Since 1988, Paiute Pipeline Company (Paiute), a subsidiary of Southwest Gas Corporation, has owned and operated an interstate natural gas transmission system in Nevada. The pipeline extends from the Idaho-Nevada border to the Nevada-California state line near the north and south ends of Lake Tahoe. Paiute's 900 mile long system crosses Humboldt, Elko, Pershing, Lander, Eureka, Churchill, Nye, Mineral, Lyon, Story, Washoe, Carson and Douglas counties. Along the way, Paiute delivers gas into the facilities of three local distribution companies and to large end-use customers such as power plants, mines and processing plants. Paiute also operates a liquefied natural gas (LNG) peak shaving storage facility near Lovelock, Nevada.

DELIVERING NATURAL GAS SAFELY

Paiute is dedicated to providing safe, reliable and environmentally friendly natural gas service to our customers through our pipeline system. In order to protect people and property, our goal is to identify and resolve potential problems before they occur. The reliability of our pipeline systems is ensured through safe construction practices, comprehensive integrity management programs, improvement projects, and routine inspection and maintenance. Additionally, we use a risk–based integrity management program to evaluate the condition of our high-pressure transmission pipeline and employ specific measures to protect densely populated areas or places where people gather near the pipeline. The program includes inspection methods and devices to evaluate the external and internal condition of the pipe. We continually evaluate our practices to ensure they meet or exceed all federal and state requirements for safe pipeline operations and maintenance.

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND TRAINING

Paiute collaborates with local emergency response officials through regular meetings, participation in emergency response drills, and ongoing review of emergency response deployment practices. This allows each organization to refine safety procedures, and coordinate how to respond with others involved more effectively in the event of a natural gas incident or emergency. Additionally, Paiute provides pipeline safety training to our employees and contractors. If you would like to schedule a meeting, a joint emergency response drill, or would like more information about training, please contact us at 1-775-887-2819.

RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO A NATURAL GAS LEAK

A natural gas leak may be present if you:

• SMELL an odor similar to rotten eggs, even if it's slight or momentary.
• HEAR an unusual noise coming from the ground or an above-ground pipeline. A hissing or roaring sound may indicate escaping natural gas.
• SEE dirt or water bubbling in the air, dying or discolored vegetation near a pipeline or notice standing water continuously bubbling.

What to do in an emergency involving natural gas:

• Evacuate the immediate area.
• Call 911 and contact Paiute immediately at 1-800-624-2153 or call the local gas company.
• Prohibit smoking, lighting matches, and operation of equipment & devices in the immediate area.
• Don't operate pipeline valves, even in an emergency. Doing so could cause public safety issues elsewhere.
• Coordinate with Paiute crews and other fire/police department personnel at the scene.

Although natural gas pipelines are considered one of the safest methods of energy transportation in the United States, damage to pipelines can occur due to improper excavation, corrosion or natural disasters, which may result in the release of natural gas. This could result in a natural gas leak which has the potential to lead to evacuations, service outages, ignition, property damage, injury, or loss of life. Timely recognition and response help minimize the potential effects caused by escaping gas.

PIPELINE MARKERS

Yellow pipeline markers, staked into the ground in various locations, identify the approximate location of a natural gas pipeline. Pipeline markers are typically seen where a pipeline intersects a street, highway or railway. They are not required for all pipeline facilities and do not indicate pipeline burial depth. These markers list emergency telephone numbers should a natural gas emergency occur.

Additional Safety Information

• Paiute Pipeline: 1-775-887-2819
• Paiute Pipeline: www.paiutepipeline.com

For information on natural gas transmission pipeline operators near you, please visit the Office of Pipeline Safety’s National Pipeline Mapping System at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov