



**Hinesburg 2016:  
Natural gas pipeline construction  
(February 2016)**

Vermont Gas plans to complete construction of the Addison Natural Gas Project by late 2016. This will include going through Hinesburg with various activities including:

- surveying the right-of-way (50' wide in most places, and usually mostly within or adjacent to the VELCO transmission line) and installing layout staking and resource flagging
- clearing the right-of-way, constructing access roads, and preparing temporary access and work spaces
- probing to identify areas of rock/ledge as these areas may require low-impact, limited blasting to allow for pipeline trenching
- continuing contact with landowners with whom we have negotiated easements for the pipeline so that they are aware of the construction schedule and process, and providing landowners with clear lines of communication with the company
- contacting landowners within 600' of low-impact blasting areas to see if they are interested in well and foundation surveys (at Vermont Gas expense) and gain additional information about the blasting process, prior to blasting activities
- preparing the right-of-way by grading, trenching, installing appropriate environmental controls for wetlands and stream crossings and other sensitive areas
- bringing in pipe, welding it, protecting the welds with proper coating, X-raying and inspecting the welds, laying the pipe in the trench, and backfilling the trench over the pipe
- restoring the right-of-way

Our primary focus is safety – safety of the public and workers, safety of nearby homes and landowners, and safety of everyone in the work zones. We appreciate receiving any resident's feedback and suggestions about any safety concern.

Vermont Gas will work closely with local and state transportation officials to make

sure roadways are safe, and that roads are restored to their proper condition.

The entire construction process is closely overseen to meet the requirements of the project's permits and approvals, which are extensive and exceed federal standards in many respects.

**Schedule.** At this time it is too early to be specific about when construction activities will occur; however, generally they will occur in the order described above, beginning with survey and ending with ROW restoration. The sequence of preparatory activities such as right-of-way surveying, clearing, probing and blasting will likely commence as early as latter February. We expect pipeline construction to commence in May or June; however, the final construction scheduling and timing of work in Hinesburg will depend on several factors, including input from our contractors and their mobilization schedules, and springtime ground and road conditions. Vermont Gas will keep in touch with the Town Administrator's office and will be happy to report to the Town in ways that the Town would prefer.

**Geprags Park.** After considerable discussion with the Town Selectboard and Attorney since 2013, Vermont Gas understands and respects the importance of Geprags Park and will treat the area with due deference and in accordance with the terms of the binding easement agreement between the Town and Vermont Gas. We know that there are periods when construction may not occur in Geprags Park. We are funding warbler conservation studies by Audubon Vermont to make sure that there is minimal impact on the warblers during nesting season. After construction the Park will be restored almost identically to its previous condition, with additional landscaping to promote warbler nesting.

**Natural gas service.** Almost 400 Hinesburg residents, businesses, and governmental customers already have natural gas service. Expansion of this distribution system is expected in 2018. This will make natural gas service available to an additional 200 Hinesburg residents.

**Maps.** Vermont Gas will post maps of the transmission and distribution lines in latter March, but the current maps are available by contacting Beth Parent at Vermont Gas at [bparent@vermontgas.com](mailto:bparent@vermontgas.com). A copy of the current map is attached.

### **Contacts at Vermont Gas.**

Please feel free to contact Ned Farquhar, VP Communications and Government, at [nfarquhar@vermontgas.com](mailto:nfarquhar@vermontgas.com) or 802-222-1038. Landowner concerns can be addressed to Dave Walker at [dwalker@vermontgas.com](mailto:dwalker@vermontgas.com) or 802-922-7318.