

In the pipeline

Gas to the West news



A major energy infrastructure project to extend the benefits of natural gas to Coalisland, Cookstown, Derrylin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Magherafelt, Omagh and Strabane.

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Welcome to issue 5 of the Gas to the West project newsletter, which we hope you continue to find a useful source of up to date information on this major energy infrastructure project. Work on the Maydown to Strabane project is now substantially complete, and we will soon be moving towards testing and commissioning with the first customers due for connection later in the autumn.

The planning application for the main project providing for the high pressure and intermediate pressure pipelines between Portadown and Enniskillen/Derrylin has now been submitted. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those stakeholders who have contributed to the planning process to date. We look forward to continuing to engage with the necessary stakeholders to ensure it makes good progress through the planning system.

As always, your feedback in relation to the newsletter, or the project more widely, is always welcome.

Kind regards,

Paddy Larkin
Chief Executive
Mutual Energy

Danny O'Malley
Director
SGN Natural Gas



Planning update

The planning application for Gas to the West has been submitted to the Strategic Projects Unit of the Department for Infrastructure marking the culmination of over a year's preparatory work by the project developers Mutual Energy and SGN along with consultants RPS. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have had an input into the planning process, including all those local community stakeholders who attended any of our Pre Application Community Consultation events – your feedback has been vital in informing the final project design and we have taken the time necessary to ensure that the final application is of the highest possible standard. It is now crucial that the application makes good progress through the planning system in order to allow us to focus on bringing the benefits of natural gas to customers as soon as possible. With a highly condensed 18 month build programme, it is expected gas will be available from late 2018, but obviously this remains subject to the usual risks associated with a major infrastructure project of this scale.

Maydown to Strabane project update

In June, work began on the Pressure Reduction Station at Maydown, representing the first asset to be constructed on the High Pressure (HP) network.

Following a competitive tender event, Murphy International, based in County Kildare was appointed to construct the Pressure Reduction Station, which will connect to GNI (UK) Limited's North West network and feed the pipeline currently under construction by SGN Natural Gas, serving the town of Strabane.

All the bases and ducting are complete, skids are in position, the regulator kiosk built and the control room kiosk delivered to site. Inlet and outlet pipework is now complete and currently being hydrostatically tested with the pneumatic testing following thereafter. Work is progressing well with commissioning due to take place by the end of the year.



Work underway at the Maydown Pressure Reduction Station.

In terms of the Maydown to Strabane pipeline build, at this point we have installed 27.8km of main, with approximately 2km remaining to be constructed. The pipeline from Maydown to Artigarvan, including the service to LacPatrick Dairy, is currently under test. Work is continuing to complete the final section of main from Artigarvan to Strabane.

Considerate Constructors Certificate awarded



We are pleased to announce that our contractor McNicholas Construction has been awarded a Performance Beyond Compliance Certificate for Gas to the West (Maydown to Strabane

pipeline) as part of the Considerate Constructors Scheme.

This certificate is awarded for compliance with the Code of Considerate Practice by achieving a score of 7 or above in each of the five sections: Care about Appearance; Respect the Community; Protect the Environment; Secure everyone's Safety; Value their Workforce.

The aim of the Scheme is to improve the image of construction by monitoring all registered sites, suggesting areas where improvements could be made and rewarding those who are performing at the highest levels.

Keeping the local community involved

When work on the Gas to the West project started, pupils from Chapel Road Primary School were asked to help create a calendar based on photographs of the work being carried out by SGN and McNicholas Construction.

The sales of the calendar raised £400 and SGN agreed to match these funds though their "Into Action" scheme, giving a total donation to Foyle Hospice of £800.



Pictured (left to right): Michael McCafferty, Chairman of Trustees; Ronan Peace, McNicholas Construction; Oonagh Malone, SGN Natural Gas; Rose Farren, Hospice nurse and Donall Henderson, Chief Executive, Foyle Hospice.

SSE Airtricity named commissioning supplier for Gas to the West



SSE Airtricity will be the commissioning, or default, supplier of natural gas to domestic and commercial customers when the new Gas to the West distribution network opens later this year. The appointment has been approved by the Utility Regulator.

SSE Airtricity is already the largest gas supplier in Northern Ireland, providing natural gas to 135,000 home and business customers in the Greater Belfast area. From later this year, all new customers connecting to the West area network will be automatically connected to SSE Airtricity.

First gas will be available in Strabane in late 2016 when the first large industrial and commercial customer is expected to be connected to the network, with domestic connections in Strabane due to be connected later in 2017.

Andrew Greer, General Manager (NI) of SSE Airtricity, said: "We're delighted to have been appointed by SGN as commissioning gas supplier in the new West area network. As the country's largest provider of natural gas we know the benefits that gas brings to home and business customers as a cleaner, more convenient and affordable source of energy. With this appointment, we'll be able to begin extending the benefits of natural gas as many more customers across the West are connected to the wider Northern Ireland gas network."

Encirc demonstrates support for Gas to the West

Glass manufacturer Encirc voiced its support for the £250m Gas to the West project at a meeting at its Derrylin site, held in early June when Paddy Larkin, Chief Executive, Mutual Energy Limited, together with Tom Elliott, MP for the area, visited the factory to see "the positive impact the initiative will have on the local business community."

During the visit, Paddy Larkin commented: "This area of Northern Ireland is a manufacturing hub, and having access to a natural, sustainable energy source is something that will not only benefit the businesses here, but the wider community too... We look forward to bringing gas to Derrylin as soon as possible, and Encirc will be an anchor customer, making the project a reality."

Encirc has been a strong supporter of the initiative, which will see a £250m investment bring natural gas to the west of Northern Ireland. Adrian Curry, managing director of Encirc, explained: "We have 440 jobs here in Derrylin. Bringing natural gas to the region will be a significant factor in sustaining these jobs well into the future. At Encirc, we're constantly looking for ways of working that can help us further improve the sustainability of our sites, so supporting Gas to the West was a natural fit for us."

Tom Elliott added: "In addition to the environmental benefits, the project has the potential to generate £200m for the local economy and support around 200 jobs during the construction phase. It's great to see activity progressing as it is and the plans becoming a reality."



Pictured during the Encirc visit (from left to right): Gerard McLroy and Paddy Larkin, Mutual Energy Limited, Tom Elliott, MP, Fermanagh & South Tyrone and Sean Murphy and Adrian Curry, Encirc.

For more information on Gas to the West



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