

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Adelphia Gateway Project?

A: Adelphia Gateway is a proposed project to convert the remaining 50 miles of an existing 84-mile pipeline from oil to natural gas and certify the entire pipeline as a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdictional open access transporter of natural gas. The 18-inch polycoated seamless steel pipeline will serve customers in Philadelphia and the surrounding area.

The project will involve several steps:

- Installing compression systems on brownfield properties owned by the company
- Construction will include multiple laterals and interconnects, originating from the Marcus Hook area, with plans to connect to existing pipelines in the area

Q: Why is it needed?

A: The Adelphia Gateway project will repurpose existing infrastructure to provide a new, competitively priced source of natural gas supply to meet existing and growing demand in the greater Philadelphia region, which is currently underserved.

Q: Where is the pipeline located?

A: Adelphia Gateway runs from Lower Mount Bethel Township, Pennsylvania, to Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania.

Q: How is the pipeline used today?

A: The pipeline was originally built in the 1970s to transport oil from Marcus Hook to the Martins Creek terminal in Northampton County. The oil was used to generate electricity at the Martins Creek Steam Electric Station.

Today, the northern 34 miles of pipeline transport natural gas for use at the Martins Creek and Lower Mount Bethel power plants.

Q: What are compressor stations, and how do they function?

A: Compressor stations are facilities placed strategically along a natural gas pipeline to maintain pressure and safely move natural gas through the system to the end user. Aboveground facilities are enclosed with fencing and monitored for security purposes.

Q: What is the impact of a compressor station?

A: Compressor stations are located inside fully enclosed buildings. No visible emissions, such as dust or smoke, are released during compressor operations. The natural gas combustion process produces carbon dioxide and water vapor, which are the same compounds that humans exhale.

At times, natural gas may need to be released intentionally as part of safety procedures or to conduct maintenance on the facility. This activity, often referred to as a “blowdown,” can be part of operations or planned maintenance. Neighbors of the facility and town officials will be notified in advance of scheduled blowdowns. There are no flare stacks at the Adelphia Gateway compressor stations.

Federal and state environmental regulations are in place to ensure proposed pipeline projects will maintain air quality and protect public health and the environment. The proposed compressor stations for Adelphia Gateway will follow all applicable regulations, including periodic testing and maintenance of the system. Under normal operations, a technician in a vehicle will visit the site daily to inspect the site and equipment, and to conduct maintenance as needed.

Q: How noisy are compressor stations?

A: Noise levels made by the compressor stations will be similar to an operating household dishwasher.

Q: What is being done to minimize the impact of compressor stations?

A: The Adelphia Gateway project is regulated by state and federal agencies, and the project will continue to work collaboratively with townships to meet or exceed local ordinances. Of note, Adelphia Gateway has worked closely with equipment vendors to minimize the size of the stations, while consulting with local stakeholders on aesthetic and acoustical considerations. The compressor stations are designed with state-of-the-art fan technology, shielded exhaust systems and insulated walls to reduce noise.

Q: What is a pipeline lateral?

A: A pipeline lateral delivers natural gas from the mainline to a termination point such as a metering station. Two new laterals are planned for the Adelphia Gateway project. The Tilghman Lateral terminates at a new interconnect with PECO in Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. The Parkway Lateral terminates at new interconnects at an existing metering station owned by Delmarva in Claymont, New Castle County, Delaware.

Q: How will the Tilghman Lateral be constructed?

A: The Tilghman Lateral will use existing rights of way and minimize environmental impacts through the use of trenchless technology, which is also used for utility work to install water and sewer lines, as well as fiber-optic telecommunications.

Q: Is it safe?

A: According to the federal government, pipelines are the safest, most environmentally friendly and efficient mode of transporting natural gas. There are pipelines in virtually every neighborhood in the U.S. In fact, a vast network of 2.5 million miles of distribution and transmission pipelines across the country safely and reliably provides natural gas service to more than 177 million Americans. The design, construction, operation, inspection and maintenance of all operating pipelines are subject to state and federal regulations and requirements.

Q: How will you ensure that it continues to operate safely?

