



Fargo MGP Project

What to expect

Xcel Energy has been coordinating efforts with local businesses and the City of Fargo to address the remnants of a manufactured gas plant (MGP) that was primarily located on the northeast corner of the intersection of NP Avenue and 12th Street North (currently occupied by apartments). The MGP was active from about 1885 until 1960. Excavation of the plant foundations, piping and impacted soil will begin summer 2018. This work includes demolishing a 1969-era apartment building at 11 12th St. N., consistent with the City's Renaissance Zone Development Plan, which calls for clearance and redevelopment of the property. Limited pipe removal and soil excavations will also occur south of NP Avenue, as well as within and west of 12th Street North. This improvement project was approved by and will be implemented under the oversight of the North Dakota Department of Health and the City of Fargo.

Our company has provided natural gas and electric service to hundreds of communities for more than a century in the eight Western and Midwestern states where we operate. At times, we have needed to investigate and remediate legacy MGP sites. This past work has been positively recognized by state and local officials responsible for overseeing and evaluating our efforts.

What's an MGP?

A manufactured gas plant or MGP used large brick ovens to heat coal and other ingredients to provide heating and lighting similar to how natural gas is used today. As the fuels were heated, they produced gases that were filtered from the ovens, stored in tanks and distributed by a network of pipelines throughout the community. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that thousands of MGP sites operated in the United States between 1815 and the 1960s. By the 1950s, MGP production declined as natural gas infrastructure was built across the country and the historic MGPs were closed — sometimes leaving materials and byproducts behind, such as coal tar, oil and ash or cinders. Coal tar — one of the most predominant byproducts from MGPs — was often sold and reused for fuel, roofing and road resurfacing. MGP byproducts could also be found in other household items including dyes and even cough syrup.

Field activities and schedule

Most of the historic MGP operations were centered on the northern side of NP Avenue. However, piping associated with the MGP is also present to the south of NP Avenue. Demolition and excavation activities are expected to start summer 2018 and continue through the fall of 2018. Crews will operate 12 hours per day on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Some limited weekend work will occur from time to time on the project. Crews will be taking steps to mitigate noise, vibration, dust and odors from the construction activity. There will be truck traffic in and around the area of 12th Street North and NP Avenue throughout the duration of the project. The work will be performed in connection with other City street upgrades planned for 12th Street. That street upgrade work will involve road closures by the City beginning in June and continuing through October 2018.



Work area



Historic Fargo MGP



Field activities will include construction equipment

All excavated materials will be disposed of in landfills, with most materials being sent to a landfill in Becker, Minnesota for final disposal. Because groundwater may be encountered, particularly during the deeper excavation activities, any impacted groundwater or storm water will be pumped to a water treatment facility for treatment before being discharged to the sanitary sewer. The water treatment facility will be setup along the west side of 11th Street North just north of NP Avenue, prior to performance of the excavation activities.

Dust and odor control

There can be odors and dust generated from these types of projects. However, the human nose is capable of smelling odors at levels far below the concentrations associated with any health concerns or air quality issues. To minimize odors and dust that may be generated during the project, crews will be utilizing discrete excavation techniques, such as keeping excavation areas as small as possible so the exposed soils can be managed more effectively. Foaming agents and covered trucks may also be used for odor reduction and dust control. A temporary tension fabric structure (about 130' x 90' and 40' high) will also be used north of NP Avenue and will be equipped with a dust and odor control air handling system. Air quality will be measured during the project to ensure ongoing protection of worker and public health and safety.

Redevelopment

We anticipate the majority of the work to be complete in fall 2018. The property will be sold for redevelopment once the groundwater monitoring is complete.



Example of a temporary tension fabric structure

For more information visit:

Fargo MGP project xcelenergy.com/fargomgp

Fargo streets fargostreets.com

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