



S Y S T E M M O D E R N I Z A T I O N




Columbia Gas
TransmissionSM

A NiSource Company



THE LINE MB EXTENSION PROJECT BALTIMORE AND HARFORD COUNTIES, MARYLAND

Project Overview

Columbia Gas Transmission (Columbia) is proposing to extend its existing 26-inch natural gas pipeline (Line MB) for approximately 21.3 miles from Owings Mills to Fallston, Maryland. The proposed pipeline will travel along Columbia's existing Line MA pipeline right-of-way to the greatest extent practicable. The Line MB Extension is designed to increase service reliability for Central Maryland and the surrounding region.

Public Involvement and Timing

Columbia will be filing an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act.

The FERC is the federal agency that has primary jurisdiction over interstate natural gas pipeline projects. Before authorizing a pipeline project, the FERC conducts a comprehensive environmental review and also reviews and considers comments from stakeholders. The FERC works to assure that proposed natural gas facilities are both necessary to meet consumer demand and compatible with the environment.

Columbia has elected to participate in the FERC's "Pre-Filing" process (Docket No. PF12-6). Pre-Filing is a process designed to promote and facilitate communication between the project applicant and local stakeholders (landowners, government agencies, elected officials, and others) and help identify and resolve issues before an official application is submitted. More information on the Pre-Filing process is available at the FERC's website, www.ferc.gov.

Our Safety Focus

Columbia believes pipeline safety starts long before natural gas actually begins flowing. Safety is our top priority from the design and planning of a project, to construction and operation. We work to maintain a safe pipeline system by educating our employees and stakeholders, carefully planning projects and maintenance, keeping our rights of way clear of obstructions, and closely monitoring our facilities and conducting regular inspections.

If approved by FERC, the proposed Line MB Extension pipeline will comply with all federal safety requirements and procedures. More information on Columbia's pipeline safety initiatives can be found online at www.ngts.com/staying-safe. Information on the federal pipeline safety program can be found at the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration website, www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline.



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Committed to Safe Operations and Pipeline Integrity

Columbia Gas Transmission operates a 12,000 mile natural gas pipeline network that provides domestic energy customers throughout the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic regions. We believe our primary responsibility is to ensure public safety through responsible operations. We are committed to protecting the safety and well-being of our employees and the communities in which we operate. Natural gas pipelines are subject to not only our own stringent internal controls but also must meet rigorous federal requirements and oversight.

Focusing on Safety From Design to Delivery

Pipeline safety starts long before natural gas actually begins flowing. Safety is incorporated throughout the design phase of every construction project. We apply strict industry standards, research-based company policies and regulatory mandates to every aspect of a facility's development and operation. From basic design to selection of materials, construction plans, operational plans and monitoring requirements, safety is our top priority.

Around-the-Clock Coverage

Our operating facilities are kept under a constant watch — 24-hours a day, seven days a week — by our Gas Control monitoring centers. Team members working in these centers continuously gather and monitor data from pipelines and related facilities across our operating system and control the flow of gas throughout our pipeline network.

Partnering with Emergency Responders and Communities

Residents along our pipeline rights of way, contractors, excavators, emergency responders and public officials all play a key role in helping to keep our pipelines operating safely. These partners learn how to prevent, detect and report a leak along a pipeline through ongoing communication and training with our personnel and by reading our public awareness brochure, which is mailed to those living or working at or near one of our facilities. Whether you are planning to build a major development or simply landscape your property — do it safely. Under the "Call Before You Dig" program, homeowners, excavators and contractors throughout the nation can simply dial toll-free 811 to have underground facilities marked at no charge. Calling 811 before you dig will help protect you and your community.

Learn More

For more information on Columbia's commitment to safe operations, please visit our website, www.ngts.com/staying-safe.



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PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION

At Columbia Gas Transmission, we are committed to conducting business in a manner that protects the environment and the health and safety of our employees and the public. When we construct a project, we carefully monitor all aspects of the process to ensure we meet this commitment. Installing a pipeline is much like an assembly line process, with sections of the pipeline being completed in distinct stages.

A Look at the Pipeline Construction Process

High quality steel pipe is fabricated at steel rolling mills. The pipe must meet strict government, industry and Columbia standards. The pipe is treated with a protective coating that is part of a corrosion protection system that allows the pipeline to be operated safely.

In the first step of construction, crews flag the boundaries of the construction right of way. The right of way is then cleared of vegetation and graded. The crews are careful to maintain their activities within the approved right of way width. Generally, the pipe is installed with about three feet of ground cover. The trenching crew digs the trench for the new pipeline. In cultivated areas, topsoil is separated from the other dirt so it can be placed back on top of the disturbed soil after construction. The depth of the trench may vary but will comply with all federal safety regulations.

Sections of pipe, usually 40 feet in length, are strung along the trench. When necessary, sections are bent to conform to the contour of the land. These bends do not affect the pipe's integrity. The pipe sections are welded together by qualified welders who have passed Columbia's stringent qualifying test. The welds are checked with x-rays or other inspection methods to confirm their integrity.

