valves, meters and pipes.

With survey information complete, these various utility items were loaded into ArcView 9.3 as data points. These data points contain information on the utility systems based on the utility item. Layouts of the gas utility system are now available for review in a GIS map (**Attachment A**) which relates the location of utility pipes, valves and meters in relation to streets in the City of Blountstown.

Project Results:

As a result of the successful mapping of the City of Blountstown gas utility system, the following information is available for review in ArcView 9.3:

- Gas Pipe Locations
 - Pipe information includes pipe size, year built, invert elevation and pipe material
- Gas Valve Locations
 - Valve information includes location, service status and year built



- Gas Meter Locations
 - Meter location includes service connection status, customer name and address and gas usage history

These items allow for quick and easy location of vital information to utility safety. The ArcView 9.3 interface allows the user to quickly and easily view information on various pipes, valves and meters by simply clicking on the icon associated with each type. The icon then displays a table with a list of properties associated with the gas system. The user is also able to turn off layers of display on the ArcView 9.3 system. Therefore, the user may view gas utilities separately. Also, they may be viewed as a whole in relation to one another.

In loading the information from the field surveys, Preble-Rish took care in labeling information appropriately. Gas lines appear as yellow lines interconnected with one another while gas valves appear as yellow circles with X's drawn through them. Gas meters appear as boxes with a G inscribed inside the box. This system allows for quick and accurate identification of system components as well as providing for future expansion of the system to include information on other utilities such as the water or electric system.

As part of the Technical Assistance Grant, the City of Blountstown has been provided with ArcView 9.3 preloaded onto a computer capable of efficiently operating the system. Additionally, Preble-Rish has provided two days of training to the City of Blountstown employees in relation to ArcView 9.3 use and maintenance. The training included methods of operation for the ArcView 9.3 system which includes generating spreadsheet information such as utility customer information. This utility customer information includes such items as the following:

- Customer Name
- Customer Address
- Service Address
- Service Status
- Service Meter Type
- Meter ID
- GPS Meter Coordinates

This information is demonstrated in **Attachment B** as a spreadsheet print out from ArcView 9.3.



Conclusions:

Preble-Rish has successfully completed the creation of a GIS database system for the City of Blountstown. This system is in keeping with the requirements and intentions of the Technical Assistance Grant Agreement and purpose. In doing so, Preble-Rish has assisted the City of Blountstown in creating a safer and more effective means of utility location.

This database creation has also provided a basis for other municipalities to consider the creation of similar databases. The streamlined appeal of GIS software and utility location will lend itself well to further mapping of local areas and will provide for a safer and more accurate construction process in the near future. As the City of Blountstown expands or constructs City improvements, the GIS system may be further expanded to include greater ranges of information regarding more than simply the gas utility system.

In conclusion, the City of Blountstown has effectively completed the Technical Assistance Grant awarded to it by the United States Department of Transportation. This completion has provided a safer and better way for the City of Blountstown to locate its utilities.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Gas Utility Base Map

Attachment B – Gas Utility Customer List