



Affected Public
Current Resident

RE: Public Awareness

To Property Owner or Resident:

Maine Natural Gas (MNG) has identified you as a property owner or resident that abuts one of MNG's natural gas transmission pipelines. The property is located at 9 Lowell Road in Gorham, ME with MBLU# 11/6. As part of MNG's public awareness plan per DOT CRF Section 192.616 – Public Awareness, this letter serves as an informational distribution. The information included covers Hazard Awareness and Prevention Measures and Availability of the National Pipe Line Mapping System (NPMS).

Pipeline Purpose and Reliability

Maine Natural Gas operates 231 miles of natural gas pipelines in Windham, Gorham, Westbrook, Bowdoin, Topsham, Brunswick, Pownal, Freeport, Bath, West Bath, Augusta, Whitefield, Chelsea and Windsor.

These pipelines quietly, reliably, and efficiently deliver natural gas throughout the service territory for household, commercial, and industrial use. Natural gas energy is the most popular home heating fuel in America and its pipeline system is among the safest and most secure methods of transporting energy.

The natural gas industry works very closely with government and stays abreast of new security methods and technologies to ensure the highest levels of security. Individual gas utilities also evaluate their security procedures on a regular basis and continually enhance security programs as necessary and appropriate to meet their needs.

Hazard Awareness and Prevention Measures

The United States natural gas transmission and distribution system has the best safety record of any type of transportation system in the country. Natural gas is clean, convenient, and efficient, which makes it the popular energy choice.

Like all forms of energy, however, it must be handled properly. Despite an excellent safety record, a gas leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite. We work diligently to ensure pipeline safety through a variety of measures including:

- One-call and Dig Safe® programs
- Inspection programs
- Design and construction practices
- Workforce qualifications
- Public education programs
- Industry safety practices and government oversight
- Pipeline markers and facility mapping
- Leak survey
- Patrol of critical facilities
- Pressure monitoring
- Odorization
- Liaison with city and municipal agencies
- Security measures

Damage Prevention Awareness and One-Call Requirements

The greatest risk to underground pipelines is accidental damage during excavation. To protect our natural gas pipelines and other underground facilities it is critical that people use the one call system prior to any excavation related activities on public and private property. The law requires that all excavators notify the local one call system, Dig Safe®, at 811 or 888-DIG-SAFE (888-344-7233), at least 72 hours before digging. The one-call center will contact the owners of the underground facilities in the immediate area so that they can mark the location of their facilities prior to excavation. There is no charge to the public for this service. Excavators are required to take certain precautions when working in the immediate area of underground facilities. The one call center can provide the specific details of what is required. Failure to comply with this law can jeopardize public safety, result in costly damages, and substantial fines.

Even if you cause what seems to be minor damage to the pipeline, notify the pipeline company immediately. A gouge, scrape, dent, or crease to the pipe or its coating may cause a future leak or failure. It is imperative that the pipeline owners inspect and repair any damage.

Leak Recognition and Response

A gas leak is usually recognized by the smell, sight, or sound.

- SMELL – Natural gas is colorless and odorless. Before it reaches you, we add a distinctive, pungent odor so that you'll recognize it quickly.
- SIGHT – You may see a white cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.
- SOUND – You may hear an unusual noise like roaring, hissing or whistling

What should you do if you suspect a leak?

- MOVE to a safe environment
- CALL the Maine Natural Gas Emergency Number: 1-877-532-5636

- DO NOT strike a match, use telephones, switch on/off appliances, lights, or even a flashlight in the area where you smell gas. These items can produce sparks that might ignite the gas and cause an explosion.

For Emergency personnel

- Emergency response officials should secure the site and take steps to eliminate ignition sources
- Evacuate the general public from vicinity of leak
- Contact Maine Natural Gas using the Emergency Number: 1-877-532-5636

For Excavators

- Stop work and evacuate the site to a safe distance
- Call 911 if there is blowing gas
- Call the Maine Natural Gas Emergency Number: 1-877-532-5636
- Don't do anything to cause a spark
- Alert everyone on the premises
- Keep the public and traffic away
- Do not try to fix the pipe or slow the rate of leaking gas
- Do not try to extinguish a gas burning fire unless there is a threat to life
- If you suspect or become aware of a dent, scratch, or coating damage to the pipeline, notify the company immediately at 207-729-0420, or use the Emergency Number: 1-877-532-5636

Pipeline Location

Natural gas is drawn from deep inside the earth and fed into lines that eventually feed into large transmission pipelines that crisscross the nation. The transmission pipelines operate at hundreds of pounds of pressure. Since these transmission pipelines are underground, line markers are sometimes used to indicate their approximate location along their route. The markers display the material transported in the line, the name of the pipeline operator, and the telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency. Markers only indicate the general location of a pipeline and cannot be relied upon to indicate the exact position.

Local distribution companies, like Maine Natural Gas, receive natural gas from the interstate pipelines at metering and regulation (M&R) stations. From the M&R stations, natural gas is distributed through underground pipelines safely and reliably to its customers. These pipelines underneath the street are vital to the local utility infrastructure. Because many of the distribution lines are not marked, and pipeline markers may not always be directly over pipelines, it is critical that people use the one call system prior to any excavation. When excavation work is planned the pipelines are identified with yellow paint markings or flags.

National Pipe Line Mapping System (NPMS)

Additional information on transmission pipelines in your area can be obtained from the National Pipeline Mapping System (www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov). The mapping system is called Pipeline Integrity Management Mapping System (PIMMA).

Federal, state, or local government officials or a pipeline operator are provided detail access. For access, you must request a User Name and Password from the Office of Pipeline Safety.

Additional Information

Additional information can be obtained through the following:

American Gas Association: www.aga.org

Common Ground Alliance: www.commongroundalliance.com

Dig Safe®: www.digsafe.com

Ok to Dig: www.oktodig.com

Maine Natural Gas: www.mainenaturalgas.com

Maine Public Utilities Commission: www.maine.gov/mpuc/

National Pipeline Mapping System: www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov

Northeast Gas Association: www.northeastgas.org

Office of Pipeline Safety: ops.dot.gov

Transportation Safety Institute: www.tsi.dot.gov

If you have any questions in regards to the natural gas pipe line that is located adjacent to your property, please feel free to contact me at 207-729-0420 ext. 107 or via email at jgauthier@mainenaturalgas.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Gauthier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph Gauthier, P.E.
Supervisor - Gas Engineering