In the pipeline
Gas to the West news

A major energy infrastructure project to extend the benefits of natural gas to Coalisland, Cookstown, Derrylin, Dungannon, Enniskillen, Magherafelt, Omagh and Strabane.

Welcome to edition number 7 of our Gas to the West newsletter where we’re able to tell you the latest news about our exciting £250 million infrastructural investment in the west of Northern Ireland. We have reached a really important juncture – obtaining full planning permission – and we’re now ready to start the construction phase of the project. We’re very grateful to everyone involved in helping us get planning right – from the planners in the department of Infrastructure through to all the other statutory bodies and stakeholders as well as public representatives and all those who participated in our extensive public consultation process.

We have already completed the first part of the Gas to the West infrastructure, the line from Derry/Londonderry to Strabane, signing up our first major customer (LacPatrick dairy) along the way. The distribution network is being built out around Strabane and it should not be long before we bring the benefits of natural gas to the first domestic customers ever in the West of the province.

The Strabane work has gone really smoothly and we are determined to ensure that the build out of the rest of Gas to the West network is every bit as well managed and delivered. Now its time to get to work!

Kind regards

Paddy Larkin
Chief Executive
Mutual Energy

Danny O’Malley
Director
SGN Natural Gas

‘Green Light’ on planning for Gas-to-the-West Project

SGN Natural Gas and Mutual Energy’s ‘Gas to the West’ project has just secured planning approval and is now ready to move from the pre-planning phase to the full construction phase. This is a massively important milestone for the project and creates much more certainty about the project being delivered against the timetable envisaged by project partners SGN Natural Gas and Mutual Energy.

SGN Natural Gas Director Danny O’Malley said,

“This is excellent news. We are delighted to have obtained planning permission for Gas to the West. We now look forward to making a £250 million investment and transforming the energy options available to many thousands of households and businesses in the West of Northern Ireland in the years ahead.

Project partner Mutual Energy CEO Paddy Larkin also emphasised the significance of obtaining the green light on planning. He said

The fact that such a complex project made its way through the planning system in 5 months is testament to the good work that went in prior to submission of the full application. This includes the thoroughness of our public consultation and our pre-application discussions with stakeholders. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in getting our project to this important stage”

Opportunities Ahead

The GtW project now moves to the full construction phase. The contracts awarded should create many new jobs and procurement opportunities in the local supply chain.

Gas to the West – the Project

GtW brings the benefits of natural gas to an estimated 40,000 new domestic, commercial and industrial customers. The project involves an investment of £250 million and will comprise an 80 kilometre high pressure (HP) pipeline connecting to the existing network near Portadown, and running through parts of county Tyrone and Fermanagh to a point West of Clogher. Several Intermediate Pressure (IP) pipelines (totalling around 110 kilometres in length) will connect to the HP line to serve the following towns:-

(1) Dungannon and Coalisland, Cookstown and Magherafelt
(2) Omagh, and
(3) Enniskillen and Derrylin

Separately, although very much part of Gas to the West, a 30km IP pipeline connecting the Strabane area with the existing system at Derry/Londonderry has already been constructed.
New Chairman appointed to SGN Natural Gas

SGN Natural Gas is pleased to announce that Mark Ennis has become its part-time Chairman from 1 March 2017.

Commenting on the appointment John Lobban MD, Scotland & NI said: “I’d like to extend a warm welcome to Mark who’s been a senior figure on the Northern Ireland energy scene for many years. He brings with him considerable experience and strategic knowledge of both the political and regulatory regimes as well as being a highly respected member of local business forums.”

John added: “We’ve built, and continue to build, a strong team of people led by Danny O’Malley, our Director of SGN Natural Gas, to deliver our £250m infrastructure project. Mark is joining Danny and the team at an exciting time as we start to complete vital connections such as the Strabane leg to our newest gas network, delivering natural gas to areas of the country for the first time.”

Mark Ennis commented: “I’m delighted to be a part of the SGN Natural Gas team here in Northern Ireland and very much looking forward to working with them and contributing to what is fast becoming a major success story, not just for the people and businesses of Northern Ireland, but for the UK’s energy industry as a whole.

SGN employees who have excelled in their roles

SGN employees who have excelled in their roles this year were recognised at the gas network company’s Outstanding People Awards, held recently at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow.

The Team Achievement award went to SGN’s Gas to the West/SGN Natural Gas teams for their work on a major infrastructure to extend the gas network to the west of Northern Ireland. Stakeholder Engagement Support Manager, Margaret Hamilton, who nominated them, said: “Their carefully planned and effective approach, together with a ‘can do’ attitude from every member of the team, succeeded in delivering gas to the first customer in Northern Ireland in a safe, efficient and cost-effective manner.”

Now in their fifth year, SGN’s Outstanding People Awards recognise exceptional performance and dedication among its employees. This year, over 500 nominations were received from colleagues across Scotland and southern England. These were whittled down to a shortlist of 24 finalists made up of both teams and individuals, from which judges had the tough job of choosing the award winners.

SGN Natural Gas launch new website

SGN Natural Gas launched its new website in May 2017. Customers will find a very user friendly and easy to navigate site. Going forward a postcode look up will be added so customers can check gas availability in their area, and a supplier portal which will enable site works to be raised online.

Please visit www.sgnaturalgas.co.uk
Strabane work moving ahead

We continue to make good progress in the Gas to the West operations in Strabane. The final leg of the Maydown to Strabane intermediate pressure pipeline from Artigarvan to the inlet of the DPG and Woodend Road in Strabane has been completed. This is an important project milestone and brings forward the availability of natural gas in the town of Strabane.