



# Natural Gas Conversion and Sewer Verification

Xcel Energy Gas Connections  
Wisconsin/Michigan



# Do you know the location of your sewer lines?

Knowing where your septic or sewer line are located will help us prevent a potentially threatening situation known as a cross bore.

A cross bore occurs when underground natural gas pipes are inadvertently installed through sewer pipes. This can be hazardous because mechanical equipment used to unclog sewer pipes can easily penetrate a natural gas pipe and lead to the dangerous release of natural gas.

To prevent such releases from occurring, we have joined utilities around the country to investigate the possibility of cross bores. Thus far, we have encountered only a small number in Wisconsin and Michigan, all of which have been resolved.

The information you provide to Xcel Energy on the Sewer Site Sketch form will help avoid a cross bore.

## Frequently asked questions

### Why would we not know if a natural gas pipe intersected a sewer pipe?

Many utilities use underground, horizontal directional digging to install natural gas pipes beneath streets, driveways and mature trees to minimize damage. This method significantly reduces environmental impact and disruption compared to open trench digging.

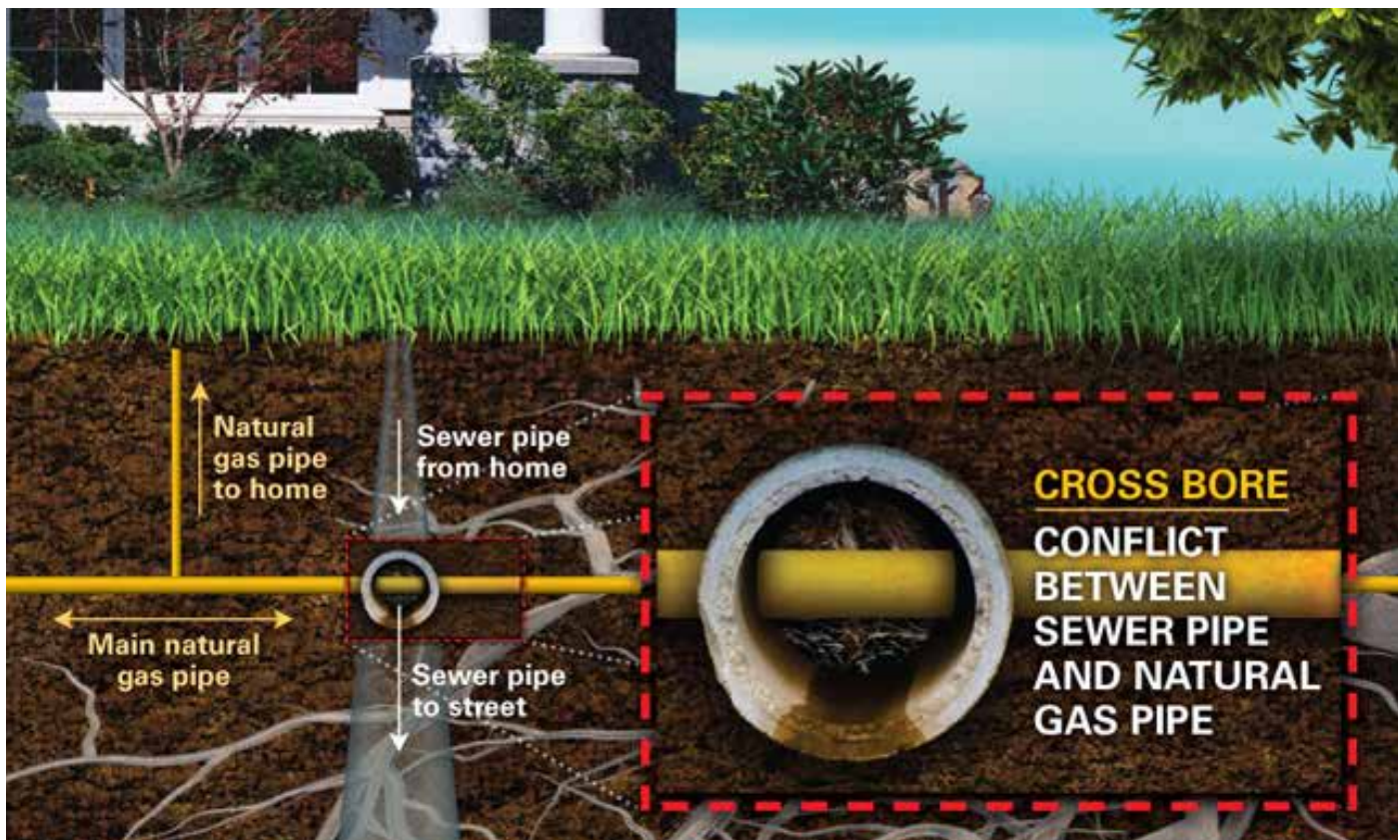
However, many older sewer lines are made of clay and we cannot identify them with above-ground locating devices and we may come in contact with a line without knowing it.

