

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OBTAINING NATURAL GAS FOR YOUR FARM OR BUSINESS.

Get Manitoba Hydro involved when you first begin thinking about natural gas service because the process to extend gas mains to rural or commercial customers takes several months. We can help you understand your fuel options, including cost comparisons, and guide you through the process of obtaining natural gas service.

Depending on your service requirements, Manitoba Hydro may require a signed natural gas service agreement as early as February 15, if service is required before November 30, of the same year.

Factors influencing the timing of installation:

- obtaining approvals from external parties;
- property easements;
- franchise approvals;
- clearances and permits;
- seasonal restrictions;
- weather and site conditions;
- volume of requests for service.

What we need

- Details about the natural gas equipment and appliances you will be installing (type of equipment, equipment BTU/hr, pressure requirements);
- The legal description of the property where you require natural gas service;
- Your fuel consumption records (bills) from the past five years.

Your equipment dealer or mechanical contractor can help you determine the equipment's BTU firing rate and pressure requirements.

What you can expect

Your ESA will meet with you on-site to gather and discuss the detailed information needed to proceed with your natural gas service request.

During this meeting, the ESA will:

- confirm the location and document the load information for all equipment to be connected to the natural gas system;
- take note of the site layout including underground facilities on the property, trees, buildings or any other barriers to excavation;
- discuss the most appropriate location for the natural gas meter set;
- discuss future expansion plans to ensure the service is sized properly.

Providing you a cost

We will determine if a contribution in aid of construction ("contribution") is required based on the project cost estimate and your projected natural gas consumption. You will be notified of the results so you can make the final decision whether to proceed with natural gas service.

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Agreeing to natural gas service

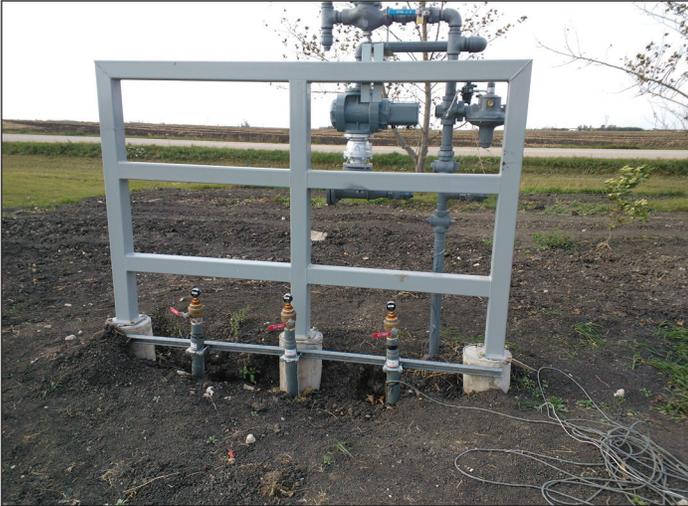
If you decide to proceed with natural gas service, we will meet with you again. At this meeting, we will provide information on Efficiency Manitoba incentives or financing for which you may qualify. You'll also sign a natural gas service agreement, contribution contract (if required), and pay any required contribution as outlined in the contribution contract.

Your responsibilities

Construction of meter set support

You are responsible for construction of the meter set support if a remote meter* location is required. We will review the Meter Standard with you.

* Meters not attached to a building wall



Examples of meter set supports for remote meter locations.

Site preparation

For prompt installation of your natural gas service, please ensure:

- the service line route is clear of debris;
- the site is back-filled and brought to grade;
- that builders start to construct the wall where the meter will be mounted early in construction (for new construction and wall mounted meters). This allows Manitoba Hydro to initiate our installation process.

All piping downstream of the meter set (yard piping)

Since yard piping must be done under the direction of a licensed natural gas fitter, it is recommended that one be hired early in the process. Your licensed gas fitter will tie your natural gas equipment into the meter and arrange to have the gas turned on and inspected.

Other required inspections

For equipment rated 400,000 BTU or greater (including grain dryers), you should budget additional time for your gas fitter to obtain a Manitoba Office of the Fire Commissioner permit and for scheduling an inspection and approval by Inspection and Technical Services Manitoba. This inspection is required before the equipment can be turned on.

To get started, visit Manitoba Hydro at hydro.mb.ca, and complete the required application for agricultural electrical or natural gas service. If you have questions regarding the application, call **1-888-624-9376**.