

Brianna Peak
Manager
Gas Engineering and Operations



January 2024

Supervisor Patrick McCulloch
439 Main St.
Catskill, NY 12414

Dear Municipal Official:

Natural gas is the most popular home heating fuel in America and is supplied by a pipeline system that is among the safest and most secure methods of transporting energy. Central Hudson operates more than 2,000 miles of natural gas pipelines in the Mid-Hudson Valley including transmission, distribution mains and service lines. These pipelines are located underground and quietly, reliably, and efficiently deliver natural gas throughout our service territory for household, commercial, and industrial use.

Despite an excellent safety record, a gas leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite. Central Hudson has procedures in place to notify emergency responders in the event of such an incident. Information concerning gas safety is on our website at www.CentralHudson.com/en/my-energy/safety/natural-gas and brochures regarding natural gas safety are made available to the public.

Accidental damage during excavation poses the greatest risk to underground pipelines. In order to protect our natural gas pipelines and other underground facilities, it is critical that the One-Call system be used two to ten days prior to **any** excavation and related activities on public and private property. In the Hudson Valley, this system is known as **UDIG-NY, and they can be reached by dialing 811, or on the web at www.UDIGNY.org**. This organization will contact all participating agencies, such as municipalities and utilities, so that we may identify and mark any underground facilities that may be present at the excavation site.

Underground facilities are located in established rights-of-way, and encroachments into these areas can jeopardize vital utility services, as well as endanger workers and those in the immediate vicinity. Information on the use of the One-Call system and the necessity of protecting underground facilities should be **shared with your planning and zoning boards**, so that they are aware of these potential issues when presented with plans by property owners and developers.

Underground pipelines are vital to the communities in the Hudson Valley. Line markers are sometimes used to indicate approximate location along the transmission route. Additional information on transmission pipelines can be obtained from the National Pipeline Mapping System (www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov).

284 South Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Direct: (845) 486-6032
email: BPeak@cenhud.com
www.CentralHudson.com

Please also be aware that gas safety training and resources are available from UDIG-NY and Central Hudson. You may find these resources useful to your municipality and helpful to key staff including public works, emergency response and water authority personnel.

UDIG-NY offers free in-person training, providing a detailed overview of excavation code requirements and safe digging best practices. To schedule a free class, contact John Yehl at 845-661-9514. Online training videos, which contain similar content, are available at www.digsafelynewyork.com/safety-training/safety-videos.

UDIG-NY has also developed a comprehensive *Certified Excavator Program*. Completion of this course will satisfy New York state legislation that requires contractors and excavation personnel employed by a municipality or natural gas operator to complete a training and education program. A searchable database of certified contractors can be found at <https://UDIGNY.org/safety-training/cep/>, which should be utilized when selecting contractors.

Central Hudson also mails safety information to municipalities and contractors on safe practices when working near utility overhead and underground lines, and offers online resources, including videos and training materials, at <https://centrallhudson.e-smarttonline.net/worker>.

You may also wish to take advantage of **Central Hudson's on-site, hands-on training program for emergency responders**, developed for local police and fire departments, utilizing a mobile training trailer that can be brought to your location. The program and equipment provide conditions and situations responders may encounter in the field. A classroom training component will review emergency procedures, scene coordination and responder responsibilities during an emergency; while the demonstration portion includes a review of actual gas meter sets that may be encountered as well as a portable chamber to show the properties of natural gas. Participants will be able to recognize common equipment in the field and be aware of the safe actions they should take. To schedule training for your facility, please contact Central Hudson First Responder Training line at (844) 428-7318.

We remain committed to a comprehensive public safety program. Enclosed are additional resources for your office and your constituents regarding the steps Central Hudson and the natural gas industry are taking to ensure that our most popular fuel remains the safest choice.

A list of emergency contacts at Central Hudson is also enclosed, which you may share with your law enforcement, emergency response and planning organizations.

Please contact Nathan Jackson, District Director in our Catskill office at **845-334-3513** if you would like to learn more of Central Hudson's initiatives to promote and improve natural gas safety, or to meet with our engineering and operations staff to discuss the gas facilities located in your area. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Brianna C. Peak
Manager, Gas Engineering and Operations
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.

Enclosures