iroquoisreport

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Iroquois Issues Challenge to Fleet Owners

Iroquois donates a compressed natural gas fueling station to the City of Bridgeport, giving the area its first CNG fuel source.

Civic and business leaders in Bridgeport, Connecticut celebrated the opening of the city's first compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in November. Iroquois donated the $165,000 CNG fueling compressor, storage tanks, and pump to the city. Bridgeport Mayor John Fabrizi; City Councilman James Holloway (D-139); and Ray Wilson, Energy Director, State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, were among the officials and industry leaders at the station's opening.

"I keep hearing that the area lacks the availability of natural gas fueling facilities," Iroquois president Jay Holm told local officials, Santa Energy and Southern Connecticut Gas executives, and members of local media at the ribbon cutting. "I challenge the private industry, government agencies, and all those with fleet vehicles to use natural gas, because your availability is here now."

CNG's arrival in Bridgeport

Initially purchased in 1997, Iroquois had planned to install the station at its headquarters in Shelton, CT. When plans fell through due to zoning regulations, Iroquois began the long process of finding a new site. The City of Bridgeport accepted the donation in 2005. Iroquois, Santa Energy Corporation, the Southern Connecticut Gas Company, the City of Bridgeport, the U.S. Department of Energy, and Clean Cities Coalition of Southwestern Connecticut partnered in the permitting and installation of the facility. The station will be operated by Santa Energy Corporation.

CNG's status in Connecticut

More than a dozen communities in Connecticut use CNG vehicles, including Bridgeport. The City of Bridgeport operates three in its public works department fleet and plans to purchase more.

For more information about compressed natural gas and CNG vehicles, visit the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center at http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/afv/gas_vehicles.html. For information about Santa Fleet Fuel cards, contact Catherine Garafalo at 203-362-3332, ext 1387.

Iroquois President Jay Holm, "Your availability is here now."

Forging an alliance

- **Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.** $165,000 donation of fueling compressor, storage tanks, and pump.
- **Santa Energy Corporation**. $20,000 donation. Operating and maintaining the station under an agreement with the city.
- **The Southern Connecticut Gas Company**. $6,000 donation. Providing technical assistance to fleets interested in using natural gas powered vehicles; delivering natural gas to the station.
- **U.S. Department of Energy**. $73,750 grant. The grant paid for the station installation and project management.
- **Clean Cities Coalition of Southwest Connecticut**. Managed the grant in cooperation with the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management.

Iroquois Report is a publication of Iroquois Pipeline Operating Company. Iroquois' headquarters are located at One Corporate Drive, Suite 600, Shelton, Connecticut, 06484. If you have any questions regarding the Iroquois Report, please contact Ann Marie Wheeler at (203) 925-7207.

Why They Train

Emergency responders from neighboring towns attend Iroquois training sessions to help keep you safe in a pipeline emergency.

Spencer Robinson, Iroquois' Right-of-Way agent for our southern New York and Connecticut districts, releases a helium-filled balloon in the hotel conference room. As the balloon floats to the ceiling, Spence explains that natural gas is lighter than air. If there is a pipeline leak, the gas will rise and dissipate. With all eyes on the floating balloon, Spence takes a second balloon and pops it. He explains that natural gas pipelines operate under high pressure. "Like all forms of energy, natural gas must be handled properly," Spence tells the audience.

Spence's goal is to prepare emergency responders for the possibility of a natural gas emergency. Part of that process is ensuring emergency responders know the qualities of natural gas and the conditions under which natural gas pipelines operate. In addition to being lighter than air, natural gas is:

- Stable
- Non-toxic
- Non-corrosive
- Odorless and tasteless—mercaptan is added to give the "rotten egg" odor associated with natural gas
- An asphyxiation hazard in enclosed buildings by displacing oxygen
- Flammable at a range of 5% to 15% gas-in-air mix
- Ignitable at 1200° Fahrenheit
- Able to travel through soil and buildings

When emergency responders arrive

First responders arriving on the scene of a natural gas alarm have multiple issues to deal with. They're simultaneously working to secure the site, eliminate ignition sources, evaluate if evacuation of the general public is necessary, and control secondary fires. Iroquois trains the emergency responders not to operate any valves because our gas controllers—monitoring our system 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from our gas control center—can remotely open and close our mainline valves. A well meaning first responder could actually be opening a valve that has already been closed.

How to request training

Emergency responders are encouraged to attend our training sessions. The training schedule can be found on our Calendar at www.iroquois.com.

If a session isn't scheduled for your region, contact Spencer Robinson, spencer_robinson@iroquois.com, 518-945-2685, x226, or Ruth Parkins, Public Affairs Manager, ruth_parkins@iroquois.com, 203-925-7209, to arrange a presentation tailored to your needs.

Drilling with FDNY

The New York Fire Department (FDNY) trained with Iroquois for two days in November. Iroquois drilled with several companies from Division 6, including Rescue 3. Over the course of the two days, Paul Amato, Iroquois' Director of Field Operations and ROW, and Tom Bashaw, Manager of Field Services, spoke with nearly 100 firefighters about:

- Iroquois' Emergency response agreements with Con Edison
- Iroquois' direct hotline (a phone that directly connects Iroquois' Gas Control with FDNY Bronx Dispatch)
- Safety features of the Iroquois pipeline and valves
- Safety features of Iroquois' compressor and meter stations
- How Iroquois would communicate with FDNY in an emergency

The New York City Office of Emergency Management also sent a representative to one of the four drills. Drills with FDNY occur twice a year, when FDNY holds its Spring and Fall exercises.

Iroquois has also drilled with FDNY's Marine Division. The drill involved closing the Whitestone Bridge and sailing out on Smokey Two (one of the fire boats) to test whether the emergency responders could spray water from their boats onto the decking.