Natural gas pipeline safety – pipeline replacement

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A **Sempra Energy** utility℠

One of our top priorities is providing you with safe and reliable energy. This means we're always monitoring our gas and electric systems. As the region continues to grow, so does the need for energy. To keep up with the increase in energy use, we'll make upgrades to our systems.

SDG&E® by the numbers

We provide safe and reliable energy service to **3.4 million** consumers through **1.4 million** electric meters and more than **860,000** natural gas meters in San Diego and southern Orange counties. Natural gas is transported through **15,000** square miles of gas lines.

We construct, operate and maintain our pipeline system to meet or exceed all applicable federal and state regulations and requirements. Sometimes pipelines are replaced to meet expanding customer and/or gas system needs or because of local infrastructure improvement projects.

About pipeline replacement

With a pipeline replacement project, typically the new pipeline is installed adjacent to the existing pipeline. This allows construction work to proceed without stopping the flow of natural gas through the original pipeline.

A trench is carefully excavated alongside the path of the original pipeline into which the replacement pipeline will be laid. New pipeline is made of steel and comes with a coating on the outside that prevents moisture from coming into direct contact with the steel and causing corrosion. The new replacement pipeline

Natural gas pipeline sections are arranged along a trench before being welded together.

sections, usually 40 to 60 feet long, are carefully welded together to create a continuous length of pipeline that is then lowered into the trench using cranes. Before being placed into service to carry natural gas, the interior of the replacement pipeline segment is thoroughly cleaned to remove any dirt or construction debris. Then it's given a final safety check with a hydrostatic pressure test which pumps water into the pipeline segment and pressurizes it to a level well above its normal operating pressure. If the pressure test reveals no leaks, the pipeline is ready for use.

▸ The natural gas remaining in the existing pipeline segment is safely vented and it's disconnected from the main pipeline. Next, the replacement section is connected to the main pipeline and it's safely brought to service.

What to expect
We'll work as quickly and safely as possible and make every effort to minimize disruptions. But here's what you may potentially experience:

- Seeing trucks and equipment on the streets

- Excavation sites

- Temporary "No Parking" signs on streets

- Possible lane reductions or closures, detours

- Temporary delays on surface streets

- Work-related noise

- Occasional odor of natural gas

Although not anticipated, our work may require us to shut-off natural gas service for safety purposes. It this is necessary, we'll contact you in advance to help make sure you're prepared.

Timing
The time needed to install a replacement pipeline may take several weeks and varies depending on a number of factors such as how long it takes to obtain the necessary permits, and permissible working hours as determined by the local jurisdiction. Other variables include traffic control, the length and location of pipe being replaced, ease of access to the pipeline, the amount of excavation necessary to install the replacement pipeline, and even the weather.

Workers carefully weld two pipeline sections together.

When the pipeline replacement is complete, the excavated sites are "back-filled" by returning the removed soil into the trench, and later graded and restored as closely as possible to their preconstruction condition. Any needed street or property repairs are also made.

Contact information
Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation while we work in your community. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us at **1-800-411-7343**. For more information, visit *sdge.com/pipelinesafety*.

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