

Excavation near pipelines/buried facilities

No excavation, including hand digging, shall be made on the pipeline right-of-way without prior notification to NGT&S through Call Before You Dig (811) or the state One-Call notification service. Subsequent follow-up must be made to NGT&S to seek approval for the proposed construction. Within 24 inches* of the outer edge of the pipe (on all sides) only hand excavation, air cutting, and vacuum excavation are permitted.

*North Carolina requires 30 inches.

Crossing pipelines with heavy equipment

NGT&S may require heavy equipment operators to install mats, dirt pads, or other approved protective materials to adequately protect NGT&S pipelines from potential damage by heavy equipment crossing the right-of-way. All proposed road crossings of buried facilities must be evaluated by NGT&S personnel. Any additional over-burden must be removed after construction unless otherwise directed by NGT&S personnel.

Blasting plans must be approved

Any blasting proposed within 300 feet of NGT&S facilities must be submitted to NGT&S in advance along with a blasting plan outlining such proposed activity. No blasting may begin unless and until NGT&S provides written confirmation that it does not object to such blasting. Any modifications to the blasting plan must also be submitted to NGT&S for review and should not be implemented unless and until NGT&S provides written confirmation that it does not object to such modifications. The blasting contractor may be required to monitor and record seismic shock at the facilities.

Allow adequate clearance for directional drilling

Any directional drilling or boring proposed under NGT&S's buried facilities must be submitted to NGT&S for review and approval. A minimum of 24" of vertical clearance must be maintained from NGT&S's facilities and additional excavations may be required to ensure adequate clearance. As-built plans are required for all borings.

Maintain up to 300-foot clear area around storage well heads

Property owners or developers must notify NGT&S of any proposed construction or excavation within 300 feet in any direction of a natural gas storage well. For safety, NGT&S reserves the right to object to any such proposed activities or placement of objects closer than 300 feet to a storage wellhead.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

National Call Before You Dig Service – 811

**For more information,
contact NGT&S at 866-701-9582
or e-mail pipelinelandowners@nisource.com**

***Note:** "Minimum Guidelines for construction near natural gas pipeline facilities" addresses the most common issues concerning land use on/near NGT&S rights-of-way. Right-of-Way Use Specifications provides additional technical information as well as guidance on various areas not covered here, and should be consulted as needed. In rare cases, NGT&S may determine that adherence to a specific provision of the Minimum Guidelines/Right-of-Way Use Specifications is not feasible for a particular project. In such instances, NGT&S may, at its sole discretion, elect to modify specific requirements for that project. Said modifications shall be made by appropriate NGT&S personnel and shall be properly documented.*

These guidelines supersede any and all prior guidelines pertaining to activities and placements on or near gas transmission facilities owned by an NGT&S company. Existence of, or the ramifications from, the implementation of prior guidelines will not dictate, direct or provide for exemption of any of the above guidelines.

In the event that the provisions of an applicable land rights document conflict with the requirements set forth herein, the land rights document shall supersede these requirements.

February 2012

Minimum Guidelines

**for construction near
natural gas pipeline facilities**



**NiSource Gas
Transmission & Storage®**



NiSource Gas Transmission & Storage

This document provides guidelines for the design and construction of facilities on rights-of-way owned and/or operated by NiSource Gas Transmission and Storage (NGT&S) companies, including Columbia Gas Transmission, Columbia Gulf Transmission, Crossroads Pipeline, Millennium Pipeline Company, Hardy Storage Company, Central Kentucky Transmission and NiSource Midstream Services.

These guidelines are intended to protect public safety and help ensure the continuous safe flow of the nation's natural gas supplies. They provide a basic overview of NGT&S's requirements. For additional details, request the NGT&S "Right-of-Way Use Specifications" document by calling 866-701-9582.

Consult NGT&S early in your planning

NGT&S must review and approve all plans for construction proposed near NGT&S facilities. To expedite construction or excavation, submit your plans to NGT&S for review in the design phase of the project, before applying for permits or committing to construction.

Notify NGT&S before construction begins

No construction or excavation activities of any kind, including blasting, shall be done on NGT&S's right-of-way area before NGT&S personnel have established the exact location and elevation of all affected facilities and the limits of the right-of-way. **NGT&S personnel must be present during any construction or excavation activities on or around its facilities or rights-of-way, unless otherwise permitted by NGT&S. Excavation within three feet of NGT&S facilities is strictly forbidden without an NGT&S representative on site.**

To coordinate this procedure, dial the national Call Before You Dig number (811), or your state's One Call notification service. Request that both location and depth of the pipeline be determined.

Construction requirements within a right-of-way

NGT&S rights-of-way generally extend 25 to 50 feet on each side of the center line of the pipeline and include all area between multiple pipelines, unless otherwise defined in the applicable land rights document.