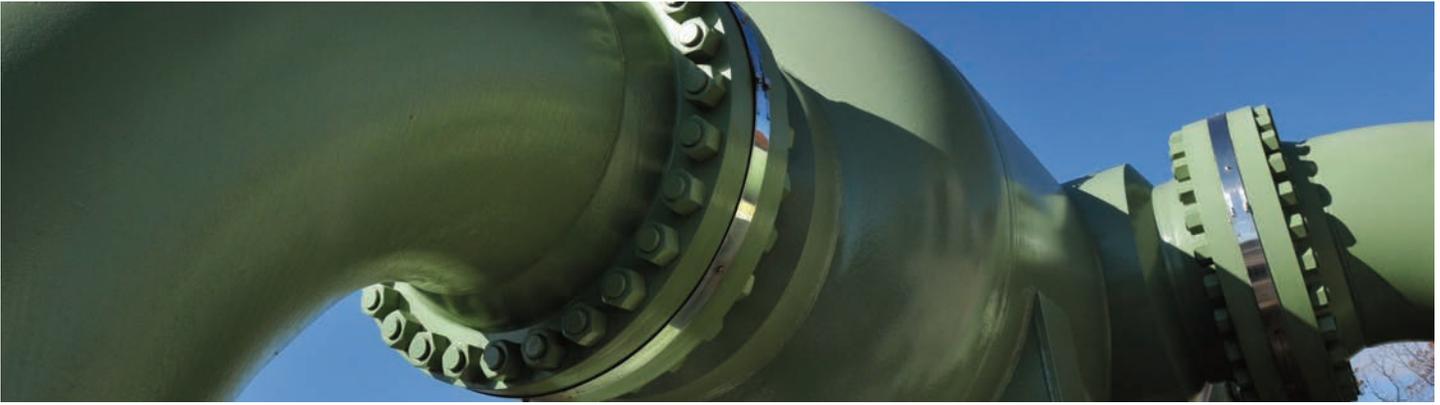
Once the pipeline is welded and inspected, it is lowered into the trench. Crews backfill the trench, taking care not to damage the pipe coating. Before the pipeline begins operation, it is tested to a pressure higher than it will ever operate. The hydrostatic test involves filling the pipeline with water, pressurizing it to the test pressure, and maintaining the pressure for several hours. Once the test is completed and the water is drained, the pipeline is ready to be placed into service.

The final step in the pipeline construction process is restoring the right of way. Restoration crews re-seed the right of way so that signs of construction are replaced by plant growth during the next growing season. Once the line is in operation, it safely and quietly transports natural gas. A maintained easement and safety markers are the only indications of a pipeline underground.



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Environmental Stewardship and Resource Protection

Protecting the environment is not only good business, but the right thing to do. At Columbia Gas Transmission (Columbia), we are guided by the following environmental principles:

- Conduct business in a manner that protects the environment and the health and safety of our employees and the public.
- Promote environmental awareness and responsibility through training and other educational programs.
- Support the development of scientifically sound and fair environmental laws, regulations and public policies.
- Develop and maintain open lines of communication with environmental regulatory agencies, environmental organizations and concerned citizens.
- Support environmental research to identify and develop technologies and processes that enhance environmental performance.
- Incorporate environmental considerations in planning, purchasing and operating practices.
- Promote the use of clean, efficient natural gas, natural gas technologies and other environmentally clean energy sources as a solution to environmental and energy concerns.
- Comply with all environmental rules and regulations.

We are proud of the role natural gas plays in helping the United States develop a clean and affordable supply of domestic energy. When natural gas is burned, it produces far lower levels of “greenhouse” gases when compared to other fossil fuels.

We employ best management practices when constructing and maintaining our pipeline facilities in order to help protect natural resources. For the Line MB Extension Project, Columbia will obtain and comply with all appropriate federal, state, and local environmental permits and approvals. To learn more about our commitment to social responsibility and environmental stewardship, please visit our sustainability page at www.nisource.com.



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A D D I T I O N A L I N F O R M A T I O N

For additional information on the proposed Line MB Extension project, please call us toll-free at **(888) 499-3450**. A staff member will take your question and insure that it is addressed by the appropriate person within the project team.



C O L U M B I A G A S T R A N S M I S S I O N

Columbia Gas Transmission transports an average of 3 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day through a nearly 12,000-mile pipeline network and 92 compressor stations in 10 states, serving hundreds of communities. Our customers include local gas distribution companies, energy marketers, electric power generating facilities and hundreds of industrial and commercial end users.

Columbia Gas Transmission also owns and operates one of North America's largest underground natural gas storage systems that includes 37 storage fields in four states with over 650 billion cubic feet in total capacity. Using depleted natural gas production reservoirs, we safely store gas when demand is low so it can be made available to our customers during times of peak usage.

