

Iroquois Shines as a STAR Award Winner

The Natural Gas STAR Program, established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1993, encourages oil and natural gas companies to embrace cost effective technologies and practices that enhance operational efficiency and reduce emissions of methane -- a greenhouse gas that contributes to the warming of the atmosphere. Created as a voluntary government/industry partnership, the STAR program annually recognizes its partner companies for their methane emission reduction efforts, and their implementation of technologies and practices that support the program's activities, initiatives and outreach.

A Natural Gas STAR Transmission Sector partner company since 1996, Iroquois was recognized at the April 2012 Annual Implementation Workshop and presented with two awards -- "Transmission Partner of the Year" and "Continuing Excellence - 15 Years." The Partner of the Year award is based on emission reductions achieved during the prior reporting year through implementation of Natural Gas STAR technologies and practices, as well as positive reporting

trends, internal corporate programs, outreach and education. Continuing Excellence Awards are presented to companies that submit annual reports on a regular basis throughout the years while maintaining a high level of performance in support of the STAR mission. As the 2011 Transmission Partner of the Year, Iroquois met the qualifications for this program as a result of the collaborative efforts of our Environmental, Health & Safety and Engineering departments. These two departments work closely to document the methodologies used to reduce our methane emissions. In order to determine which reduction technologies should be used, they review each practice and the overall benefits achieved during the previous year.

Iroquois is able to reduce methane emissions through the use of unit valves at each compressor station that allow for unit isolation and blow down versus blowing down the entire station during planned maintenance; low-bleed devices at compressor and meter stations; and emissions-free electric starters which result in savings for every compressor startup. Our station control programming is also

designed to minimize the amount of natural gas released into the atmosphere during a station shutdown, such as would occur for routine maintenance and repairs.

Since it became a STAR Partner, Iroquois has achieved cumulative methane emission reductions of 2,659,745 million cubic feet. In addition to participation in the STAR program, Iroquois also conducts annual compressor station greenhouse gas leak surveys and reporting as required by the EPA's Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting regulations. Respect for the environment is an important part of who we are and Iroquois will continue to do its part to lessen our methane emission footprint and provide for a better environment.



2011 Natural Gas STAR Awards
Transmission Partner of the Year and 15 Years Continuing Excellence

Making Safety a Priority at Home and in the Workplace

In recognition of June being National Safety Month, Iroquois held its first Health & Safety Poster Contest for children and relatives of its employees to emphasize the importance of safety at work and home.

Participants in three age categories (5-8, 9-11 and 12-15 years), submitted entries on fire safety, bike safety, eye protection, chain saw safety, the

importance of hard hats and the dangers of carbon monoxide. Subject matter experts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and ProActive Safety Solutions volunteered to judge the posters for artistic expression and safety messaging. All entrants received a \$5 Friendly's gift card, and each of the six winners received a \$50 AMEX gift certificate.

Winners selected for best artistic expression were: Daniel F. (age 8), Riley D. (age 11), and Paul B. (age 13). Among our future stewards of safety, Maya P. (age 8), Riley D. (age 11), and Gabby W. (age 12) placed first for their safety message.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who participated!

Iroquois' Gas Control Command Center Gets New Look

Since May, some employees have taken up residency in conference rooms while others were relocated to our Oxford, CT office during the renovation of the Market Development, Transportation and Gas Control departments. This renovation, the first major upgrade to the Gas Control area since it was brought in-house in 1997, was initiated in response to new federal regulations.

In February 2010, the US Department of Transportation's Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued new regulation (49 CFR 192.631) which focuses on Control Room Management and Improved Situational Awareness for gas controllers of natural gas pipelines. Control Room Management centers around the roles and responsibilities of controllers, ensuring the controller has adequate information, fatigue mitigation, training, and operating experience; while situational awareness focuses on controller fatigue, acoustics, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) displays, natural lighting, and ergonomics – with the goal being to keep controller distractions to a

minimum. Situational awareness is important for good decision making and performance, as well as presenting information so that it is quickly understood and absorbed. Iroquois' new Gas Control area will incorporate these concepts.

Pre-renovation, Iroquois' Gas Control area simulated a subterranean environment in the center of the building isolated behind two security doors from the rest of the company. To maximize the best use of space and increase business operations fluidity, collaboration between Gas Control, Market Development and Transportation Services was key. The new space and floor plan was designed to allow for ease of communication between gas controllers and planning/scheduling personnel.

Careful and detailed planning is crucial in making any renovation of this magnitude a success. Planning began back in early 2010 to address the necessary requirements: security access control & safety, compliance with building codes, division of space, cost manageability, and no interruption to the 24/7 business

operations. Because the gas control space is a 24/7/365-day operation, another key component that had to be considered was the proper wiring of all electrical circuits. Gas Control has always had a backup generator should the building sustain a power loss and as such, all of the equipment going into the new space has to be independent of the building operations.

The new space will now include two offices, three cubicles, Gas Control central, a small galley kitchen, meeting space, locker room and bathroom. Upgrades and enhancements include the installation of flat screen monitors on the walls for better visibility, adjustable height work surfaces for the controller and the installation of glass doors and windows throughout the space to allow for more natural light.

Pipeline control rooms and gas controllers are a critical component to the safe operation of pipeline systems nationwide. The modifications made during the renovation of our gas control space will ensure compliance with the new regulations and enhance Iroquois' ability to continue the safe operation of our pipeline facilities.

Don't Make A Judgment Call, Make a Phone Call to 811

August 11th (8/11) serves as a convenient reminder for us to encourage our stakeholders to always call 811 prior to starting any project that involves digging.

When placing a call to 811, homeowners and contractors are connected to the local one-call center, which will notify Iroquois as well as other utility companies in the vicinity. Professional locators are then dispatched to the dig site to mark the locations of underground lines with flags, spray paint or both.

Striking a single line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and inconvenient outages to an entire neighborhood. So, whether you are a do-it-yourself homeowner installing a mailbox or fence, building a deck, planting a tree or laying a patio; or a professional excavator, a call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for FREE. Visit www.call811.com, or www.iroquois.com/one-call.asp, for more information about 811 and safe digging practices.

