

General Information

Delivery Pressure

Columbia Gas of Massachusetts (Columbia) standard delivery pressure is 7 inches water column (7" wc) at the inlet to the meter. All gas pipe sizing after the inlet to the meter and all equipment specifications should be based on this delivery pressure. **Typically, there is a minimal pressure drop through the meter.** It may not be possible to fulfill requests where delivery pressure is other than 7" wc.

Gas pipe sizing after the inlet to the meter is the responsibility of the customer. Please size gas piping in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines. For more information, talk with your installing contractor, or refer to the National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54) www.nfpa.org or International Fuel Gas Code www.iccsafe.org.

Metering

Columbia will make every attempt to accommodate your preference; however we reserve the right to determine the final meter location. The meter location will be designed to maximize safety, facilitate installation of gas main and service line facilities, and support Columbia's maintenance and inspection requirements.

- The meter location should be in a straight line of sight from meter location to the gas main.
- Indoor locations are not standard and will require engineering approval. Gas meters cannot be located in a confined space such as a closet, crawl space, shaft, vault, etc.
- The meter set assembly will be located a minimum of 3 feet from any building opening, vent, electric equipment, panel, or meter or any other possible source of ignition or 10' from any electrical transformer or mechanically assisted air intake.
- Meter protection will be required if the meter location is near vehicular traffic.

Multiple Meters

The meter setting and/or gas piping must be clearly marked via a stamped or inscribed rust resistant permanent metal tag with the unit address prior to the meter being set as per:

IFGC 401.7 Piping from multiple meter installations shall be marked with an approved permanent identification by the installer so that the piping system supplied by each meter is readily identifiable.
NFPA 54 Guide, Section 5.7.5 Identification – Gas piping at multiple meter installations shall be marked by a metal tag or other permanent means designating the building or the part of the building being supplied and attached by the installing agency.

Permits/Easements/Right-of-Way and Planning

Permitting: This can be a time-consuming process depending on the project locality. Columbia will make every effort to secure its permits and keep you informed of any problems. If a project is in the preliminary stage and prior to municipality approval, please notify us and arrangements can be made for submitting an overall gas plan on the project as part of the municipality approval. Permits cannot be applied for until all required agreements and/or payments are received.

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Right-of-way: Columbia may need to obtain rights-of-way to serve projects. The design and approval of projects can be processed more quickly if Columbia is provided with right-of-way information at the project's design stage. The design stage includes dedication of easements or rights-of-way on plats, which will go on record. Upon determination that a right-of-way is necessary, Columbia will send the customer a standard Columbia easement agreement. The fully executed and recorded Columbia easement agreement must be received by Columbia prior to construction.

Easements: Easements need to be clear of temporary structures (i.e. construction trailers) and can not be in buffer zones due to inability to construct in these areas.

Planning: Additional planning is needed if any portion of the gas pipeline crosses private property of third parties in order to serve the project. Columbia will prepare the plats and the standard Columbia easement agreement for all third parties. The customer will be responsible for returning the fully executed third party agreements to Columbia prior to the start of construction. Contact Columbia if assistance with third party communication is needed.

Other planning issues to be considered are special circumstances or conditions which may affect the timely, cost effective construction of any gas lines required to serve the project. Examples include but are not limited to: environmental issues, railroad crossings, federal highway crossings, river crossings, public concerns, etc.

The project location should be staked at the project entrance, so that Columbia can determine the length and location of the extension of its facilities.

If available, please provide any additional information you may have concerning any other development around or near the geographic area of your project.

System Capacity

Please be aware that a project's gas demand on Columbia's gas system can affect the timeline for design and approval. Added demand can also create the need for overall system improvement, which could impact the project's cost. We are committed to notifying you immediately upon determination of this circumstance.

Site Readiness

Columbia will complete the proposed gas main installation in accordance with the following site readiness requirements. Please notify your Columbia New Business Representative as to what type of pavement will be installed (blacktop, cement, asphalt, brick, etc.).

Residential/Commercial Development

- Phasing conforms to approved project design.
- All staking, cuts and grade are complete and any right-of-way requirements have been executed.
- The proposed pipeline path is clear of debris and/or physical obstructions that would prevent the installation of the pipeline and/or company service line, tap and meter.
- The pipeline path – main line and service line(s) – is within 6" of final grade.

To avoid installation delays and possible economic ramifications, please ensure that the above-stated requirements are met prior to scheduling the installation of gas facilities to your project.