Unfortunately, the risk can go undiscovered until a drain cleaner is called to open a plugged sewer line. The drain cleaner most often uses a rotating root-cutting device to clean the line. If the line is full of water and debris, the drain cleaner is working blindly. If a gas line has intersected the sewer, the root cutter can cut the gas line and the pressurized gas is then forced towards and into the building or home, which can create an unsafe situation.

### Where can i find additional information?

Please refer to the following website for more information about cross bores. The website is being modified but its information does pertain to Xcel Energy customers in Wisconsin and Michigan: **[callbeforeyouclear.com](http://callbeforeyouclear.com)**

This Xcel Energy website also provides additional information about cross bores and what we are doing to address them: **[xcelenergy.com/Safety](http://xcelenergy.com/Safety)**



# Minimum clearances for outside gas and electric meter installations

## Locate and mark

All private underground obstacles such as sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, drain tiles or new and old septic or oil tanks. Also expose (as shown in the photo below) any other buried lines that do not belong to a utility, such as private electrical line from your house to a garage or lamp in your yard. Xcel Energy will not be financially responsible for damage to any unexposed or unmarked facilities.

## Restoration

Xcel Energy will install the underground facilities from the gas main to the house. We will fill in the trench, but will not restore disturbed ground to its original condition. Remember that the disturbed area will settle over time.

We will be extremely cautious around your trees and shrubs, but Xcel Energy is not financially responsible for any damages that may occur. You will have to put anything moved, such as fencing or swing sets, back in place.

Notes:

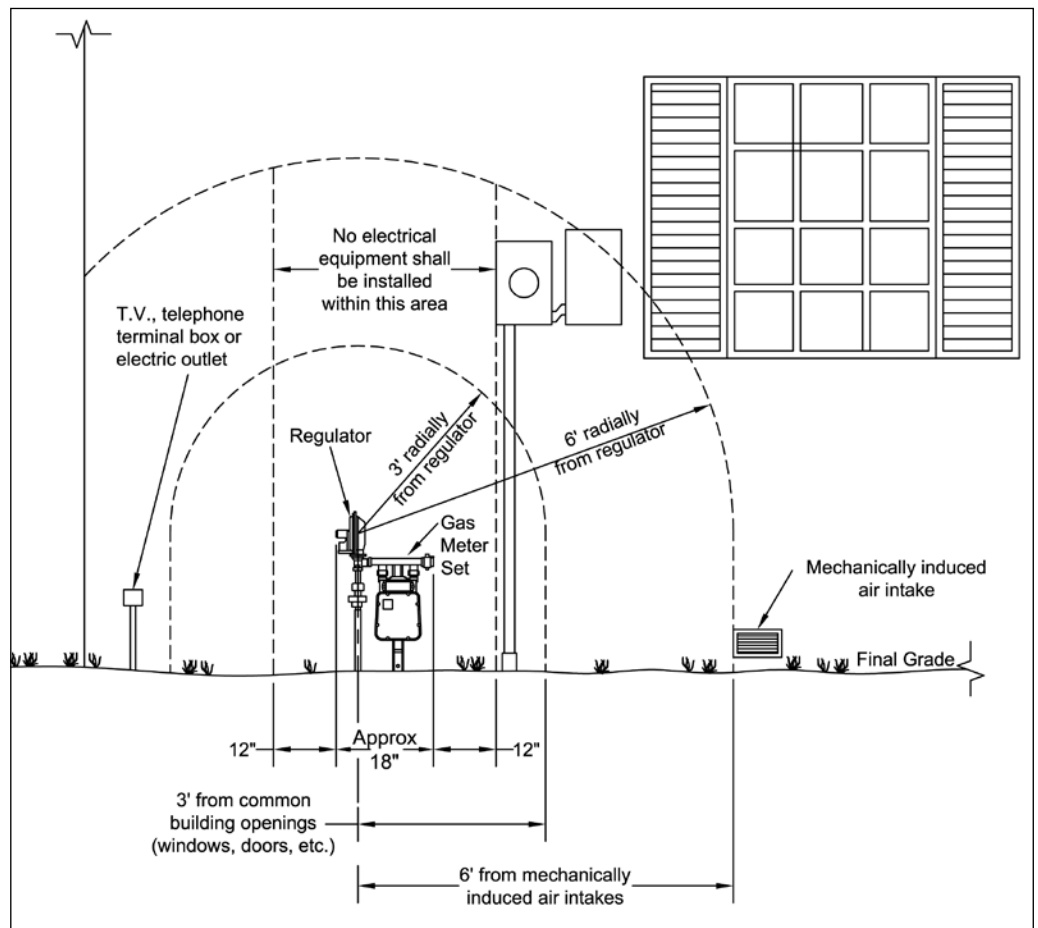
1. Three-foot minimum working clearance from non-electrical obstructions is required around gas meter set.
2. Disregard clearances when measuring around corners of structure.

