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PSE&G to upgrade aging cast iron gas facilities in Highland Park

New durable plastic pipes will improve reliability and reduce possibility of methane leaks

(September 13, 2016) – Public Service Electric & Gas Company (PSE&G) will be working in Highland Park to replace approximately 2 miles of older gas pipes with new, durable plastic and/or coated steel piping – ensuring a continued safe, clean and reliable gas system well into the future.

"These upgrades are part of PSE&G's three-year program to replace up to 510 miles of aging gas infrastructure throughout New Jersey," said Joe Forline, vice president of gas operations for PSE&G. "We are working closely with municipal officials and the department of public works to coordinate construction schedules and are committed to keeping customers in Highland Park informed about where and when the work will take place."

The new pipes will improve reliability, reduce the possibility of methane leaks, and enable the installation of excess flow valves on service lines. These valves dramatically reduce gas flow if a pipe is damaged. The elevated pressure of the new gas mains will also provide better support for high-efficiency appliances like furnaces and water heaters.

Beginning on or about September 19, work will take place Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., conditions permitting, on the following streets:

Street	Town	Between Streets	
Abbott Street	Highland Park	N 9th Avenue	N 6th Avenue
Central Avenue	Highland Park	Columbia Street	Sparkel Avenue
Central Avenue	Highland Park	Alcazar Avenue	140' west of Alcazar Avenue
Cleveland Avenue	Highland Park	River Road	Madison Avenue
Columbia Street	Highland Park	Woodbridge Avenue	Harvard Avenue
Exeter Street	Highland Park	Harvard Avenue	315' north of Harvard Avenue
Harrison Avenue	Highland Park	River Road	10' east of River Road
Janeway	Highland Park	Jackson Avenue	Cleveland Avenue
Madison Avenue	Highland Park	Cleveland Avenue	N 4th Avenue
N 4th Avenue	Highland Park	Denison Street	Montgomery Street
N 7th Avenue	Highland Park	Abbott Street	S Park Avenue
N 5th Avenue	Highland Park	50' south of Abbott Street	Montgomery Street
River Road	Highland Park	75' south of Wayside Drive	215' north of Walter Avenue
S 5th Avenue	Highland Park	Mansfield Street	Raritan Avenue

Residents will be notified when work begins in their area by phone, mail, email, door hangers and Facebook posts. The gas main replacement portion of the work is expected to be complete in December 2016. The paving and street restoration is expected to be completed in the Spring of 2017. Customers can find more information at www.pseg.com/gaswork.

How the work will be done

Before construction can start, the utility tests soil and digs test holes to verify the location of existing gas mains. When this preliminary work is complete, PSE&G will begin installing the new gas mains and upgrading associated service lines that carry the gas to homes and businesses.

- PSE&G crews will dig trenches, primarily in road surfaces, and lay new pipes block by block, in order to limit the impacted areas on any given day. There will be short-term road closures and detours during construction. Local police will direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic. At the end of each workday, the trenches will be filled in, and plates secured, on any open areas so people can safely drive and walk.

- After the new gas mains are installed, PSE&G will need to access customers' homes to connect their service lines and meter. PSE&G will contact homeowners to arrange a date and time to do the connections. During the connection work, customers will be without gas service for approximately four hours. PSE&G will relight all appliances and make sure they are safely working before leaving a home.

- In most cases, PSE&G will be able to install the new pipes without digging in lawns. Lawn areas, shrubs or other vegetation affected by the work will be restored. Grass areas will be raked and seeded.

- PSE&G will repair roads with temporary pavement until the ground settles. This takes about 45 to 90 days, depending on the weather and soil conditions. PSE&G then restores the roads with permanent paving in accordance with town ordinance and paving requirements.

- PSE&G crews will use work area protection including traffic cones, utility work signs, and barriers to ensure the job is done safely. The utility reminds motorists to slow down and follow detour signs when driving through the construction area.

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Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) is New Jersey's oldest and largest regulated gas and electric delivery utility, serving nearly three-quarters of the state's population. PSE&G is the winner of the ReliabilityOne Award for superior electric system reliability. PSE&G is a subsidiary of Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (PSEG) (NYSE:PEG), a diversified energy company (www.pseg.com).

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