



## **What You Need to Know About Natural Gas and Electric Transmission Lines**



Natural gas and electric transmission lines deliver the energy used by homes and businesses each day. While these lines perform reliably, day in and day out, residents and businesses located near these facilities should know what to do and what not to do when around transmission lines to avoid accidents, and to ensure the continued delivery of electricity and natural gas. If you should see suspicious activity near transmission lines, contact Central Hudson right away by calling (845) 452-2700 or 1-800-527-2714.

# What is a Right of Way?

Electric and natural gas transmission lines deliver bulk energy to our region, and are often located in rights-of-way, which are corridors of land of varying dimensions (typically 30 to 150 feet wide) that accommodate poles, overhead lines and underground pipelines. Both electric and natural gas transmission lines can be located within the same right of way.

Central Hudson may own the property on which the facilities are located, or more commonly, has purchased the rights to use the property through an easement. A utility easement is a legal agreement with a landowner that permits Central Hudson to place transmission facilities on the property and allows for the maintenance and repair of the equipment as needed.

Central Hudson does not grant public access to utility easements or rights-of-way.

## **Restricted Use of Property within Easements**

Utility rights-of-way and easements are private property. While property owners retain some of their property use rights within these easements, certain actions are restricted. Each particular easement must be reviewed for its specific restrictions. Easements must also be kept clear of trees or other objects and activities that can interfere with the operation, maintenance, and repair of the facilities.

# Uses Within Utility Rights-of-Way

If you wish to conduct activities within a right-of-way, you must first contact Central Hudson by calling (845) 452-2700. If permitted, a legal agreement may be required, and there may be charges associated with certain uses or activities.

## *A sampling of activities or uses requiring permission include:*

- Erecting fences
- Establishing sports fields
- Installing drains, ditches, irrigation lines, or other activities requiring excavation
- Establishing vehicle crossings
- Changing the elevation or grade
- Constructing buildings, slab foundations, patios, satellite dishes, etc.
- Overhanging roofs and balconies
- Burning materials, including leaves, scrap lumber and wood
- Storing materials, vehicles, building goods and flammable items
- Pile driving, wells or drilling

Additional permits from the municipality may be necessary and should be applied for.

The lists above do not include all restricted uses, and Central Hudson personnel are always available to review property owners' plans and suggest appropriate uses of easements.



# Central Hudson's Maintenance

Central Hudson periodically maintains its easements by keeping lines clear of brush, trees or other natural obstacles that can interfere



with electric and natural gas service or maintenance activities. As a result of the 2003 Blackout that affected much of the Northeast, new federal and state regulations were enacted that require trimming of rights-of-way to their full easement limits. Central Hudson has developed a communications program to notify property owners along transmission lines of vegetation management activities.

Aerial inspections of transmission lines are conducted quarterly to identify areas that may require maintenance and to monitor activities along the transmission corridors. In addition, structural and leak surveys of natural gas transmission lines are conducted, and easements are patrolled to inspect for disturbances or encroachments that may interfere with the operation of these lines.

# Reporting Activity on a Right-of-Way

Careless or unauthorized digging poses a threat to underground facilities, and can endanger excavators and residents. Nationally, nearly 400,000 incidents occur each year in which underground facilities are damaged during excavation, many of these resulting in injuries and fatalities. Any construction or suspicious activities taking place on a utility right-of-way should be reported to Central Hudson immediately by calling (845) 452-2700 or 1-800-527-2714.



## **About Pipeline Markers:**

Pipeline markers serve to indicate that an underground pipeline is located nearby. Markers are not intended to identify the precise location of a pipeline, nor do they indicate the depth. Pipelines can be located anywhere within the right-of-way, and in some cases multiple pipelines may be placed together. When planning excavations near pipeline markers, always contact the One-Call center by dialing 811.

## Smell Natural Gas?

If you think you smell natural gas, don't light or use a match, turn lights on or off, use a flashlight, cell phone, telephone, flush or run water, or turn on or off any other appliance or electric/electronic device. Leave the building immediately and call Central Hudson as soon as possible at (800) 942-8274.



## Call Before You Dig

State laws require excavators to contact their One-Call center by dialing 811, or 1-800-962-7962, at least 2 to 10 days before digging so that underground lines can be marked out. Excavators must follow certain procedures when digging near marked lines. For more information, log onto [www.digsafelyny.com](http://www.digsafelyny.com).

**For more information** on natural gas and electric safety, visit our website at [www.CentralHudson.com](http://www.CentralHudson.com).

