

Responses Submitted by Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC

The Somerville City Council has requested information concerning the interstate natural gas pipeline which is located adjacent to Alewife Brook Parkway in Somerville and which is operated by Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC (“Algonquin”). The information provided below provides the requested information.

(1) When was the pipeline installed:

The pipeline was installed in 1953.

(2) What is the operating pressure:

The maximum allowable operating pressure (“MAOP”) of the pipeline is 433 pounds per square inch.

(3) What is the diameter of the pipeline:

The diameter of the pipeline is 24” and 26” depending upon the specific location.

(4) What is the maintenance plan:

As an interstate gas pipeline, the operation and maintenance of Algonquin’s pipeline system is regulated by the Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration (“PHMSA”) within the U.S. Department of Transportation (*i.e.*, www.phmsa.dot.gov/pipeline). PHMSA sets maintenance standards for gas pipeline operators as reflected in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“CFR”), Part 192. In accordance with PHMSA’s regulations, Algonquin has instituted a Pipeline Integrity Program which is designed to ensure the continued safe operation of its pipelines. Central to that program is the periodic inspection of Algonquin’s pipelines through the use of internal diagnostic tools. Such internal inspections occur at least every seven years.

(5) Does a maintenance plan trigger requiring Algonquin to notify the City:

Under Section 192.615 of the CMR, each pipeline operator is required to establish and maintain communications with entities such as local fire and police officials to coordinate responses to a gas pipeline emergency. Algonquin meets that requirement through such initiatives as its Liaison Program with First Responders. In addition, historically Algonquin has notified the City prior to commencing maintenance activities. Depending on the nature of the work involved, the Fire Chief and Police Chief are also notified. Please refer to the response to (6) below. In addition, the Director of Somerville DPW has also been routinely contacted.

(6) Which city staff is Algonquin required to contact:

Field operations notifies First Responders (Police/Fire) in the event of a gas emergency event as well as during gas venting associated with normal maintenance activities or any other critical safety activity.

(7) What kind of work triggers requiring Algonquin to contact the city:

Please see (6) above.

(8) Was there expansion to the pipe? If yes, when?

Approximately ten years ago, Algonquin constructed a new lateral to its system within the City, but that work was not in the vicinity of the Parkway.

(9) What impact would a development along Alewife Brook Pkwy have on this pipeline?

Algonquin can accommodate development projects which are contemplated in proximity to its pipeline. However, such development may not include the construction of permanent structures (i.e., buildings) directly over the pipeline or within Algonquin's easement. In addition, ancillary facilities, such as entrances, sidewalks or parking areas, which may encroach within Algonquin's easement need to be reviewed and approved by Algonquin prior to construction.