Community-Driven Pipeline Safety: A Case Study from the Nashua, NH Region

Pipeline Safety Trust
2016 Annual Conference

October 20-21, 2016
Hotel Monteleone, New Orleans, Louisiana
Major Talking Points

- **Pipeline Safety: the Case for a Regional Approach**
- **Initiatives Driven by Nashua Regional Planning Commission through support of PHMSA**
- **Lessons Learned**
NH Regional Planning Commissions

- 9 RPCs in NH
- Political subdivision of the state
- Public, non-profit entity
- Voluntary association of local governments
- Advisory
- Geographically distinct from counties
- Subject to NH Public Records Law
• Founded: 1959
• 13 Member Communities
• Population: 207,051
• 346 mi²
• 13 Staff Members
• MPO for the Nashua UZA
Alignment with Emergency Management Jurisdictions

Public Health Hospital Catchment Area & NRPC Region

Souhegan Mutual Aid Response Team Jurisdiction

Nashua Station 2 Hazardous Materials Response Headquarters
Regional GIS Basemap
NRPC’s TAG Award

- Land Use Planning
- Emergency Preparedness
- Info Exchange
- Safe Digging
Best Management Practices -- Guidance Documents

A Readiness Checklist for Community Governing Bodies

The Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) prepared this user-friendly checklist to assist community officials needing to address potential safety concerns related to natural gas pipelines in their communities. These suggested actions have been adapted from recommended practices published by the Pipelines and Informed Planning Alliance (PIPA®) and other source materials, which rely on three main components that a community can use to plan for pipeline safety: COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, and ACTION.

The following nine checklist items are recommended minimums that community elected officials and governing boards can implement to aid their communities in addressing concerns raised by natural gas pipelines. Communities that need assistance with any of these checklist items are encouraged to contact the NRPC for assistance.

This document has been developed by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) with funding provided by a 2016 Technical Assistance Grant through the US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PIHMA).

Managing Land Use Near a Pipeline with Best Management Practices

A Guide for Planning Boards and Municipal Staff

Land use changes and development near natural gas transmission pipelines can create risks to communities, property owners, developers, and the pipeline operator. New Hampshire law allows communities to incorporate zoning regulations (RSA 674:16), subdivision and site plan development regulations (674:39 and 674:44, respectively) and building permit requirements (subject to various applicable law) that can be utilized to help ensure safety and wise management of land uses when new development or construction is proposed adjacent to natural gas transmission pipelines. Even though private individual easement agreements between pipeline operators and property owners specify what can and cannot be done within the pipeline easement itself, the local community can take extra steps if it desires to further mitigate potential hazardous situations.

This guide and supplement to NRPC's document "When a Pipeline Comes to Town", a Readiness Checklist for Community Governing Bodies, which provides recommended minimum actions to be taken by your local governing body to plan for pipeline safety.

Pipeline Safety Planning Area Overlay District

Article X.XX.X OVERLAY DISTRICTS

Section X.XX.X Pipeline Safety Planning Area Overlay District

X.XX.XXX Purpose

For the purpose of promoting the health, safety, or the general welfare of the community, the local legislative body of any city, town, or county in which there are located unincorporated towns or unorganized places is authorized to adopt or amend a zoning ordinance under the ordinance enactment procedures of RSA 675:2-5, and in recognizing that the US Department of Transportation Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration encourages local communities with natural gas transmission and hazardous liquid transmission pipelines to adopt regulations intended to reduce the likelihood of accidental damage to said pipelines and to reduce adverse impacts of pipeline failures located within its jurisdiction, the purpose of this Section is to help minimize unnecessary risk to the public from natural gas transmission pipelines and hazardous liquid transmission pipelines by providing a framework to:
Advance Inter-Agency Data Exchange

Open Data Portal: [data.nashuarpc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets](http://data.nashuarpc.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets)
Advance Inter-Agency Data Exchange

New Hampshire Gas Transmission Pipelines

Natural Gas and Electric Transmission
NRPC REGION

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www.nashuarpc.org
(603) 424.2240
Promote Safe Digging

What Happens if I Don’t Call?

Every 6 minutes an underground utility is damaged because someone decided to dig without calling 811. Knowing approximately where underground utility lines are buried before each digging project helps to prevent dangerous situations.

Reduce the chance of causing a damage to a line. 1% of calls go undetected and when that line is damaged the result can be catastrophic.

Don’t be a statistic. "Call 811 before digging."

Dig Safe Home Owner Brochure
Dig Safe Frequently Asked Questions
Dig Safe Operator Manual
Common Ground Alliance, 811 Toolkit

Who is Behind 811?

Dig Safe Office
Dig Safe is a nonprofit dispatch clearing house that notifies member utility companies of residents’ and contractors’ plans to dig. These utility companies respond by marking out their underground lines and other equipment in the area subject to digging. Dig safe is a free service, funded entirely by its member utility companies.

Common Ground Alliance (CGA)
The Common Ground Alliance is the leading association specifically to work with all industry stakeholders in an effort to prevent damage to underground utility infrastructure and ensure public safety and environmental protection. Originally formed in 2000, CGA represents a continuation of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Common Ground Study. The CGA works with its 1,500 members and sponsors to promote the national 811 "Call Before You Dig" campaign. For more information, visit www.commongroundalliance.com.

NRPC’s Involvement with Safe Digging
The Nashua Regional Planning Commission has been granted funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Program to promote pipeline safety planning and general Dig Safe awareness in our region.

Important Links:
- Dig Safe
- CGA
- NRPC

Facebook Links:
- DigSafeService MA, ME, NH, RI & VT
- CGA Connect
- NRPC

Twitter Links:
- @DigSafe1
- @CGAConnect
- @NashuaRPC

Important Links:
- Dig Safe Home Owner Brochure
- Dig Safe Frequently Asked Questions
- Dig Safe Operator Manual
- Common Ground Alliance, 811 Toolkit

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Engage First Responders & Public Officials

Outreach

Training

Emergency Planning Templates

Implementation Assistance

First Responders Public Officials

All Communities (Public Domain)

NRPC Communities
Lessons Learned

1. Timing is everything

2. Location, Location, Location

3. Don’t go it alone

Graphic Courtesy Common Ground Alliance Media Toolkit
THANK YOU

Sara Siskavich, GISP
Nashua Regional Planning Commission
sarasaras@nashuarpc.org
(617) 872-4279

For more info:
www.nashuarpc.org/energy-environmental-planning/project-pipeline