THE PRP CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

The Pipeline Replacement Program (PRP) is a 15-year project which began in 1998 to replace more than 2,750 miles of bare, or unprotected, steel and cast iron natural gas pipeline in Georgia. To ensure the safety and reliability of Atlanta Gas Light’s natural gas pipeline system, older pipes are being replaced with state-of-the-art plastic and steel pipes. The program is scheduled for completion in 2013. Atlanta Gas Light was one of the first gas utilities in the nation to begin a comprehensive pipeline replacement program.

REPLACEMENT PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED IN A PHASED PROCESS.

**Step 1: Locate Utilities**

Before construction can begin, existing utilities, such as water, sewer, phone, etc., must be located. This helps to ensure that these services are not accidentally damaged by Atlanta Gas Light contractors when the replacement work gets underway. Spray painted markings on streets, sidewalks, and along public right-of-way show where these underground utilities are. While the paint used is not permanent and eventually washes away, it is important that the markings remain visible for the duration of the replacement work to protect property owners from losing any services.

**Step 2: Replace the Gas Main**

Next the contractor replaces the old bare steel pipe with state of the art plastic pipe or coated steel pipe either through “open cut” construction or directional drilling. The open cut involves excavating a narrow trench in the road or along the right-of-way. This method is typically used when directional drilling is not feasible. Directional drilling helps to reduce construction impacts because it uses two smaller excavated areas where crews can “push” the pipe through one hole and “pull” it out the other. Gas is put back into the line once the replacement has been made.

**Step 3: Connect the New Line to Homes and Businesses**

Once the main gas pipeline is installed, the individual service lines to homes and businesses need to be connected or “tied over” to the new distribution line. Depending on the amount of gas main replaced, the actual service connection work could happen several weeks or even months after the initial work in an area. This may cause concerns for some property owners when they see crews leave an area only to return weeks or possibly months later, but it is important to note that the new line must have gas going through it before individual service connections can be made.

Depending on the amount of gas main replaced, the actual service connection work could happen several weeks or even months after the initial work in an area.
Service line work is typically performed in the public right-of-way in sidewalks or behind the curb. In some instances the work may extend onto private property to make the connection. Additionally some property owners may need to have their entire service line replaced or “renewed” from the gas meter to the new line to get connected. Service line renewals are completed by Atlanta Gas Light contractors at no cost to the customer. During any service line work, gas must be briefly shut off to the home or business.

Because the replacement process is completed in phases, Atlanta Gas Light contractors use temporary restoration materials such as hay, temporary gravel road patches, or temporary asphalt or gravel patches on sidewalks until permanent restoration can be completed at the end of the project.

**Step 4: Restore Gas Service to Homes and Business**

On most replacement projects, it is necessary to turn off gas service for a short period of time as the new service line is connected to the new main line. Residences and businesses receive a door hanger one to two days prior to the service interruption with contact information and expected scheduling information on when the service interruption will happen. After the tie-over or renewal is made, an Atlanta Gas Light contractor or field service representative will schedule a time to enter the residence or business to re-light all natural gas appliances. This step is coordinated with the property owner so that someone can be onsite. Customers should not attempt to re-light their appliances.

**Step 5: Restore Construction Area**

Atlanta Gas Light’s contractors are responsible for final restoration at the end of the project. Using temporary restoration measures while the work is in progress stabilizes the area of construction, whether a yard, sidewalk, or street, while allowing the project to move forward in an efficient manner. The amount of time between the initial excavation and final restoration can be several weeks or even months based on a number of variables, including weather, type of pipe material used, project area terrain, and more. Atlanta Gas Light's goal is to restore an area as closely as possible to its original condition once the project is complete while adhering to all local paving and erosion control ordinances.

The amount of time between the initial excavation and final restoration can be several weeks or even months based on a number of variables, including weather, type of pipe material used, project area terrain, and more.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as Atlanta Gas Light works to improve the safety and reliability of the natural gas system in your area.

Questions about PRP projects in your area? Please visit www.aglc.com/prp or contact Atlanta Gas Light at (404) 584-3039 or pipelinereplacements@aglresources.com.