Welcome to issue 4 of the Gas to the West project newsletter, which we hope you continue to find a useful source of up to date information on this major energy infrastructure project. The project continues to make good progress with work well underway on the Maydown to Strabane section.

A key focus of the project team is the preparation of the environmental statement and planning application for the high pressure and intermediate pressure pipelines required to take gas to the town gates. We have been very busy meeting with community and other key stakeholders and their views have been vitally important as we work towards the final project design and route selection.

As always, your feedback in relation to the newsletter, or the project more widely, is always welcome.

Kind regards,

Paddy Larkin
Chief Executive
Mutual Energy

Danny O’Malley
Director
SGN Natural Gas

Planning update

Gas to the West is a major energy infrastructure project which will deliver the benefits of natural gas to homes and businesses in the west of Northern Ireland – it involves construction of approximately 80km of high pressure cross country gas pipeline and 110km intermediate pressure pipeline, laid mainly in the public roadways. As with any project of this scale, achieving planning in a timely fashion is an important element of successful project delivery. The planning process for Gas to the West is well underway, with the PAN (Pre Application Notice) having been submitted to DoE Planning at the end of March.

A second phase of Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) events has taken place during April, and the feedback received at, and following, these events will be important in informing the final design of the project. The six PACC events, held in Portadown, Augher, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Omagh and Magherafelt were well attended with around 230 people having taken part. In addition to members of the public, landowners and representatives of local business organisations, a number of elected representatives visited the events, including: in Augher: Tom Elliott, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone and Councillors Rosemary Barton (now an MLA) and Robert Mulligan; in Dungannon: Councillors Mark Kelso, Johnny McNeill, Dominic Molloy and Kim Ashton; in Enniskillen: Councillor Brendan Ferguson; in Omagh: Councillors Joanne Donnelly, Errol Thompson and Sorcha McAnespie and in Portadown: Councillors Jonathan Buckley and Darryn Causby (Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council).

The project team, supported by its expert consultants and environment advisors, are fully engaged with the planning system and consultees within the planning process. It is important, in order to ensure the final application makes the best possible progress through the planning process that we, at this stage, ensure that the views of all stakeholders are incorporated and a number of changes to the project design have already been made following valuable feedback received and information obtained as part of the stakeholder engagement and environmental assessment for the project. The project team remains committed to ensuring we submit the best quality application we can, in as timely a fashion as possible, and all of our resources are directed at achieving this.

Lord Mayor of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Darryn Causby with Gerard McIlroy, Mutual Energy at the Portadown PACC event.

Members of the project team meeting with visitors at the Dungannon PACC event.
Gas to the West: Supply chain opportunities showcased

During April, SGN Procurement, with the support of Mutual Energy, held a roadshow of Supplier Information Events across Northern Ireland to provide businesses with information about the project and how they could form part of the project’s supply chain.

Over 75 businesses attended along with representatives from local councils and business organisations. These events were also supported by the Strategic Investment Board.

Attendees were encouraged to register their interest on the project’s supplier portal which provides a platform to promote opportunities in association with the project and offers local suppliers the chance to get involved in this major project.

To find out about supply chain opportunities and register your business as a potential supplier, visit: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/GTWprocurement

Strabane project update

Construction work is continuing on the Maydown to Strabane IP Pipeline Project, a 30km pipeline that will bring gas from Maydown to the outskirts of Strabane. The project started in November 2015 and is on target for completion in December 2016. At this stage over 25km of pipeline has been installed and pressure testing has begun with substantive completion of construction expected in August. This will be followed by testing of the pipeline, with commissioning in sections expected from October.

SGN Natural Gas appointments

A number of new appointments have recently been made to the SGN Natural Gas team.

Jonny Millar joined the company in March 2016 as Head of Finance and Regulation, having previously worked for the Utility Regulator, in its tariffs and finance department, and previously within the gas directorate. Before that he was Finance Manager at firmus energy, having begun his career at KPMG.

Darren Young took up the role of Head of Business Development in April 2016, from firmus energy, where he was senior key account manager looking after the connections and energy requirements of the larger industrial customers, whilst managing the SME sales reps for the entire network. Darren started his career in the sales team at David Lloyd Leisure in Belfast, becoming Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager before moving to firmus in 2005.