

Frequently Asked Questions about Atlanta Gas Light's Johnson Header Pipeline

Who is Atlanta Gas Light?

Atlanta Gas Light delivers natural gas on behalf of approved gas marketers to residences and businesses in your community. We safely operate and maintain a natural gas pipeline system over 55,000 miles long that delivers reliable, environmentally friendly natural gas to more than 1.5 million customers across Georgia.

Why is Atlanta Gas Light working in my area?

The work in your area is part of the Georgia Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Program (STRIDE) which was approved by the Georgia Public Service Commission in October 2009. The program allows us to make necessary upgrades to our pipeline system in the greater metro Atlanta area so we can improve our service to home and business owners on peak demand days. While Georgia STRIDE is one of our most extensive infrastructure projects to date, it's just one of many undertaken by Atlanta Gas Light during its 155-year history as we work to bring you and your neighbors environmentally friendly natural gas.

Why do you need to upgrade the pipeline system?

Atlanta's greater metropolitan area has experienced rapid growth in the past two decades. Much of that growth has shifted to regions farther removed from Atlanta Gas Light's existing interstate supply points and transmission pipeline system. We need to upgrade the system in order to meet our obligation to provide enough natural gas to serve our customers on the coldest days of the year.

Georgia STRIDE has several additional benefits:

- Georgia STRIDE is stimulating the local economy. We're excited that our investment is expected to employ 150-200 construction workers each year—everything from right-of-way contractors and heavy-equipment operators to pipefitters and welders.
- As the U.S. economy recovers, our upgraded infrastructure will be able to provide the additional natural gas needed for continued economic development in your community and across the metro Atlanta area.
- Atlanta Gas Light will continue to provide America's cleanest and domestically abundant fuel to customers.

What is the route for the Johnson Header Pipeline?

The Johnson Header Pipeline is a 24-inch transmission line that connects our Johnson Header facility near Habershal Drive in west Fulton County to our Cherokee LNG (liquefied natural gas) facility in Ball Ground in Cherokee County, running through Fulton, Cobb, and Cherokee counties. Portions of the line in west Fulton and east Cobb are being replaced, but a 35-mile stretch from north of Powers Ferry Road adjacent to the Wildwood Complex to our Cherokee LNG facility in Ballground does not have to be replaced. Instead, we will install several regulator stations along the line and conduct integrity testing that will allow us to better manage future volume of natural gas within our distribution system without additional construction.

What is a regulator station?

Regulator stations are a set of pipes and mechanics that allow Atlanta Gas Light to control gas flow in the distribution system as it moves into different sized pipes and ultimately to customers we serve in your area.

Where will the regulator stations be located?

Five regulator stations will be installed at:

- Columns Drive at Johnson Ferry Road (Cobb County)
- Lower Roswell Road near the intersection with Johnson Ferry Road (Cobb County)
- Willeo Road at the Big Creek Water Reclamation Facility (Fulton County – Roswell)
- Green Road near the intersection with Crabapple Road (Fulton County – Milton)
- Hickory Flat Road near the intersection with Rowe Road (Fulton County – Milton); an existing regulator station that will be e

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The installation of the stations and the integrity testing will begin in Spring 2011 and run through 2012.

What is integrity testing and how is it done?

Integrity testing provides Atlanta Gas Light with information that helps to better manage future volume of natural gas in our transmission system. As the regulator stations are brought online, testing will occur in segments of the Johnson Header Pipeline.

First, we must purge – or remove – the gas from the line. A controlled purge operation – that is, a controlled release of gas – clears the line of natural gas. Purging occurs at a designated point, typically an LNG facility or regulator station, and has the potential for a loud noise, similar to a jet flying overhead, which may last 30 minutes to an hour. Purging the line may also result in the odor of natural gas (the odor is actually the additive mercaptan which gives natural gas a “rotten egg” smell). Any residual odor or noise diminishes the farther an individual is from the purge point. As standard practice, Atlanta Gas Light notifies the local 911 emergency services before the purging process.

Once the line is purged, the line is cleaned. To clean the line, large volumes of water with a cleaning solution are pushed through the pipe. The water will be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate manner in cooperation with Fulton County Public Works.

Once the line is cleaned, the integrity test is performed. During testing, pressurized water will be conveyed through the pipeline to identify any issues before the line is placed into service. After testing, the line is dried using air compressors, which will create noise. This is a continuous process that can take up to two days. Neighbors in the immediate area will be informed prior to the start of work regarding what to expect in terms of odor, noise level and any other impacts.

After the integrity test is performed and the regulator stations are brought online, we will gas up the line. Gas will be put on the line in stages and we will survey the system during each stage. As part of the survey, our technician will walk the line to inspect the right-of-way and perform leak surveys. If any issues are discovered, some repair work may be necessary.

When will the regulator station construction and integrity testing begin?

Installation of the regulator stations and integrity testing will begin in Spring 2011 and continue through 2012. The installation and connection of a regulator station to the transmission system lasts approximately two months.

What types of considerations will be made for affected communities?

Property owners in the immediate vicinity of regulator stations will be notified prior to work beginning and receive detailed information related to any purging and cleaning processes. For those along the Johnson Header Pipeline route where we have existing easements, we will also provide notification prior to integrity testing.

At the regulator sites, we will conduct pre- and post-construction noise surveys to help mitigate the sound level associated with the operation of the regulator station. To further reduce operational noises, all Johnson Header regulation stations will be enclosed with soundproof fencing. Attractive landscaping will be added around the fencing to help the stations blend with community aesthetics.

Where possible, we will also restore structures (such as fencing) and vegetation that were temporarily removed for construction, as long as they do not impede the safe operation of the station.

Additionally, Atlanta Gas Light is meeting with elected officials and community leaders so that they are well-informed about our project and what to expect during regulator station construction and integrity testing.

For more information about the Johnson Header Pipeline Project:

www.atlantagaslight.com/stride

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