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CenterPoint Energy to replace natural gas lines in Woodland

Dear Property Owner,

At CenterPoint Energy, we are committed to providing relevant information to our customers and the general public to minimize inconvenience or disruption due to our construction activities. If natural gas work has already happened in your neighborhood, you may disregard this letter.

What is the crews' progress with natural gas main replacements?

Since early May 2021, crews from CenterPoint Energy's authorized contractor, Michels Corporation, have been replacing natural gas lines in Woodland. This letter is to inform residents about the crews' progress in relation to residents' properties. In early June, a crew from Michels Corporation is replacing the natural gas mains on Maplewood Drive, Shavers Lane and Maple Ridge Road, before continuing to Stone Arch Road. They will connect the new mains to the existing intersecting mains. They anticipate finishing the main replacements by June 25, pending weather.

The crews are installing the new mains in the road three feet away from the existing mains. This will be away from the residents' properties and driveways. Although customers can mark their privately-installed utilities, such as sprinkler systems or dog fences, the crews anticipate that the natural gas main replacements will not interfere with the private utilities. If customers mark their private utilities, they can do so with spray paint, utility flags, or other items. For sprinklers, marking the heads, rather than the lines, is necessary.

What is CenterPoint Energy's COVID-19 protocol?

The construction crews and personnel will continue to use the Covid-19 Customer Permission Flyer, which requests customer permission prior to entering homes. Personnel, contractors and CenterPoint Energy employees will continue to practice CDC guidelines regarding social distancing, sanitary practices and wearing face masks when entering customer homes.

What if I have an inside gas meter?

A separate crew from Michels Corporation is connecting the natural gas service lines to the new mains and moving any inside meters to the outside of homes. This work will continue into July 2021. The customer will receive a CenterPoint Energy postcard in the mail typically within one or two weeks prior to the day when the Michels Corporation crews will perform the work. The crews will have CenterPoint Energy-authorized photo IDs stating that they are employees of Michels Corporation.

After the customer receives the postcard, the foreman will arrive at the customer's house to schedule an appointment that typically meets with the customer's schedule. If the customer isn't home when he arrives, he will leave a door tag with his contact information to schedule an appointment with him.

Customers are advised to set aside a two- to four-hour time frame for the inside-to-outside gas meter move. They are also advised to mark their privately-installed utilities such as dog fences or sprinklers. Marking can be accomplished with tools such as spray paint or utility flags. The foreman will access the natural gas meter inside the house, move the meter outside, and relight the natural gas appliance pilot lights after the new meter has been relocated. Customers with outside meters will be notified prior to the replacement or connection of the service lines to the new mains.

What should I expect during restoration?

Crews from Q3 Contracting, CenterPoint Energy’s authorized contractor, will follow to restore the areas affected by Michels Corporation’s work, including hard and soft surfaces. On the soft surfaces such as boulevards and lawns, various erosion control measures keep the restored area moist, hold seed in the soil, and enhance seed germination. If an erosion blanket is needed it is secured in place with staples. The mesh is a wood fiber that will completely degrade. Prior to mowing the restored area, remove any loose staples that secured the blanket.

How can I contact CenterPoint Energy?

For more information or to sign up for updates, please visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Construction, click on “Project Sites” and “Woodland.” Look for future communications via mailings or a door tag left by the CenterPoint Energy inspector. We appreciate your patience as we continue to upgrade our natural gas system, ensuring system reliability for years to come.

