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NEWS RELEASE

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ASSESSMENT REVEALS TRANSCO PIPELINE IN MADISON COUNTY POSES NO PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT

ATLANTA – Over the last two years, the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) conducted a public health assessment of the Transcontinental (Transco) Pipeline Company Compressor Station #130 in Madison County, GA. The Department is now making available to the public the key findings from the public health assessment.

The Department received requests from members of a community group to conduct a public health assessment for the residents living near the Transcontinental Gas Company Compressor Station (Transco) in Madison County. In response, the Department evaluated the potential for exposures to hazardous chemicals released to soil, sediments, groundwater and air from compressor station operations. The Department reviewed environmental sampling data, health outcome data, and community concerns to assess the potential for health effects from exposures.

The Department's key findings include:

- Operations at Transco are not expected to harm people's health because the public has not been, are not currently, and are unlikely to be exposed to contamination at levels of health concern.
- Soil contamination has been contained on-site in restricted access areas, and to undeveloped woodland of Transco property not easily accessible and rarely accessed by the general public.
- Sediment contamination is limited to on-site drainage ways and a creek on Transco property in areas not used for recreation.
- There is no off-site groundwater contamination from facility operations.
- The facility has consistently remained in compliance with air emissions regulations.
- Formaldehyde emissions from this facility are not at levels that pose a public health hazard to the public.

Additionally, a review of cancer incidence and mortality data, and data for miscarriages shows no excess numbers of cases or rates of cancer within a minimum five miles radius of Transco, no excess numbers of miscarriages in Madison County, no clusters of cancer

cases or miscarriages near Transco, and no excess number of deaths from cancer in Madison County.

Based on the Department's findings, no additional public health actions are recommended at this time. If additional data become available, the information will be reviewed by the Department's Chemical Hazards Program, and appropriate actions will be taken. Moreover, the Department will continue to respond to requests for information and health and environmental concerns about operations at Transco.

To read and download a copy of the public health assessment and full report, please visit www.health.state.ga.us/programs/hazards or contact the Department's Chemical Hazards Program at 404-657-6534 for a copy. This information is also available in the public repository of the Madison County Library, 1315 Highway 98 West, Danielsville, Georgia 30633. The phone number is 706-795-5597.

A public health assessment provides residents with a thorough review of all available information and data regarding off-site environmental contamination, whether exposure to off-site contaminants at levels of health concern did occur, is occurring, or may occur in the future, and an evaluation of the potential health effects from exposure.

About the Georgia Department of Public Health:

The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) is the lead agency responsible for the health of Georgia's communities and the entire population. In 2011, the General Assembly restored DPH to its own state agency after more than 30 years consolidated under other departments. At the state level, DPH is divided into numerous divisions, sections, programs and offices, and at the local level, DPH functions via 18 health districts and 159 county health departments. Through the changes, the mission has remained constant – to protect the lives of all Georgians. Today, DPH's main functions include: Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, Maternal and Child Health, Infectious Disease and Immunization, Environmental Health, Epidemiology, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Emergency Medical Services, Pharmacy, Nursing, Volunteer Health Care, the Office of Health Equity, Vital Records and the State Public Health Laboratory. For more information on DPH, visit www.health.state.ga.us.

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