Ignition sources include outlets, switches and other electric contact points. Electric meters are not all considered ignition sources, but for extra safety, Xcel Energy needs a 3-foot separation between the electric and gas meter and a 6-foot clearance from downspouts and mechanical fresh air intake vents.

Note: All prices are subject to change annually.

Call the Builders Call Line at **800.628.2121** to confirm.

## Clearance requirements from gas meter



# Application process

Please fill out these forms and complete this checklist to complete your application process:

- 1) Sewer Mitigation Site Sketch.** Complete the portion of the enclosed site sketch marked "To Be Completed By Customer/Contractor" to ensure location of the sewer lateral or sewer system so the natural gas service can be installed safely.

NOTE: If your Sewer location is unknown, an Xcel Energy Contractor may need access to your sewer piping in your basement to perform verification using a sewer scoping process.

**Gas Service Agreement.** Read the document carefully and complete the Customer Information portion. The form must be completely filled out and signed to be valid and avoid delays.

- 2) Send the following** to us at Builders Call Line,
- Sewer Lateral/Septic Site Information Form
  - Natural Gas Agreement

U.S. mail

**Xcel Energy Builders Call Line**  
**P.O. Box 8, Eau Claire, WI 54702**

By email: [bclwi@xcelenergy.com](mailto:bclwi@xcelenergy.com)

By fax: **888.742.5623**

- 3) Contract:**
- After Xcel Energy receives the Site Sketch and Natural Gas Agreement, the request will be processed.

- 4) Permits.** If Xcel Energy has to cross a public road, boulevard or alley to install your service, we will arrange to get the proper permits. Please keep in mind, however, that these permits may delay the process of converting your service by six to eight weeks.

- 5) Acknowledgment.** We need the following documentation that the piping and internal work has been approved or completed by a certified contractor:
- An approval from state/city certified inspector or
  - A copy of the "Proof of Compliance" (Xcel Energy Natural Gas Inspection Certificate) signed by the contractor.

- 6)** To determine which form of acknowledgment is required for your area, call the Builders Call Line at **800.628.2121** option 2, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- 7) Prepare the work area:**

- **Directional bore:** Xcel Energy may choose to directional bore your natural gas service if design and installation requirements prohibit trenching.
- **Trenching:** Clear an 8-foot-wide path from the property line to the new meter location. This includes rocks, brush or trees around the area, any gardens or flower beds, and any other obstacles that would prevent us from digging a trench in your yard.
- Xcel Energy will install the gas service from the nearest acceptable location on the gas main located near your house; following an acceptable route. We will fill the trench, but will not restore disturbed ground to its original condition. Remember that the disturbed area will settle over time.
- We need an open work area at least 3 feet by 3 feet if there is a sidewalk, patio or concrete/hard-scape below or within 3 feet of your meter. The meter will need to be a minimum of 3 feet away from electrical equipment, doors, windows and other openings and also 6 feet away from downspouts and mechanical air intakes as required by the national fuel code, Section 8.5.7
- If the work area is free of obstacles but enclosed by a fence, you are responsible for providing an opening at least 8-feet wide when trenching to get our equipment in and out of the fence.

- 8) Site ready:** If the lot is not to finished grade. Please be within 4 inches of final grade.

- 9) Private underground obstacles.** *Locate and mark all private underground obstacles such as sprinkler systems, invisible fencing, drain tiles or old septic or oil tanks.* Also expose any other buried lines that do not belong to a utility, such as private electrical line from your house to a garage or lamp in your yard. Xcel Energy will not be financially responsible for damage to any unmarked or unexposed facilities.

- 10) Xcel Energy responsibility.** Xcel Energy will install the natural gas service lateral from the gas main to your meter location. Xcel Energy reserves the right to determine the final location of the meter.