NGT&S may allow certain property improvements in its rights-of-way. However, NGT&S will not assume responsibility, financial or otherwise, for any such improvements directly or indirectly damaged as a result of its operation and maintenance of its facilities. The following requirements are minimum guidelines to protect public safety and the integrity of NGT&S facilities. Upon review of individual plans and property rights, NGT&S may identify additional restrictions or requirements.

- 1 The existing cover over pipelines and rights-of-way shall not be modified without NGT&S's written permission. The minimum earth cover over pipelines shall be 36-inches; NGT&S will perform external load evaluations as necessary to determine if additional protective measures are required.
- 2 Above-ground or below-ground structures or obstructions of any type shall not be placed within the easement area of any pipeline.
- 3 Pipeline easements shall not be shared longitudinally with other pipelines or utilities. All water valves, curb boxes, manholes, etc. must be outside the easement. All crossings must be approved by NGT&S before installation begins and must meet the following criteria:
 - Cross as near 90 degrees as possible, but in no case less than a 45 degree angle.
 - Minimum of 24-inches vertical clearance.
 - Must cross below NGT&S's pipeline, unless prior written consent is granted by NGT&S.
 - Cable/wire crossings (excluding single telephone/television drops) must be encased with a minimum of two-inch Schedule 40 PVC pipe. Additionally, electric and fiber optic lines must be encased in a six-inch envelope of colored 2,000 psi concrete (red for electric, orange for fiber) or four-inch minimum diameter, standard wall thickness, coated steel pipe across the entire right-of-way (except for trenchless excavations.) **Note:** All underground cables/wires permitted to cross above NGT&S's pipeline (excluding single telephone/television drops) must be encased in Schedule 40 PVC and coated steel pipes – no concrete shall be used.
 - All crossings shall be marked with above ground markers installed on either side of NGT&S's right-of-way boundaries.
 - Except for trenchless excavation, warning tape shall also be buried above all cable, wire utility, or fiber optic lines crossing an NGT&S right-of-way.
 - Corrosion protection (CP) materials shall be installed at the expense of the Permittee where necessary, at NGT&S's sole determination.
- 4 Roads shall cross pipelines at or as near 90 degrees as practical, but at angles not less than 45 degrees. The entity constructing the road must pay for any measures required by NGT&S to inspect and protect its pipeline(s). Such protective measures shall be designed and/or approved by NGT&S personnel.
- 5 Walking/bicycling paths require NGT&S's written permission prior to construction. Paths must be constructed at the outside edge of NGT&S's right-of-way, and may extend no more than six feet into the right-of-way. Paths shall cross NGT&S pipeline as close to 90 degrees as possible, but in no case less than 45 degrees. NGT&S shall

have sole determination of number of path crossings to be permitted. No motorized vehicles of any type, other than power driven wheelchairs, are permitted to utilize paths which run longitudinally inside the right-of-way. Landowner shall be responsible for maintaining the path to prevent right-of-way damage (including erosion, illegal dumping, etc.)

- 6 Parking lots require written permission and shall not be allowed over the easement unless the lot can be designed/ altered so as not to impact the safe and reliable operation and maintenance of NGT&S's pipeline. In no case shall lots be designed such that vehicles will be parking directly over or within five feet of a pipeline. Paving for parking lots shall be limited to asphalt only and must meet all requirements set forth in Right-of-Way Use Specifications.
- 7 All plans for pavement within an NGT&S right-of-way must be submitted and approved by NGT&S personnel before paving can begin. Concrete paving is permitted for sidewalks, curbs, and residential driveways. However, continuously poured, steel reinforced concrete is prohibited within NGT&S's right-of-way. All residential concrete driveways must meet the requirements set forth in the Right-of-Way Use Specifications.
- 8 Detention ponds, lakes, or any other type of water impoundment is prohibited within the right-of-way. Septic tanks and leach fields should be placed so they drain away from the pipeline where practical. In no case shall they be placed in the easement area.
- 9 The right-of-way may be planted in lawn, flowerbeds, or vegetable gardens, or used for normal agricultural purposes. Shrubs maturing at less than five feet tall are permitted in the right-of-way. However, they must be planted such that the branches at maturity are a minimum of five feet away from the pipeline. Shrubs greater than five feet tall and trees, including fruit or nut bearing trees of any kind and "Christmas Tree farms," are prohibited within the right-of-way. *NGT&S is not responsible for replacement of or reimbursement for any plantings within the right-of-way, unless the applicable land rights document states otherwise.*
- 10 Fences or continuous hedges that block visual inspection or interfere with access to NGT&S's facilities are prohibited within NGT&S rights-of-way. Fences permitted by NGT&S to cross its rights-of-way must be designed to allow at least a 16-foot opening centered on the pipelines and must cross at or near to 90 degrees. Gates are permissible, as long as they allow for at least a 16-foot opening. If gates are to be locked, NGT&S must be allowed to install its own locks on the gates. Locks will be installed in such a manner as to allow both the landowner and NGT&S unimpeded access to the property. Fences or continuous hedges may not run longitudinally inside the right-of-way area.