

COVID-19 Advisory Statement

CenterPoint Energy Construction Services Department - Minnesota Region
March 31, 2020

Consistent with [the Minnesota Governor's COVID-19 stay-at-home order](#), CenterPoint Energy will continue to perform essential critical infrastructure work. CenterPoint Energy and our authorized contractor, Michels Corporation, will be constructing and installing replacement natural gas mains with no gas interruptions to customers.

However, we want communities to be aware of significant work limitations due to the COVID-19 situation, which may also affect planned public works projects (such as road resurfacing and underground water and sewer work).

Here is what we want you to know:

Natural gas service line and meter replacements will be suspended into late spring or until further notice. We are delaying this work in recognition that, at the current time, many residential customers may be apprehensive about allowing uninvited work activity into their homes. We are reviewing potential solutions to complete this work in two phases.

For projects involving both gas main and service line replacements, our contractors will perform work on the mains first. Service line work will then occur in two phases. In Phase I, replacement service lines will be installed but will not be connected to the customers' existing gas service. Phase II will follow after such actions as the governor's order is lifted *and* public concern about COVID-19 infections diminishes to the point that residents allow service work inside their homes. At that time, crews will return to the job sites to perform the remaining work and connect the new service and meter.

The delay in replacing gas service lines will also delay work necessary to take older mains out of service (retirements). Until the service line replacements can be done, these existing gas mains must remain in service. This will affect and potentially delay roadway excavation work by others, including road mill and overlay projects in locations where gas main retirement work will still need to be completed. As a result, there will need to be even closer communication and coordination between local public works and CenterPoint Energy about these projects.

CenterPoint Energy's authorized contractor, Q3 Contracting, will continue to restore all hard surfaces affected by our work. As usual, soft surfaces affected by this work will be restored if they would otherwise become a safety hazard.

We appreciate your understanding and patience as we continue to ensure the safety of our customers, our employees and the communities we serve. More information is available at our Construction Zone and COVID-19 webpages (below). **If you have questions, please contact Construction Services at 612-321-5369** (*the department is working away from the office, thank you for your patience regarding returned calls*). *If you know the project engineer, you may also contact them with questions.*

CenterPoint Energy Construction Zone: <https://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/residential/in-your-community/construction-projects?sa=mn>

CenterPoint Energy COVID-19 Update: <https://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/Corp/Pages/COVID-19.aspx?sa=mn&au=res>