

Under the River and Through the Woods

Berkshire Gas has begun the process of installing a new 12-inch natural gas pipeline under the Connecticut River between Hatfield and Hadley, Mass. The pipeline will enhance reliability of the company's distribution system by offering a secondary point of delivery for natural gas to the town of Amherst. The new facility will also reinforce deliverability to the other communities served by the company in its eastern division.

Additionally, the new 12-inch facility will allow the company to provide firm capacity service to Amherst College to support its on-campus cogeneration system and expanding natural gas demand.

The project involves extending an existing 12-inch natural gas main by 2,200 feet between Hatfield and Hadley, where it will interconnect with the company's existing distribution system serving Amherst.

The route for this extension will cross the 900-foot-wide Connecticut River and adjacent wetlands. To avoid disturbing sensitive areas and the need to excavate in a waterway, the company has chosen directional



Led by Director of Operations **Dave Grande**, members of the Berkshire Gas Management Group inspect pipeline casings on the directional drilling job site in Hadley, Mass. during construction preparations.

drilling to create the path for the new main, more than 60 feet beneath the riverbed and associated wetlands. Beyond the wetland areas, open-trench construction will be used to complete the installation.

The existing 6-inch main serving Amherst, which was installed in 1959, will remain in service. That facility was installed on the bed of the Connecticut River when natural gas was first introduced to the town. Over time, the existing line has been covered with silt, but recent inspections show it to be in exceptionally good condition.

Construction for the new line began in September and is expected to wrap up during the first week of December in order to meet winter demand.



Contractors assess the work ahead near the casing being used as the entry point for the planned route 60 feet under beneath the Connecticut River.

STAYING HEALTHY

Are You Prepared for Flu?

The flu season runs from October through May, affecting an average of 5 to 20 percent of the U.S. population each year. Here are tips for avoiding seasonal influenza, from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Get your flu vaccination.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid or minimize close contact with sick people.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your mouth and nose with tissues when you cough and sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow.
- Eat a balanced diet, drink plenty of fluids, exercise daily and get enough rest and sleep to boost your immune defenses.

For more information, visit cdc.gov/flu