

Natural gas conservation needed throughout the winter

Oct 22, 2018

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SURREY, BC – Due to transmission constraints, FortisBC is reaching out to customers to let them know that our regional natural gas supply, including the province, will be limited to 50 to 80 per cent of normal levels. This means that the natural gas system will be challenged in times of high demand throughout the winter. As such, FortisBC is asking all of its customers to be conscious of their natural gas use and conserve energy wherever possible.

On Friday, October 19th, Enbridge released a statement announcing that, subject to regulatory approval, they expect their ruptured 36-inch natural gas transmission line to be repaired and in service by mid-November. However, both the 36 and 30-inch transmission lines will only be running at 80 per cent capacity and are not expected to return to maximum operating pressure throughout the winter.

We are actively working to make more gas available for our customers. For example, we've worked with TransCanada to maximize output of the Southern Crossing pipeline that feeds into the Interior from Alberta and are actively working with industrial customers to optimize their energy use – keeping them running while minimizing system impacts. We are also working on securing additional natural gas in the open marketplace to best support the province's gas supply.

We appreciate the efforts made by our customers thus far in conserving natural gas and encourage them to continue to limit their natural gas use wherever possible to ensure all our customers across the province are able to access natural gas for essential uses. Watch a video address from Doug Stout, vice president of market development and external relations, for additional information and visit FortisBC.com for updates and to access simple conservation techniques.

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Natural gas supply still limited despite completed Enbridge pipeline repair

Nov 2, 2018

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SURREY, BC – On October 31, Enbridge reported that it had completed repairs on its 36-inch natural gas transmission pipeline that had ruptured on October 9 near Prince George and that the company planned to bring the line back into operation as of today. The pipeline will not be at full capacity once it restarts. Rather, it will start at about 55 per cent operating pressure and gradually ramp up to 80 per cent through November.

Reports of the pipeline repairs have caused some confusion on what this means for FortisBC's natural gas supply and whether natural gas conservation is still required.

Until both Enbridge-owned pipelines are back at full operating pressure, FortisBC will have a constrained supply of natural gas and our gas system will be vulnerable during periods of colder weather. While bringing Enbridge's full transmission to 80 per cent will be a positive step, it is not enough natural gas to support the typical winter natural gas consumption of our entire customer base.

As such, FortisBC is asking all customers to continue to conserve natural gas whenever possible throughout the winter. We continue to work to ensure that all of our customers have the natural gas they need this winter by working with industrial customers to optimize their energy use, maximizing the output of the Southern Crossing pipeline from Alberta and securing natural gas supply from the open marketplace to access in times of higher demand. Regular information updates are being planned to provide our customers with the latest information to help guide their conservation choices. For more information, please visit our website.

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