

THE MMWEC PIPELINE: SAFETY COMES FIRST

The Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) operates an underground natural gas pipeline in Ludlow and has developed this brochure as part of its Public Awareness Program to provide basic safety information to people living and working in the general vicinity of the pipeline. As one of these people, it is important for you to know these basic facts about pipeline safety.

The MMWEC pipeline is used to supply natural gas for the clean and efficient production of electricity at the Stony Brook power plant, also located in Ludlow. The 5.6-mile MMWEC pipeline is part of a network of 2 million miles of natural gas pipelines that exists in the United States. These pipelines quietly, reliably and efficiently deliver natural gas throughout the country for domestic and industrial use. Natural gas pipelines are among the safest methods of transporting energy, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Pipelines are subject to numerous state and federal regulations. MMWEC meets and often exceeds the requirements of these regulations. To help ensure the safety of community members and our employees:

- ⇒ *The pipeline was built to meet or exceed high industry standards and was inspected thoroughly before operation.*
- ⇒ *Vehicle and foot patrols are used to inspect the route regularly to identify areas such as sinkholes or washouts that need attention. These patrols also identify any construction activity near the pipeline.*



Pipeline markers (shown at right) listing a 24-hour phone number are posted along the pipeline route and at road crossings. These markers also indicate the approximate underground location of the pipeline. However, the markers do not indicate how deep the pipeline is buried. Also, never assume the pipeline lies in a straight line, because the pipeline route can twist and turn between the markers.



PREVENTING PIPELINE DAMAGE

Excavation work, digging or grading are the most frequent causes of pipeline damage. Whether you are planning to build a large project, erect a fence or simply landscape your property, you should protect your safety and the safety of those around you by contacting Dig Safe at least three business days before you begin any work near the pipeline. You can contact Dig Safe toll-free by dialing 1-888-DIG-SAFE.



Dig Safe provides a free service that enables you to proceed safely with your digging, trenching, blasting, excavating, drilling, or other projects. When Dig Safe is notified in advance, MMWEC personnel will visit your worksite to mark the pipeline location and explain the company's construction guidelines. You should never guess where a pipeline is located or how deep it is. Failure to contact Dig Safe in advance could result in unsafe conditions during and after your work.

If you accidentally hit or damage our pipeline, no matter how minor the contact, please contact MMWEC immediately. A gouge, scrape, dent or crease in the pipe or its coating may cause a safety problem. It is imperative that we inspect and repair any damage to the pipeline, no matter how minor it may seem.

KEEPING THE RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEAR

The pipeline right-of-way must be kept free from structures and other obstructions. If the MMWEC pipeline crosses property that you own, you have a right-of-way agreement with MMWEC that provides us with permanent, limited access to a specific amount of property on either side of the pipeline. This is required for MMWEC to operate, test, inspect, maintain and protect the pipeline, all of which are essential in ensuring pipeline safety.

Encroachments upon the right-of-way can inhibit MMWEC's ability to perform these tasks, which is why certain structures and vegetation are not allowed in the right-of-way. Please do not plant, place or build anything on or near the right-of-way without approval from MMWEC. Certain trees and shrubs, as well as buildings, fences, swimming pools and other structures, can interfere with access to the pipeline and are not allowed in the right-of-way.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE A GAS LEAK

Leaks from natural gas pipelines are extremely rare. However, it is important to know how to recognize the signs of a leak if one were to occur in your area.

There is or may be a leak if you:



Vegetation over or near the pipeline that appears dead or dying for no apparent reason.

Water bubbling at a stream, pond or wet area over or near the pipeline.

Dirt flying into the air over or near the pipeline.

Fire or explosion near or involving the pipeline.

Exposed pipeline, possibly caused by a natural disaster, such as a flood or earthquake.



A hissing, whistling or roaring sound along or near the pipeline.



A "rotten egg" odor in the area around the pipeline. In its natural form, natural gas is odorless, tasteless and colorless. However, the gas in MMWEC's pipeline is "odorized" so that it can be detected by a sense of smell.

IF YOU SUSPECT A GAS LEAK

- ⇒ Leave the area immediately, warn others to stay away, and call 911.
- ⇒ Do Not move any equipment or vehicles in the area. Do not turn on any equipment ignition or attempt to move the equipment. If the equipment is running, do not attempt to turn it off.
- ⇒ Do Not use an open flame or bring anything into the area like phones or lighters that could cause a gas leak to ignite. Call 911 from a phone that is clear of the area.
- ⇒ Do Not go near the area. Keep away from the site of the suspected leak.



Never guess the location of a natural gas pipeline! Even if you're digging in your yard, remember to call Dig Safe to mark out underground utilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As a neighbor to MMWEC's pipeline, you play an important role in ensuring the safe operation of the pipeline. If you witness any unauthorized construction, excavation or other unusual activity in the right-of-way, please contact us immediately to ensure everyone's safety.

If you have any questions or need additional information about anything contained in this brochure, please contact MMWEC by mail, phone, fax or e-mail at the addresses and phone numbers listed below.

**Remember, Before You Dig
Call 1-888-DIG-SAFE (344-7233)
It's Free, It's Safe and It's the Law.**

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Dial 911
Ludlow Police - (413) 583-8305
Ludlow Fire - (413) 583-8332
MMWEC Emergency Number - (413) 547-2830

MMWEC CONTACT INFORMATION

Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company
Moody Street, PO Box 426
Ludlow, MA 01056
Phone: (413) 589-0141 ext. 392
Fax: (413) 589-1585
E-Mail: mmwec@mmwec.org
Visit us on the web at www.mmwec.org



LIVING SAFELY WITH NATURAL GAS PIPELINES



Safety Information for Our Pipeline Neighbors



MASSACHUSETTS MUNICIPAL WHOLESALE
ELECTRIC COMPANY