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State, local officials investigate cause of White Bluff Rd. gas leaks

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Posted: Mar 13, 2012 7:04 PM EDT

Updated: Mar 13, 2012 8:24 PM EDT

By Sharisse Thompson, Reporter - email



SAVANNAH, GA (WTOC) - The Georgia Public Service Commission is conducting an investigation into the cause of two gas leaks on White Bluff Rd. last week.

A representative of the PSC and the Chatham County engineer met on site March 13 to survey the area as the PSC launches its investigation.

"I wanted to meet with the county engineer to see where they are so far and to move forward with this project," says David Lewis with the PSC.

The PSC, the county, and the utility company that owns the gas lines, Atlanta Gas & Light, are all involved in the investigation.

Crews working on the Truman Parkway hit a gas line on March 6 and 7 causing several buildings in the area to evacuate. County officials say the gas lines were unmarked and crews started digging in the area, hitting the lines unexpectedly.

Tim Echols, chairman of the PSC, says all contractors are required to check Georgia 811, an agency that provides grids on where utilities are located, before digging should begin. However, county officials say 811 did not indicate there were any utilities located on White Bluff Rd.

Echols says it is the responsibility of the contractors to check 811 before construction can begin.

The county has asked AGL to provide maps outlining where the lines are located but the company says it is against their policies.

According to Echols, it is state law that utility companies aren't required to submit maps and plans outlining areas where there are utilities.

More PSC officials, including Echols, are expected to survey the area on White Bluff Rd. at 2 p.m. Friday.

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