



NATURAL GAS PIPELINE OPERATOR

VACo ACHIEVEMENT AWARD APPLICATION

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Economic Development

Carroll County

2013 VACo Achievement Award
Economic Development Service Category

Natural Gas Pipeline Operator

Overview:

Carroll County, along with the Carroll County Industrial Development Authority were informed that a large employer within the County would be forced to move their operations if their operational costs were not reduced. Immediate actions were taken to supply Natural Gas to the company to help offset their costs. Natural Gas is currently flowing in Carroll County, saving 154 jobs as well as having the potential to serve other industries, commercial and residential users in the future and provide expanded services to our County customers of Industrial and Residential users.

2013 VACo Achievement Award Economic Development Category

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Summary of Carroll County project:

In the spring of 2011, Mohawk Industries announced to the County in a private setting that they had to reduce their operational cost or they would have to leave Carroll County. The leave would have devastated the community by removing 154 direct jobs and more than \$10,000,000 in capital investment in a single swoop. One way to reduce cost would be to have Natural Gas (NG) at their plant rather than fuel oil. The estimate of savings of using Natural Gas at approximately \$80,000 per month to Mohawk.

With Mohawk Industries being a huge Customer of Carroll, actions started IMMEDIATELY to work with the State Corporation Commission (SCC) licensed provider of NG in Carroll. It needs to be pointed out that a single molecule of NG had never been used in Carroll because the NG Tap Station had never been opened by the group who held the Certificate of Need and Necessity by the SCC.

Even though NO NG had ever been used in Carroll County, the twenty-four inch (24) high pressure transportation Patriot Line was completed in 2003 with five (5) taps that traverse the County. The Company holding the Certificate from the SCC started working to construct the line and then slowed their efforts to a halt at the point they did not re-file for the required Certificate of Need and Necessity. The ONLY option at this point was to be creative and find a way to get NG to Mohawk to save jobs and tax base.

The County Administrator contacted County Attorney, Jim Cornwell and they started digging through the Code of VA and found that the Industrial Development Authority (IDA) could build the line while Carroll County could operate the line without the Certificate of Need and Necessity from the SCC.

The IDA went to work and had the County Administrator negotiate an agreement with Mohawk for the construction of a NG line. Mohawk would pay up to \$1.5 million on the construction of the line that would eventually run three and one-half (3.5) miles. The line would be sized to support other Industries, Commercial and Residential users in the future.

The IDA contracted with Roanoke Gas for construction of the line and worked together to place in service a NG line that currently serves Mohawk Industries. The delivery of NG saved the 154 jobs and the tax base of a corporate citizen and Carroll County became the first and ONLY County in the Commonwealth to own and operate a NG line. Using this technique, NO Rate Cases are necessary with the SCC and Carroll County is proud to have a Natural Gas Department that will be used to attract and create more jobs for the region.

Due to complexities of the construction, the County Administrator was successful in negotiating an additional \$200,000 payment from Mohawk toward the project for a total cost of \$1.7 million and a new utility that will serve Carroll County for generations to come.

At the completion of the line, Mohawk has estimated the cost savings to the company to go from \$80,000 per month to more than \$110,000 per month due to the competitive rate structures of Carroll County and the spread between fuel oil cost and NG.

NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is delivered to area homes and businesses efficiently and safely through a network of underground piping. It's used for heating, cooking, and water heating. Persons who live and work along pipelines can help prevent gas emergencies by following these guidelines:

What to do if you suspect a gas leak?

Walk away from the immediate area and warn others to stay away.

Leave any door you exit unlocked
Do not operate any electrical switches or equipment, including garage door openers, vehicles, or telephones
Remain at a nearby location until an emergency responder arrives

Do not go back to the immediate area until an emergency responder says it is safe to do so

Once at a safe location, call the Carroll County Sheriff at (276) 728-4146 or 911.

Common signs of a natural gas leak are:

A gas odor
A blowing or hissing sound
Dirt being blown or thrown in the air
Water being blown or thrown into the air at a pond or creek
Fire coming from the ground
Brown patches in vegetation near a pipeline right-of-way
A dry spot in a moist field

What to do if a pipeline is damaged - call Sheriff's Department immediately, and:

Do not try to fix or repair the damage
Do not cover or hide the damaged line
Do not allow unnecessary people in the area
Eliminate any source of ignition from the area

If damage results in the escape of natural gas - call Sheriff's Department and 911 immediately, and:

Do not try to handle or repair the damage
Let the broken line ventilate, letting the gas escape into the air
Do not cover or hide the broken line
Eliminate any source of ignition from the area
Do not allow unnecessary people in the area

Dig with C.A.R.E.

Call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig
Allow required time for marking
Respect the marks
Excavate carefully

There will be a Public Awareness Meeting on April 25th, 2013 at 6:00 pm in the Board Room located at 605-1 Pine Street, 2nd Floor, Hillsville, Virginia

This meeting will be held to discuss the route of the newly installed natural gas pipeline, future opportunities for community members for both commercial and residential customers and to address any safety concerns. After the presentation, representatives from the Carroll County Gas Utility will be available to take comments and answer questions.

Whether your project is big or small, always dig with C.A.R.E.

The call to Miss Utility at 811 is free and so is the service.

For more information call Carroll County at (276) 730-3001











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Call for Entries



2013 VACo Achievement Awards

Deadline: June 1, 2013

Application Form

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2013.**


Program Information

Locality Carroll County
Program Title Natural Gas Pipeline Operator
Program Category Economic Development

Contact Information

Name Crystal Adams
Title Administrative Coordinator
Department County Administrators Office
Complete Mailing Address 605-1 Pine Street, Hillsville, Va 24343
Telephone # 276-730-3001 Fax # 276-730-3004
E-mail cadams@carrollcountyva.org

Signature of county administrator or chief administrative officer

Name Gary Larrowe
Title County Administrator
Signature* 

*Entries without this signature will not be accepted.