

In the pipeline

Gas to the West news



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A major energy infrastructure project to extend the benefits of natural gas to Coalisland, Cookstown, Derrylin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Magherafelt, Omagh and Strabane.



"Welcome to Edition 9 of our Gas to the West newsletter. We are pleased to now report that Gas to the West has entered the full construction phase with work underway on both the high pressure cross country pipeline that will bring gas from Portadown to Tullykenneye, outside Fivemiletown and the intermediate pressure pipeline that will connect into this and bring gas onwards to the seven towns. So you will now see our project teams hard at work at a range of locations across the west to bring this major project to reality. We remain keen to keep all our stakeholders informed as the project progresses and hope this newsletter serves as a useful platform for doing this. We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone, on behalf of the project team, a peaceful and prosperous Christmas and look forward to an exciting 2018."

Paddy Larkin
Chief Executive
Mutual Energy

Danny O'Malley
Director
SGN Natural Gas

Gas to the West project recognised at British Construction Industry Awards

The 2017 British Construction Industry Awards, which took place in London's Grosvenor House Hotel in October, have seen the Gas to the West project receive a 'highly commended' award in the category of Community Engagement Initiative of the Year. The prestigious awards, now in their 30th year, recognise excellence across the construction industry and require project teams to showcase their work and demonstrate its impact on society. Nominated by the project's environmental consultants, RPS, this was one of the few categories in which a project was awarded a commendation and recognises the quality of the work that was undertaken by the project team in relation to community engagement as part of the planning process.

New Gas Training and Assessment facility announced for South West College

A new state-of-the-art Gas Training and Assessment facility is to be provided at South West College Technology and Skills Centre. The College is embarking on this initiative to build local capacity in support of the multi-million-pound Gas to the West project.

The Training and Assessment facility is scheduled to come on stream in late 2018, coinciding with the arrival of natural gas in Enniskillen. South West College and SGN Natural Gas have confirmed that plans for the training facility are currently at an advanced stage.

Darren Young, Head of Business Development with SGN Natural Gas, said he was delighted with South West College's vision, which would provide accredited training courses for people working or seeking to work in the gas industry.

He continued: "This training facility will enable people in the catchment area of South West College to avail of the most up-to-date courses accredited by the gas industry, in state-of-the-art facilities with professional trainers in their own locality instead of potentially having to travel further afield to places offering this type of training."

Michael McAlister, CEO of South West College, said he is delighted to welcome progress on the provision of the proposed new training facility, with a view to courses being available for enrolment during the 2018/2019 academic year.

"We are very happy with this training development which will equip people within our catchment area, and further afield, with the necessary skills and expertise to work in the gas industry coinciding with the Gas to the West project. Our aim is to equip local people with the skills and qualifications to avail of employment opportunities in the region."



Construction work underway on Gas to the West

October 2017 saw the start of the major construction work on the Gas to the West project in counties Tyrone and Fermanagh.

Murphy GMC and Roadbridge will be responsible for the specialist engineering and construction of 190km of gas pipelines in the Cookstown, Coalisland, Derrylin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Magherafelt and Omagh areas.

counties Fermanagh and Tyrone with seven teams working on the ground.

Speaking at a photocall at the Ballygawley site office to mark the announcement of the new main works contractors, SGN Natural Gas Director Danny O'Malley said the Gas to the West team were delighted to have reached this latest important milestone for the major energy project.

“This announcement marks yet another exciting milestone in the significant progress we've made with the project to date and, on behalf of SGN Natural Gas, once again I'd like to thank everyone involved and look forward to continued success going forward in partnership with our key contractors, suppliers and all the main stakeholders who have been so supportive in helping us reach this latest vital point in the process”.

Paddy Larkin, Chief Executive of project partners Mutual Energy, also said he was pleased that work was commencing on the new construction phase.

“We are looking forward to working with these local Irish companies as they get underway with delivering the Gas to the West project on the ground. They both have an excellent track record in projects of this scale and I know they will do everything they can to keep disruption to a minimum as we all work to ensure we can deliver the benefits of natural gas to homes and businesses across the west as soon as possible”.



The Gas to the West project team pictured after SGN Natural Gas and partners Mutual Energy, announced the appointment of the main works contractor for Gas to the West.

Roadbridge is the main works contractor for the high pressure pipeline and above ground installations which will run (largely cross country) from Portadown to Tullykeneye, just south of Fivemiletown. An Irish based family business, Roadbridge is a world leader in large civil engineering projects with significant experience in high pressure gas pipeline construction across Ireland, north and south. Following discharge of the planning conditions, construction commenced in mid-October on the cross country pipeline in the Derryhale area, just outside Portadown. Construction is planned for completion in late 2018 and will involve laying 78km of 400mm and 300mm pipe and constructing seven Above Ground Installations.

The main works contractor for the intermediate pressure pipeline is joint venture company Murphy GMC, also a major player in the utility sector in Ireland. Murphy GMC will be responsible for the installation of over 100km of mains pipeline, predominantly in public owned highways although there will also be a number of off-road sections and river crossings. Work on the intermediate pressure pipeline also got underway in mid-October at a number of locations across



Jim O'Gorman, GMC Group; John Murphy, Murphy Ltd; Danny O'Malley, Director of SGN Natural Gas; Gerry McCloskey, GMC Group; and Marcus McFarlane, Project Engineer, Mutual Energy.

