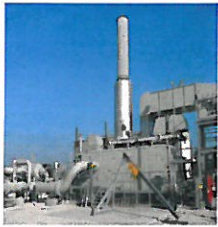


Aboveground Facilities



While the majority of pipeline's facilities are buried underground, certain aboveground facilities are located at regular intervals along the pipeline's path.

Compressor Stations



Natural gas is transported through pipelines at high pressure using compression (300-1200 psi). Compressor stations, located approximately every 60 miles, use large turbines, motors or engines to pressurize the gas and move it through the pipeline.

Pipeline Markers



Transmission pipelines follow well-defined easements, many times sharing the same corridor with other utility or power lines. These easements vary in width, generally anywhere from 50 to 175 feet depending on the number of pipelines and terrain. Aboveground pipeline markers are used to alert excavators of the presence of one or more pipelines within an easement. These markers, which contain the name of the pipeline operator and emergency contact information, are usually located near road, rail, fence, water crossings and curbs.

Meter Stations



Often referred to as the city gate, a meter station is the point where distribution companies receive gas from transmission pipelines. Meter stations measure the flow of gas along the pipeline, using specialized meters to not impede the gas movement.

Pig Launcher/Receiver



This equipment is used to launch and remove internal cleaning and inspecting tools, or pigs, as they are commonly referred to in our industry. Intelligent or 'smart' pigs record data as they travel inside the pipe and help us determine if the pipe has any anomalies. The use of these tools is an integral part of our overall pipeline integrity program.

Mainline Valves



Mainline valves are shut-off devices that are designed to stop the flow of gas through the pipeline. Some are manually operated, while others are either automatic or operated by remote control. Valves can be placed every 5 to 20 miles along the pipeline, and are subject to regulation by federal safety codes.