# PIPELINE PUBLIC AWARENESS INFORMATION

**Natural Gas Pipeline at Pennsylvania State University – University Park Campus**

## A DESCRIPTION OF THE PURPOSE AND RELIABILITY OF THE PIPELINE

This message is being provided pursuant to compliance with the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations 49 CFR Part §192.616 Public Awareness and is relayed throughout the Pennsylvania State University (PSU) campus twice a year. PSU is, by definition, a natural gas master meter operator purchasing natural gas from the Columbia Gas Company through eighteen gas master meters. Columbia Gas only owns the gas piping up to and including these gas meters and is not responsible for the maintenance of the gas piping, meters and regulators supplying gas to the buildings on our property. PSU is responsible for all the natural gas piping after the gas master meters, both above and below ground, and therefore must comply with the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations 49 CFR Part §192.

The information provided in this publication is customer based and is not all encompassing.

Contractors working at PSU must report excavation operations to and receive detailed pipeline information from the PA One Call before digging begins. Likewise, emergency responders should use the **OPP DEOP ANNEX Natural Gas Distribution System EAP**, as needed.

Copies are kept at OPP Service Desk and in the Steam Distribution Supervisor office.

Keeping the public and our pipelines safe is our top priority. The OPP Work Reception Center and Police Services operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week and are the call centers for response to natural gas leaks. We regularly patrol our pipeline rights of way and conduct regular inspections of our pipeline system. Our operations employees receive regular training and are qualified under U.S. Department of Transportation standards for natural gas pipeline operations. We continually monitor our natural gas pipeline for replacement and upgrade. Employees are on-call at all times to respond to any emergency. In addition, we work with emergency responders to make them aware of our pipelines and how to respond in an emergency.

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE HAZARDS OF THE PIPELINE AND PREVENTION MEASURES USED:

The underground natural gas piping located at PSU is comprised of polyethylene plastic and coated steel designed exclusively for the distribution of natural gas underground and under pressure. The minimum Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations 49 CFR Part §192 requires natural gas pipe to be surveyed for leakage once a year, not to exceed fifteen months. All natural gas

leaks found that are determined to be hazardous to the public are repaired within established timelines.

## INFORMATION ABOUT DAMAGE PREVENTION:

Natural gas pipelines are sometimes identified by markers placed at intervals along pipeline rights of way. Markers display 24-hour emergency telephone numbers. They are generally placed wherever needed to indicate the presence of a pipeline, such as where a pipeline easement intersects a street, railroad, or river and in heavily congested areas. Pipeline markers are important for your safety. It’s a federal crime to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline equipment, sign or right-of-way marker.

While the markers are very helpful to indicate the general location of pipelines in the area, they may not identify the number of pipelines or the exact location, depth, or direction of the pipeline. That’s why you should not rely solely on the presence or absence of a pipeline marker.

Call the PA One Call System at 811 or 1-800-242-1776 at least three (3) business days prior to any excavation. Pennsylvania law mandates this call for any excavation with powered equipment. One Call personnel will mark all gas lines within three (3) business days of your call.

## HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO A GAS LEAK:

Natural gas normally is tasteless, colorless and odorless. For your safety, a scent is added to the natural gas so that you will recognize it immediately should there ever be a leak.

### Use your senses to help identify potential danger:

#### Look:

* Dirt being blown or appearing to be thrown in the air
* Water bubbling or being blown into the air at a pond, creek, river or other wet areas
* Fire coming from the ground or appearing to burn above the ground
* Dead or dying vegetation on or near a pipeline right of way in an otherwise green area

#### Listen:

* Hissing, blowing or roaring sound

#### Smell:

* Rotten egg or petroleum odor

### If you suspect a gas leak . . .

#### Do

* If you smell gas inside, get out immediately.
* If you suspect a leak outside, turn off and abandon any motorized equipment you might be using.
* Leave the area quickly.
* Warn others to stay away from the area.
* Wait for the fire department or our service crew to check the situation and let you know when it’s safe to return.

#### Don’t

* Use open flame or anything that would spark ignition, such as cell phones, flashlights, motor vehicles, power tools, electrical equipment, light switches, etc.
* Close door you are exiting from
* Attempt to operate natural gas valves

#### Call

Call 911 for emergency or fire

Call the OPP Work Reception Center, (814-865-4731) for non-emergencies. The Work Reception Center will dispatch the appropriate personnel to the site of the reported leak.

## HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Pennsylvania State University Office of Physical Plant (OPP) is responsible for maintaining the natural gas pipeline system. For further information contact Paul Moser, superintendent, Steam Services, at 814-863-3178.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) is responsible to audit the minimum Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations. For further information contact the PUC at 1-[800-692-7380 or visit their website at http://www.puc.state.pa.us.](http://www.puc.state.pa.us/)