

## Blackpool: essential upgrade of gas pipe

Engineers will replace ageing metal pipe with long-lasting plastic one

19 Apr 2017

- **Upgrade of 586 metres of medium pressure pipe on Collingwood Avenue**
- **Traffic management in place, access to residents only, and expect delays**

The upgrade of a key gas distribution pipe through Blackpool is set to begin next week.

Engineers will set up a traffic management system on Collingwood Avenue as they replace ageing, unreliable cast iron mains with modern, long-lasting plastic ones.

The new polyethylene pipes need less maintenance and are more durable, which means they are much less likely to suffer faults during their minimum 80-year lifespan.

Following careful planning and communications with the local authority (Blackpool Council), the teams from National Grid Gas Distribution will begin work on 24 April. Four-way temporary traffic lights will go up on Collingwood Avenue, at the junction of Newton Drive and Beech Avenue. These will be in place for two weeks.

Then, from 8 May, for 10 weeks, a full road closure will be in place on Collingwood Avenue, between Hollywood Avenue and the junction of Newton Drive. There will be restricted access for residents only and there is likely to be restricted parking available. Letters have been sent to all residents within this road closure area.

Gas supplies in the area should not be affected during the work, which is part of a 30-year, country-wide programme – required by regulators – to replace gas mains.

Stephen Murray, head of contract for National Grid Gas Distribution, said: "This is essential work to ensure people can continue to enjoy safe and reliable gas supplies, to heat their properties and cook their meals, for at least another 80 years. We have worked very hard to minimise disruption, working closely with the council.

"It is inevitable and unavoidable that there will be some inconvenience while we carry out this work, for which I can only apologise."

Further information is available from the customer team on 0161 703 1000 / 1010. General information on the gas mains replacement programme is at [www.bettergaspipes.co.uk](http://www.bettergaspipes.co.uk)

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#### Notes for editors

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National Grid Gas Distribution manages the national gas emergency service free phone line on behalf of the gas industry - 0800 111 999 (All calls are recorded and may be monitored).

National Grid Gas Distribution Ltd is majority owned by a consortium of global investors composed of Macquarie Infrastructure and Real Assets (14.5%), CIC Capital (10.5%), Allianz Capital Partners (10.2%), Hermes Investment Management (8.5%), The Qatar Investment Authority, (8.5%), Amber/INPP (4.4%) and Dalmore Capital (4.4%). National Grid plc retains a 39% stake [following the sale of the majority stake completed in March 2017].

#### Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

#### National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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