



At New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG), your safety is our top priority. Even if you do not receive natural gas service from NJNG, you may live, work or own property adjacent to our transmission pipeline system. These pipelines span more than 200 miles throughout the state and connect our local distribution system to five interstate pipelines that transport natural gas to our region.\*

America's network of underground natural gas transmission lines is exceptionally safe. In fact, a properly installed, well-maintained transmission system can operate safely and efficiently for an extended period, providing the system is not damaged by external activities. While it's not always possible to completely protect pipelines from acts of nature, damage from construction can be prevented with proper precautions. It is important for everyone who lives and works near our transmission lines to understand the safety information included in this brochure.

\*There are three categories of natural gas pipelines: <sup>1</sup> Transmission lines are large, high-pressure lines that move natural gas to our region from production fields and throughout our service territory. The pressure is reduced at regulator stations and fed into <sup>2</sup> local distribution lines that deliver natural gas to meters on customers' properties. <sup>3</sup> Fuel lines, owned and maintained by customers, bring natural gas directly to home appliances.

### NJNG'S TRANSMISSION PIPELINES:

- Mostly buried underground
- Marked with yellow signs or posts required by federal law
- Include a 24-hour emergency phone number 800-GAS-LEAK (800-427-5325)
- Signs or posts indicate pipeline presence, not its exact location
- Signs or posts **do not** indicate pipeline depth or how many lines are in the area

Never rely solely on the presence or absence of pipeline markers. Always call New Jersey One Call at 811 or 800-272-1000 before you dig near a pipeline or anywhere else. **It's FREE and it's the LAW!**



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

### To Report a Natural Gas Leak

800-GAS-LEAK  
800-427-5325

### Call before you dig.

811 or 800-272-1000  
It's FREE and it's the LAW.

Public information about the location of pipelines, within a community, is available from the National Pipeline Mapping System at [www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov](http://www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov).



**New Jersey  
Natural Gas**

[www.njng.com/safety](http://www.njng.com/safety)  
800-221-0051

## Natural Gas Transmission Line



**SAFETY  
BULLETIN**



**New Jersey  
Natural Gas**

## REPORT NATURAL GAS LEAKS OR DAMAGES

Help us keep you safe by calling NJNG at 800-GAS-LEAK (800-427-5325) if you notice any of the following:

- Signs of a leak or potential damage to the pipeline
- Excavation on or near our Right Of Way (ROW)
- Any activities out of the ordinary near the pipeline or ROW

It is a federal crime for any person to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy a pipeline marker or damage pipeline facilities. If you notice any damage, please call us immediately.

If you are outside NJNG's distribution system, your local utility will have emergency numbers for reporting natural gas leaks and damages. You should know how to reach them quickly.

## RECOGNIZING A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE LEAK

**Smell** – An unusual odor, like that of rotten eggs. However, the odor could fade, be masked by other odors or missed because of a diminished sense of smell. Even without the odor, there could still be a pipeline leak.

**Look** – Discolored or dead vegetation; a dense mist above the pipeline or disturbed soil above it

**Listen** – A loud and high-pitched sound

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE LEAK

- Turn off and abandon any motorized equipment.
- Leave the area quickly.
- Warn others to stay away.
- **DO NOT** use open flames or activate anything that may create a spark such as flashlights, telephones (cellular included) and vehicles.
- **DO NOT** attempt to operate pipeline valves.
- From a safe place, call 911 AND the pipeline operator.

If it is an NJNG pipeline, call us at 800-GAS-LEAK (800-427-5325).

## PIPELINE EASEMENT AND ROW

The strip of land over our pipeline, also known as the pipeline ROW, is protected by NJNG through an agreement called an easement between NJNG and the property owner. Easements provide NJNG with permanent, limited interest in the land so we can operate, test, inspect, maintain and protect our pipeline facilities. The easement and ROW size, width and location are usually specified in the easement agreement.

NJNG must maintain our ROW to ensure the safety of the pipeline. Clearing a ROW is one method to alert contractors and public officials to the presence of the pipeline. This clearing also allows NJNG crews to monitor construction activities that could damage our pipelines and conduct routine maintenance and leak-detection surveys.

## LANDOWNERS' USE OF PIPELINE ROW

Landowners may use the ROW, providing they do not interfere with NJNG's rights as described in the easement agreement. Any and all work on an NJNG transmission line ROW must first be discussed with NJNG's manager of pressure management and transmission (PM&T) at 800-221-0051. We require that NJNG personnel are present whenever any approved work is done on the transmission line ROW.

These following ROW limitations are established to protect you, the general public and our pipeline as well as give our crews access to conduct maintenance work.

### Structures

No temporary or permanent structures may be built on any NJNG ROW, including houses, tool sheds, garages, poles, guy wires, catch basins, swimming pools, trailers, leaching fields, septic tanks and any other objects not easily removed.

### Grade Changes

Grade changes are not allowed within the ROW due to regulations for minimum coverage over the pipeline.

### Fences

In some cases, a fence may be permitted on a ROW, provided it is approved by NJNG before construction. A gate to allow access is required so maintenance crews can enter or cross over the ROW at any time.

### Driveways, Roads and Parking Lots

Generally, paving over a ROW may be permitted, subject to the approval of our manager of PM&T following the submission of a detailed plan. The greatest threats to our pipelines are people who hit or damage them while excavating or grading. Whether you are constructing a subdivision or simply landscaping your property, protect yourself and the safety of others around your work site by notifying NJNG and New Jersey One Call before starting your project.

### Trees

Trees that grow more than six feet in height cannot be planted within the limits of the ROW. Trees inhibit access to our ROW and the roots can damage the pipeline. NJNG may trim or remove trees, overhanging tree branches or other growth that encroaches on the ROW.

