

News Release

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For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:
KUB Communications

Contractor to Perform Natural Gas Pipeline Maintenance Work Next Week *Safe Natural Gas Flaring Will Produce Visible Flame at Topside Road Gate Station*

Beginning next Monday, July 6, and lasting through Friday, July 10, East Tennessee Natural Gas (ETNG) will perform scheduled maintenance on the 16-inch pipeline that connects the Lovell Road and Topside Road gate stations. KUB leases this pipeline from ETNG to distribute natural gas throughout its system. While ETNG will perform all work, KUB personnel will be onsite to monitor progress at both gate stations, as well as at several intervals along the pipeline route.

ETNG will perform this work throughout next week by deploying a series of cleaning and inspection devices that will be inserted at the Lovell Road Gate Station (1908 Lovell Road) and removed at the Topside Road Gate Station (3715 Topside Road) after traveling 11.5 miles through the pipeline system.

The tools used to perform this work will push natural gas through the pipeline, requiring it to be safely released through a flaring process only at the Topside Road Gate Station. ETNG will set up a portable flare stack that extends vertically approximately 40-feet inside the Topside Road station to burn off the natural gas as it is released. A large, safely managed flame will be visible at the top of the flare stack each time the cleaning and inspection tools travel through the pipeline. There will be no impact to surrounding dwellings or traffic flow in association with the flaring activity.

ETNG has coordinated this activity with area residents, Rural Metro, Knox County, TDOT, as well as local area air quality and emergency response agencies. The flaring process is commonly used by natural gas service providers when natural gas needs to be safely released from system pipelines. See attached photos of a similar KUB flaring event on Maynardville Pike in 2016.

Also, as part of this maintenance work, a “rotten egg” odor may be present in the immediate areas around both gate stations during this controlled release from the pipeline. While the odor may be temporarily unpleasant, it poses no hazards, and any associated odors should quickly dissipate. *If the odor persists, leave the area immediately and call KUB at (865) 524-2911 to report.* There may also be temporary elevated noise levels in the immediate area, and crews, equipment, and vehicles will be visible from the roadway.

No customer natural gas service interruptions will be required in association with this work.

Images from natural gas system flaring along Maynardville Pike in 2016.



KUB is a municipal utility serving Knox and parts of seven adjacent counties and provides electric, natural gas, water, and wastewater services to more than 464,000 customers.

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