Creating Awareness for Pipeline Safety

Providing valuable safety information to all our pipeline stakeholders – landowners, public officials and local emergency responders – is an essential part of Iroquois’ Public Awareness Program. Every Spring, Iroquois produces this newsletter to create awareness of our pipeline and inform our neighbors as to how we can partner together in pipeline safety.

Hazard Awareness and Prevention
Iroquois operates a 416-mile natural gas transmission pipeline. Natural gas transmission pipelines are considered to be one of the safest and most secure methods of transportation. However, as with all forms of energy, natural gas must be handled properly. Iroquois works diligently to ensure the safety of our pipeline through a variety of measures including:

• Participation in One-Call and Dig-Safe programs
• Integrity management
• Public education
• Pipeline markers and facility mapping
• Communication and coordination with city and municipal agencies
• Security measures

Help Prevent Pipeline Damage
The greatest risk for pipeline damage is unintentional third party intrusion or excavation. Being aware of the presence of the pipeline, and use of the One-Call notification system, are paramount to avoiding such a situation. Ways you can help include:

• Call 811 or your local one-call center at least two full working days before you start digging.

• Report unauthorized excavation or suspicious activity at any pipeline facility to 800-888-3982.
• Notify Iroquois immediately if you become aware of or suspect you have caused damage to the pipeline. It is imperative that Iroquois inspect or repair (if necessary) the problem as any damage, even if it appears to be minor, may lead to a future leak or failure.

Leak Recognition and Response
A natural gas leak is usually recognized by smell, sight or sound.

SMELL: Natural gas is colorless and odorless. Typically, a distinct and recognizable odorant is added to natural gas so that people detect and recognize it immediately.

SIGHT: A dust cloud, mist, fog, bubbles in standing water, or vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.

SOUND: An unusual noise like roaring, hissing or whistling.

If you suspect a leak:

MOVE to a safe location.

CALL local emergency responders at 911 and Iroquois’ Gas Control at 800-888-3982.

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

What Emergency Personnel should do if they suspect a gas leak:

SECURE the site and take steps to eliminate ignition sources.

Right-of-Way Activities Planned for 2017

As occurs every year, Iroquois will conduct its cathodic protection and pipeline integrity surveys along Iroquois’ Right-of-Way. We anticipate this work may be conducted in several phases. All Iroquois field crews and contractors will carry identification authorizing their presence on our Right-of-Way. Please contact the ROW representative listed should you have any questions or require additional information.

2017 PLANNED ACTIVITIES:
• Spring to early Summer, Iroquois contractors will walk along the pipeline route with portable leak detection equipment as part of our Annual Leak Survey. At the same time, we will conduct our annual Test Lead Post Survey and a Close Interval Survey verifying the effectiveness of our cathodic protection system.
• Spring to Summer, Iroquois will be installing mitigation devices along sections of the pipeline that are co-located with High Voltage Electrical lines in upstate New York.
• In Spring, Iroquois will be venting a section of pipe in upstate New York to install facilities in order to interconnect with Dominion Transmission.
• In CT, vegetation maintenance activities will begin approximately October 1st.
EVACUATE the general public from the vicinity of the leak.

CONTROL secondary fires.

DO NOT try to extinguish a gas burning fire unless there is a threat to life.

CONTACT Iroquois at 800-888-3982

Emergency Preparedness
Iroquois provides training for emergency responders and local officials within our pipeline communities to prevent and prepare for emergencies. For those interested in attending a safety presentation, please contact our Right-of-Way Manager listed below.

Right-of-Way Activities cont’d
• Spring to early Summer, digs will be done at various locations in upstate New York to verify data obtained from the internal inspection device with actual measurements.
• Spring to early Summer, inspections of the pipeline at major river crossings will be conducted.
• In Summer, Iroquois will be repairing a small stream crossing in upstate New York.
• In Fall, an internal inspection will be conducted on a 1.6 mile segment of the pipeline in Connecticut. Visit our website at www.iroquois.com News/Maintenance Activities for further information on planned activities.

IMPORTANT REMINDER
The use of the Right-of-Way is exclusive to the Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company and the landowner. Iroquois cannot grant permission to a 3rd party to use the Right-of-Way for any use, including but not limited to walking, biking or the use of recreational vehicles such as ATV’s and motorized bikes. Any use of the Right-of-Way without permission from either Iroquois or the landowner is considered trespassing.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Gas Emergencies: 1-800-888-3982
Landowners’ Hotline Non-Emergency: 1-800-253-5152
Spencer Robinson Right-of-Way Manager 915 Schoharie Turnpike Athens, NY 12015 518-669-9748 spencer_robinson@iroquois.com

Safe Operations & System Reliability
Iroquois’ Integrity Management Program focuses on detecting potential issues as soon as possible.

The importance Iroquois places on safe operations and system reliability is reflected in the use of current technology – not only for our upgrades and expansions, but also in our on-going integrity monitoring program that focuses on detecting potential issues (or areas of concern) as soon as possible. Iroquois’ program, in compliance with the safety initiatives of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation, currently includes the following activities:

• Technicians walk the land sections of the pipeline to detect underground leakage.
• Pilots and Technicians perform aerial or ground surveillance of the pipeline right-of-way.
• Technicians monitor our cathodic protection system to be sure the system is operating properly and protecting the pipeline from corrosion.

CT Call Before You Dig Elects New President

Thomas Bashaw, Iroquois’ Manager of Field Operations, was elected President of the Call Before You Dig (CBYD) Connecticut Board of Directors at their January meeting. Tom, an active member of the board for six years, is the first gas transmission representative to serve as President.

In early March, Tom joined fellow board members at the annual meeting of the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), creators of the nationwide 811 Call Before You Dig number. CGA is committed to saving lives and preventing damage to underground infrastructure by promoting effective damage prevention practices. Iroquois maintains membership and is actively involved on many state and national organizations focused on the damage prevention of underground utilities. Our field personnel also serve as representatives on the boards of DSNY’s Damage Prevention Councils of the Northeast, Capital Region, Central New York, Mohawk Valley and Hudson Valley; DigNet of Long Island and NYC; and NY811.

Call Before You Dig Numbers
Nationwide: 811
New York State: 1-800-962-7962
Connecticut: 1-800-922-4455
Long Island & New York City: 1-800-272-4480

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