



## **Wabasha Street Natural Gas Project**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

April 2022

#### **What is Xcel Energy working on in my community?**

Starting in April, we're replacing natural gas line along Wabasha Street, between 4th and Exchange streets, and along 4th Street West, between St. Peter and Cedar streets, in downtown St. Paul.

#### **Why is this project necessary?**

This project will help Xcel Energy to continue to provide safe, reliable service and to enhance system resiliency during extreme weather. The project also needs to be completed prior to the City of St. Paul's Wabasha Street Reconstruction Project.

#### **When will work begin?**

Work begins as early as April 11, 2022, and will continue into June 2022. Schedules are subject to change.

#### **Will my natural gas service be interrupted?**

For some customers, natural gas service interruptions will occur. We will communicate with you directly if you'll be impacted.

#### **What kind of impacts can I expect?**

Construction may require short-term road, sidewalk closures and parking restrictions. While we work in front of driveways, we'll maintain at least one lane of traffic. If this needs to change, we'll provide you with updates.

As work occurs, you may notice:

- Utility line marking and survey holes.
- Equipment, crews and materials.
- Road and sidewalk closures.
- Access changes.
- Construction noise.



### **How will work occur?**

Work occurs in multiple steps:

- Setting up traffic control around work areas.
- Digging trenches or setting up bore rigs.
- Storing natural gas line in the work area.
- Welding the natural gas line. Welding happens in a safe manner and when weather allows.
- Installing the natural gas line.
- Covering and temporarily restoring the area.

### **What are some good safety tips when near or passing through the work area?**

Work areas change regularly. Follow these tips for your safety and the safety of our crews:

- Watch for crews and equipment.
- Stay outside and away from work areas.
- Follow directions on signs and from crews.
- Reduce your speeds.
- Stay alert! Traffic control changes regularly.
- Avoid using your cell phone.

### **How does Xcel Energy work to keep me safe?**

Public safety is at the foundation of all we do. The safety of the public around our natural gas system influences every decision we make. We take a proactive approach to public safety by implementing safety measures before, during and after construction.

### **What safety standards are in place?**

The project has been designed to continue to meet federal and state standards and safety requirements for installing, maintaining and operating natural gas infrastructure.

Natural gas is safe, and we are committed to customer safety. We follow natural gas line safety regulations, and our trained and qualified gas operations workforce regularly patrols and monitors our systems.

### **Does Xcel Energy monitor and inspect the natural gas lines?**

Xcel Energy staff monitor natural gas lines and facility operations 24/7 from Xcel Energy's gas operations center. We also conduct internal inspections of our natural gas lines using in-line inspection technology.

### **Why is it important to call before you dig?**

A common cause of natural gas incidents results from improper or unauthorized digging near underground utilities. Prior to digging, call **811** or visit **[gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org)** to have buried utility lines located and marked.



### **What should I do if I suspect a natural gas leak?**

If you ever suspect a natural gas leak, leave your location immediately. Once safely away, call **911**, then Xcel Energy at **800-895-2999**.

### **What are signs of a natural gas leak?**

It's important to know how to recognize potentially dangerous natural gas leaks, so use your sense. Signs of a leak include:

- “Rotten egg” or sulfur-like odor. It may smell differently to you, though.
- Hissing, whistling or roaring noise outside near the natural gas line or inside near appliances.
- Dirt spraying into the air or continuous bubbling in a creek or pond.
- Unexplained dead or dying vegetation.

### **How can I stay connected with the project?**

We're committed to keeping you informed by:

- Sharing regular updates via website, email and hotline.
- Responding to questions as quickly as possible.

### **How can I contact someone about your work?**

If you have questions or comments, we want to hear from you. Visit [XcelEnergyNGProjects.com/Wabasha](http://XcelEnergyNGProjects.com/Wabasha), email [Wabasha@XcelEnergyNGProjects.com](mailto:Wabasha@XcelEnergyNGProjects.com) or call 651-603-4690.