

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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'Gas to the West' reaches first major milestone



Gas is now flowing beyond Derry/Londonderry to the Strabane area and it is expected the first customers will be announced in the very near future.

SGN Natural Gas and Mutual Energy Ltd have signalled the 30km gas pipeline from Maydown to Strabane has been completed with the final section between Artigarvan and Strabane being prepared for commissioning in the coming weeks. This pipeline, connects to the Gas Networks Ireland pipeline network at Maydown just outside Derry/Londonderry following the construction and completion of a new pressure reduction facility.

The facility, is the first of several Above Ground Installations which will connect the towns along the Gas to the West route to the new natural gas network.

Director of SGN Natural Gas, Danny O'Malley said:

I'm delighted to report gas is now flowing freely through the pipeline and into the Strabane area. This means over the coming months homes and businesses across the town will for the first time have access to natural gas through a national network. I'd like to thank all the stakeholders who have helped us get to this historic point and congratulate the engineering teams on delivering this important phase of our ambitious project.

Mutual Energy Chief Executive Paddy Larkin also marked the significance of the 'first gas' milestone. He said:

Gas will give industry a cleaner more attractive fuel choice and enhance business competitiveness - which is good for jobs. Households, when connected, will also enjoy a more convenient and cost effective energy option, countering fuel poverty."

Welcome to Issue 6 of the Gas to the West project Newsletter which we hope provides you with a useful update on how our major infrastructure project is progressing. And Gas to the West is certainly gathering momentum. We have already completed the construction of the pressure reduction station at Maydown, all the necessary work on the Strabane distribution main line and we are ready for our first major customer in that area (more below). We were also delighted to welcome the Utility Regulator to visit our new pressure reduction station installation at Maydown.

Below we give an update on our planning application and some of the developments around the project along with initiatives carried out involving project personnel, local communities and other stakeholders.

We are continuing our engagement with stakeholders and as ever welcome any feedback on this newsletter or the project more widely.

Kind regards

Paddy Larkin
Chief Executive
Mutual Energy

Danny O'Malley
Director
SGN Natural Gas

Planning Update

Our planning application is now progressing through the planning process and is going well. Most of the statutory consultee responses required are now in with the Strategic Projects Division of the Department of Infrastructure and so far, although we take nothing for granted, we see no insurmountable problems. The project enjoys strong support with the political parties and public representatives we have engaged with and there has been particularly strong support expressed by business organisations such as CBI, IoD and major energy consumers such as Dale Farm and Encirc.

We know that the project also has the support of many representing domestic customers, in particular the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland which recognises the contribution natural gas can make to consumer choice and value as well as the fight against fuel poverty.

We are working hard to deal immediately with any issue which arises in the context of consideration of the GTTW planning application so that we can obtain permission as early as possible in this new year.

Gas supply to LacPatrick Dairy!

SGN Natural Gas is pleased to announce that we have introduced a supply of gas to our first customer at LacPatrick Dairies Ltd in Artigarvan just outside Strabane.

The new gas supply is a key element of a wider plant investment at the dairy which is currently being undertaken.

Our work is now continuing to bring gas to the town of Strabane by late springtime.

We will be liaising with the local community, housing associations, council officials and other key stakeholders over the next few months to bring further news on the timescales for the introduction of the natural gas in the town and explain how customers can get connected from 2017 onwards.

When the new natural gas supply to Strabane has been commissioned, customers will be able to avail themselves



First customer! Pictured at LacPatrick Dairy gas connection (L to R) Danny O'Malley, Director SGN Natural Gas, Darren Young, Head of Business Development, SGN Natural Gas, Tommy Thompson, Site Manager, LacPatrick Dairy, Artigarvan and David Butler, Head of Engineering SGN Natural Gas.

of a clean, secure and dependable energy source that will offer a distinct alternative to the current energy options that have been available to the local consumers up until now.

Work underway in Strabane Town

It's a landmark for SGN Natural Gas as we started laying medium pressure gas mains in our first town, Strabane - a major step towards our first domestic customer early in 2017.

Our appointed contractors McNicholas Construction began the rollout in a Strabane domestic housing estate on 8th November 2016.

Team Manager Oonagh McCann said:

"We're bringing natural gas to areas that have never had it before. So before laying any pipe we need to liaise with a number of stakeholders to ensure everyone knows our plans.

The response from potential customers has been extremely positive with many of the large industry sector factoring in the arrival of natural gas into their energy awareness plans.

To date we have laid over 2.5 km of pipe."



Welcome to SGN Natural Gas (L to R): Mark Davidson – Team Manager, Lynsey Orr – Admin Assistant, Chris Shine – Head of Finance and Regulation, Adrian O'Reilly – Records Control Assistant, Jamie Cunningham – Key Account Manager, Dominic Scullion – SHE Manager.

New Recruits at SGN Natural Gas

Some new faces have joined SGN Natural Gas in Belfast over the last few months so we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce them to our stakeholders.

Our new colleagues join us from a wide range of business and commercial backgrounds, both gas and non-gas related. Their many years of collective knowledge and experience will no doubt add a great deal of energy and value to our team as we look to grow our business and build our networks across our Licence area.

SGN Natural Gas now have ten team members and will continue to grow as the network builds.

We're delighted to welcome all of them on board and wish them all the best in their new positions.

Utility Regulator visits GTTW Installation at Maydown



The Utility Regulator has maintained a consistent and positive interest in how the Gas to the West project is progressing and this was again evident in the November visit of its Board to our Maydown site following an earlier Board meeting in Strabane. The Utility Regulator was given a tour of the site and extensive briefing and met with project staff and senior management of SGN Natural Gas and Mutual Energy Ltd. The Maydown site includes an above ground installation (AGI) primarily a pressure reduction station where the new GTTW transmission pipeline to Strabane connects to the existing gas transmission network which supplies Coolkeeragh Power Station and Derry/ Londonderry.

Gas to the West Procurement Opportunities

Just a reminder to all our stakeholders that Gas to the West procurement opportunities can be found on our Supplier Portal.

Please visit: www.sgnnaturalgas.co.uk/gas-to-the-west-supplier-portal/

To find out more about supply chain opportunities and register your business as a potential supplier, visit:

www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GTTWprocurement



Behavioural Safety Day

SGN Natural Gas hosted a bespoke Behavioural Safety Day in Belfast for over 25 delegates including members of the Gas to the West project team and their appointed contractors.

Guest speaker Quentin Emery presented the Cultural Safety Leadership Programme introducing the theories of Behavioural and Cultural Safety.

Delegates were given tools and techniques to help lead Safety Culture Improvement within their own organisations focusing on the importance of the person in safety and how that relates to SGN Natural Gas and its contractors.

Christmas Tree joy for Primary School



Pictured is Lisa Hicks, the school Principal and Ronan Peace, McNicholas Construction.

Gas to the West contractors McNicholas Construction delighted the staff and pupils of Artigarvan Primary School recently when they donated a new Christmas tree as a thank you to the school for their cooperation and patience whilst work was being carried out in their area. SGN Natural Gas added the icing on the cake with a donation of the Christmas lights and Santa decorations.

Ronan Peace from McNicholas said: "When we first contacted the school, about making a donation, we asked if they wanted a new Christmas tree. The school's Principal, Lisa Hicks, was delighted at the offer as their old tree was a little dilapidated. I have been told that since the new tree and decorations were put up, there have been a lot of compliments from the kids and their parents! I am really glad we could help."