



Fact Sheet – Former Fuel Pipeline Abandonment Eureka, California

August 1, 2011

Introduction

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is providing this fact sheet to let the community know that from late August to late September 2011, PG&E will be conducting work to abandon a former underground fuel oil pipeline located beneath Railroad Avenue and Waterfront Drive in Eureka. This pipeline supplied Bunker C oil (a high-viscosity fuel oil) to historic operating facilities in the area, including a manufactured gas plant that served the City of Eureka between 1907 and 1956. Portions of the pipeline were removed in 1997 during construction of the connection between Railroad Avenue and Waterfront Drive. The remaining pipeline is approximately 2,260 feet long and runs from an area northwest of the intersection of Waterfront Drive and West Washington Street to the southeast corner of the intersection of Railroad Avenue and West 14th Street. This work is being conducted with regulatory oversight from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

Work along the Pipeline

Work	Duration	What You Might See or Hear
Pipe Locating Activities	Completed	Crews will use historic maps as well as line location tracing to verify the location of the pipeline. The ground will be marked with marking paint and survey nails.
Pipeline Evaluation and Access	2 weeks	Crews will expose the pipeline at intervals of approximately 100 feet. Exposure methods may include hand digging, air vacuuming, or the use of a backhoe. Nearby underground utilities will be identified and protected. Soil samples will be collected and analyzed. With the pipeline now exposed, a special valve will be installed to release any pressure within the pipeline. This is a precautionary measure, as no pressure is expected within the pipeline. Once any pressure (if found) is released, the top half of the pipe will be removed to allow access for the vacuum hose and pipeline cleaning tools. You might hear noises that are typically associated with construction activities.
Fuel Removal, Cleaning, Inspection, and Abandonment	2 weeks	A specialty pipeline cleaning tool will be used to extract any remaining oil from the pipeline. All recoverable liquids within the pipeline will be removed using a vacuum truck. The pipeline will be internally inspected using a remote controlled robotic pipe inspection camera to verify that the liquid has been removed. The pipeline will then be filled with cement grout. You might see a vacuum truck and/or a cement truck near the work area. You might also hear noises that are typically associated with construction activities.
Site Restoration	1 week	All excavated locations will be restored to match the adjacent existing surfaces. Locations within the roadway will be backfilled with a suitable base material, compacted, and repaved in compliance with all City specifications. You may see trucks delivering backfill materials and compaction and paving equipment. You might also hear noises that are typically associated with construction activities.

Excavation and Waste Disposal

To provide enough working space, a small amount of soil around the pipeline must be removed at each of the access locations. Excavated soils will be placed into waste bins that will be placed along the edge of the roadway. The bins will be closed and locked at the end of each work day. Once the bins are filled, the soils will be disposed of at an approved off-site disposal facility.

Once pipeline abandonment activities are complete, certified clean imported backfill soils will be placed in the excavated area and compacted. In addition, all removed liquids will be analyzed and disposed of off-site at a qualified and permitted oil recycling facility.

Traffic

The pipeline crews will be working within the parking lanes along Railroad Avenue and Waterfront Drive in accordance with an encroachment permit with the City of Eureka. Traffic cones and road construction signs will be posted to warn traffic of oncoming roadwork. Waste bins will be surrounded with lighted barricades.

Community Protection Measures

To ensure that the health and safety of our workers and the community is protected, all work will be done in accordance with a Health and Safety Plan (HASP). A construction manager will be on site daily overseeing all work. The HASP will also include procedures to be followed in the event of a spill or release of liquids from the pipeline. These procedures will document containment, recovery, handling, and disposal methods to be followed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

We welcome your input and questions. If you have questions about this work or want to know more about this project, please call us at 1-866-247-0581.