A: Due in large part to the coated steel makeup, pipeline safety regulations and required inspections, pipelines are built to last. Measures such as polycoating, cathodic protection and smart tool in-line inspections (ILIs) ensure that pipelines maintain their integrity.

Before a pipeline is converted to natural gas, it is tested and inspected to ensure it meets all legal and regulatory requirements.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) requires ILIs to be performed every seven years for all natural gas pipelines in service. In addition, Adelphia Gateway employees will conduct regular physical inspections of the pipeline route, as well as aerial patrols.

The U.S. DOT also requires inspections every three weeks; a minimum of 26 inspections per year. Adelphia Gateway will meet all regulatory requirements.

Q: Is an odorant added to the natural gas before it is transported in the Adelphia Gateway pipeline?

A: Yes, the pipeline transports natural gas that is odorized with mercaptan – a harmless chemical that smells of sulfur or rotten eggs.

Q: Will Adelphia Gateway have to dig up yards to make this switch to natural gas?

A: Minimal new construction in certain locations involving the existing pipeline on landowners' property will be needed to convert the pipeline to transport natural gas. Excavation will be necessary at a limited number of locations to add new valves and replace old ones. Affected landowners will be notified in advance via mail. Additional outreach will be done, depending on the work required and the type of easement required from the landowner.

Q: How will landowners be notified?

A: Typically, each notification will be via mail, and company contact information will be provided to answer any questions the landowner may have.

Q: Can the company condemn property if a landowner refuses to extend additional rights to the utility?

A: Once the project receives FERC approval, Adelphia Gateway will be able to acquire additional right of way (ROW) by condemnation, if required; however, that option would only be considered as a last resort. In the event that additional ROW is required, the first course of action will be to work with property owners to reach agreements, which the company is confident it can do.

Q: What is the environmental impact of this project?

A: Because this project largely consists of the conversion of an existing pipeline within an existing ROW, the environmental impact will be minimal. A majority of the work proposed for the project will be in previously disturbed areas or in paved roadways. We have completed environmental site assessments, including cultural, biological and wetland surveys. We do not anticipate any impact to wetlands or farmlands.

Q: Who will benefit from the Adelphia Gateway project?

A: This project will support economic development in the Philadelphia metro area by providing access to much-needed, affordable natural gas. With this conversion, the pipeline will be used to ship natural gas to southeastern Pennsylvania for regional consumption.

Adelphia Gateway intends to have delivery interconnects with local distribution companies and other industrial end users, such as natural gas-powered electric generation facilities, in various locations along the pipeline route. Ensuring additional supply options for customers will lower overall costs for natural gas in the area and positively impact economic development in the region.

Q: Are there plans to ship natural gas from the pipeline offshore?

A: No, Adelphia Gateway has no plans to ship natural gas offshore. The natural gas transported in the pipeline will be used by customers in the Greater Philadelphia area and the surrounding region.

Q: Who has oversight of the pipeline?

A: Operation of the existing pipeline is regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. Once the conversion is complete, it will be regulated by FERC.

Q: What approvals are needed from FERC?

A: Adelphia Gateway has applied to FERC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. After Adelphia Gateway files its application, the public has an opportunity to comment or request to be a part of the proceedings.

Q: Do municipalities collect any related taxes?

A: Pennsylvania does not assess property taxes on pipelines; however, an economic benefit study will be conducted to determine if any other tax revenue will be generated as a result of construction or other operations.

Q: What is the estimated timeline for approvals and construction work?

A: Upon state and federal approval, any needed construction is estimated to begin in early 2019 and the pipeline is expected to be in service by the end of 2019.

Q: Who is Adelphia Gateway LLC?

A: Adelphia Gateway LLC is owned by NJR Pipeline Company, a subsidiary of New Jersey Resources (NYSE: NJR). NJR is a Fortune 1000 company that provides safe and reliable natural gas and clean energy services, including transportation, distribution and asset management. NJR Pipeline is part of NJR's ongoing commitment to invest in and own midstream assets, including natural gas storage and transportation pipelines.