

## Pipeline Valve Operation

### Quick Facts

#### Valves are Important Safety Mechanisms

Valves are installed at intervals along pipelines and can be closed to stop the flow of gas for maintenance, ruptures or leaks.

#### Our Top Priorities are Safeguarding People and Protecting Property

In the rare cases of pipeline ruptures or leaks, valves are closed as quickly as possible. Although valves shut off gas flow, natural gas is still in the closed-off section of pipe.

- Natural gas quickly dissipates into the air. Therefore, the highest danger to life and property is in the initial stages of a leak.
- All people near a pipeline should evacuate immediately once a leak has been detected.
- Natural gas will not ignite without an open flame, spark, extreme heat, etc; therefore, people should avoid creating a source of ignition.
- Valves are at closer intervals near densely populated areas when a pipeline is constructed.

#### Three Primary Types of Flow-Stopping Valves

Several types of valves are used at intervals along natural gas pipelines.

- **Manual Valve:** Opened and closed by hand.
- **Remote Valve:** Opened and closed remotely from a gas pipeline flow control center.
- **Automatic Shut-off Valve:** Shut-off valves close automatically if pipeline pressure drops or if gas flow direction changes. As an

additional safety measure, automatic valves also can be closed manually.

#### Trained Professionals 24/7

Natural gas pipeline operators go to great lengths to ensure safe operations. In addition to using high-quality materials, proven construction techniques and advanced valve and pipeline maintenance technology, pipeline operators are trained rigorously.

- Pipeline control centers are manned by trained professionals 24/7.
- Electronic monitoring devices at various points along the pipeline transmit pressure readings to control centers. If pressures fall outside established parameters, an alarm alerts gas control professionals who take appropriate action.
- Emergency responders or the public may report a pipeline leak or incident to gas control centers by dialing toll-free numbers. The controllers use this information to quickly assess the situation.

