



Natural gas pipeline pressure testing

At Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), our most important responsibility is the safety of our customers and the communities we serve. As part of that responsibility, we will be performing a strength test on our underground natural gas transmission pipeline in the East Bay. This routine safety testing work is mandated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and will confirm the gas pipeline's integrity and operating pressure.

What we're doing

Starting in February and continuing through November 2019, we will be strength testing our gas transmission pipeline from San Leandro to San Pablo. This work involves the following steps:

- 1. Engage the community:** We coordinate with local agencies and conduct outreach to nearby customers to inform them about construction.
- 2. Isolate the pipeline:** Crews turn off the flow of gas to the section to be tested.
- 3. Clear the pipeline:** Natural gas may be released using safe and controlled methods. The inside of the pipe is mechanically cleaned.
- 4. Test the pipeline strength:** The pipeline is filled completely with water. The water is then pressurized to a level much higher than normal operating pressure. The test pressure is held and monitored for a minimum of eight hours.
- 5. Reconnect the gas system:** When testing verifies the pipeline's strength and no leaks are detected, the pipeline is emptied of water, dried and placed back into service.

If the pipe is unable to maintain its test pressure, we investigate the cause, immediately repair any weaknesses and retest the line. Once the pipeline passes the test, the water is drained and reused on the next pipeline segment. It is then filtered and tested before being properly discharged according to regulatory requirements.

What to expect

During the testing work, you may see PG&E and contractor trucks and other heavy equipment in your neighborhood. This project may require large-scale digging to access the pipeline for testing, and traffic will be redirected as needed. You may also hear a loud steady noise and notice the smell of gas. If you have safety concerns, please call us at **1-800-743-5000**.

Work will occur during the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Cities within the county may restrict work hours based on work location. Mobilization and testing are expected to take place intermittently over the course of three to four months in each location. Weather and other factors affecting safe working conditions may impact our schedule. Our work should not interrupt your gas service, but we will contact you if there are any changes.

When the safety testing is complete, we will coordinate with local agencies and property owners to restore any paving, fencing or landscaping disturbed during the work.

Contact us

If you have questions about our strength testing work or wish to schedule a briefing for your organization, please contact your local PG&E representative Roxanne Cruz at **650-291-9894** or **Roxanne.Cruz@pge.com**. For additional information, visit **pge.com/strengthtest**.

Thank you for your patience as we enhance the safety of our system.

Natural gas pipeline pressure test map and anticipated schedule



Each color represents a different natural gas pipeline segment that will be tested in 2019 from San Leandro to the San Pablo community. Weather and other factors affecting safe working conditions may impact our schedule.