Up to date information on roadworks can be found on the SGN Natural Gas website www.sgnnaturalgas.co.uk

Operational project updates

High pressure (HP) network

Work has begun with our contractor Roadbridge commencing construction in mid October 2017. Current activities include the erection of right-of-way fencing, top soil stripping and pipe stringing following discussions with affected landowners. Archaeologists are also continuing to work, in conjunction with environmental consultants, RPS, along the pipeline route.

In this initial phase of the project, a lot of preparatory work is being carried out for when construction activity ramps up from the springtime onwards. Work has also commenced on the Above Ground Installations at either end of the HP network at Derryhale (outside Portadown) and Tullykenneye (near Fivemiletown).

Intermediate pressure (IP) network

Construction began on the IP network in October with teams originally commencing work at three locations in this first phase of the project. The number of sites has now been increased with teams working on the ground at a total of eight locations by the end of October, and additional crews due to join the project in the New Year. Work ongoing in this phase of the project includes directional drilling and the laying of both steel mains and 315mm and 400mm PE (polyethylene) pipe.

Meetings and site walkovers with representatives from the Department for Infrastructure Roads Section Office are ongoing and liaison continues with local residents, landowners and farmers to ensure any works involving road closures have minimal impact upon their daily work and life.

Work is taking place on three separate legs of the IP network to bring gas to the towns of Dungannon, Coalisland, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Enniskillen, Derrylin and Omagh. To date 9,318m of pipe have been laid with teams currently relocating to more rural areas to accommodate the Christmas embargo and avoid impacting upon increased traffic volumes in the towns at this very busy time of year (see separate news item on page 4).

Safety, health and environment talks have taken place at two primary schools at Bush and Maguiresbridge to ensure local children are aware of the hazards of playing near works sites, and to provide them with further information on gas safety and on how gas gets into their homes (see separate news item on page 4).

Strabane low pressure (LP) network

The mobilisation for the Strabane medium pressure (MP) and low pressure (LP) network has been underway since November 2016 and a total of 20,644m of MP and LP mains have been laid, 3,742m of which have been commissioned to date. Consequently, 287 homes in Strabane now have access to natural gas and there are currently five domestic properties connected to the MP network.

The crossing of the Mourne River is now complete. The next phase of the project will involve testing the MP main from Canal Street (north of the Mourne River) to Melmount Road (south of the Mourne River). Following successful testing, approximately 4,290m of MP main will be commissioned.

Completion and commissioning of the river crossing will make gas available to a further 1,300 properties south of the Mourne River, including a large commercial premises at McColgan's factory.



Steel pipeline laid out along the route, ready for welding.



Bailey bridge silt fencing to protect waterway.



Gas to the West pipes leaving the Ballygawley depot to go to site.



Gas to the West roadworks underway in Strabane.



Dungannon pupils learn valuable lesson about gas safety

Primary School pupils in Dungannon have been learning valuable information about gas safety during a roadshow organised by SGN Natural Gas, which is currently in the process of bringing mains gas to homes and businesses in the town.

The company brought its educational roadshow to Bush Primary School as part of its community engagement programme coinciding with the commencement of the major construction phase of the 'Gas to the West' energy infrastructure project.

Dominic Scullion, Safety, Health and Environment Manager, SGN Natural Gas, visited the school to speak to pupils about gas safety in general and the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO). He also explained where gas comes from, how it gets into our homes, what to do if you smell gas, and how to stay safe near construction sites and equipment.

Dominic said he was impressed with the interest and enthusiasm from the P4-P7 pupils at Bush P.S. during his presentation which included a Q&A session.

He added: "Staying safe near our sites and equipment is the most important message that we are trying to convey as we are currently constructing the new gas network. This was the latest in a series of roadshows SGN Natural Gas will undertake throughout the catchment area of 'Gas to the West' and we look forward to announcing further details in the near future."

Mrs Barbara McKenzie, P7 teacher at Bush P.S., said both staff and pupils had benefited from the roadshow. She welcomed the opportunity for the school to host the event so pupils could learn more about the major new energy infrastructure project taking place in their local area and hear important messages around gas safety.



Dominic Scullion giving an SGN Natural Gas educational safety talk at Bush Primary School, Dungannon with pupils Lucy, Gabby, Aimee, and Eli.



Pupils at Bush Primary School, Dungannon listen to an SGN Natural Gas educational safety talk from Dominic Scullion.

Town centre gas road works put on hold for Christmas

SGN Natural Gas is temporarily postponing road works in the Strabane town centre area to facilitate the busy Christmas trading period.

Construction work to extend the new gas pipeline is on hold in arterial and town centre routes to minimise disruption during the festive season, effective from Monday 27 November 2017 until Monday 8 January 2018. This was a pre-planned voluntary arrangement to help ease traffic movement around the town centre during what is traditionally the busiest time of year.

SGN Natural Gas will meanwhile be working in other areas out of the town centre as scheduled to help ensure natural gas is available early in the new year.

Similar arrangements have been put in place in the vicinity of some of the other main towns along the pipeline route, to relocate crews to more rural areas and avoid town centres during the busy Christmas and New Year periods.



Dominic Scullion giving an SGN Natural Gas educational safety talk at Bush Primary School, Dungannon with pupils Sophia, seated, and standing from left, Miriam, Rory and Adam.

SGN Natural Gas now has a new website full of up-to-date information on the project, including details of roadworks and how to sign up to natural gas in your home or business.

sgnnaturalgas.co.uk