

Natural gas meter stations

With more than 65 years' experience, TransCanada is a leader in the responsible development and reliable operation of North American energy infrastructure, including natural gas and liquids pipelines, power generation and gas storage facilities.



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Meter stations are an important piece of infrastructure for a natural gas pipeline system. They are used to measure the volume and composition of natural gas transported through a pipeline.

About meter stations

Meter stations perform the crucial function of measuring the amount of natural gas that enters and exits the pipeline so customers can reliably deliver and receive their scheduled volumes. Meter stations also ensure that the natural gas in the line meets pipeline specifications for quality. Meter stations are used at all locations where natural gas enters the pipeline (receipt meter station) or leaves the pipeline (delivery or sales meter station).

In addition to receipt, delivery or sales meter stations, there are also many small delivery points called sales taps that provide natural gas to local distribution companies such as gas co-ops, which in turn provide natural gas to communities along the pipeline.

A typical meter station site consists of a skid-mounted building that houses the meters and an instrument building. Associated piping connects the meter station to the underground natural gas pipeline. The size of the site varies based on the flow through the meter station.

Meter station equipment communicates with TransCanada's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The SCADA system is connected to TransCanada's operations control centres located in Calgary, Houston and Mexico City, which monitor the pipeline system 24 hours a day. All natural gas received on the pipeline is monitored to ensure it meets TransCanada gas quality specifications. These are defined in the gas transportation tariff that is filed with the regulator.



Safety factors

Safety is the first consideration in planning and constructing a meter station. A number of safety systems are built into the stations to ensure the safety of the facility, the public, our employees and the environment.

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Clean-up and reclamation

Once construction has been completed, land required for ongoing operations, such as the surrounding site and access road, will be in most cases graveled, fenced and maintained throughout the life cycle of the facility. Land not required for operation will be reclaimed.

Operations

Once the facilities have been constructed, there will be minimal impact to people and the environment throughout their operation. The facilities comply with federal and provincial regulations for operation of a meter station. For safety reasons, authorization from TransCanada is required prior to any ground disturbance within 30 metres of the area.

Emergency preparedness and response

TransCanada is a responsible company and is committed to the health and safety of the communities in which we operate. All facilities are designed, built and operated in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. In the unlikely event of an emergency, our comprehensive emergency response program would be activated. While we strive for zero safety incidents, we train our staff to know exactly what to do in the event of an emergency – both during construction and ongoing operations. Our employees work with landowners and area emergency responders to protect the health, safety and welfare of people, property and the environment.

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