

# BLACKHILL ENERGY



Website: <https://www.blackhillenergyllc.com/>

## INTRODUCTION

Blackhill Energy LLC (Blackhill) is a natural gas production company with assets in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. Along with operating an asset that includes thousands of leased acres with more than fifty producing wells Blackhill owns and operates its own gathering system. This gathering system is comprised of many miles of pipelines of various sizes from a small as two inch diameter to 16 inch diameter pipes. These pipes include both steel and polyethylene material and many are operated at high pressure. Along with pipelines that transport the natural gas Blackhill operates facilities to filter, dry, compress and meter this natural gas before it is sent to market. The natural gas that Blackhill produces and transports is known as 'dry' gas. This just means that it does not contain heavy hydrocarbons and is comprised primarily of methane. In fact, approximately 97 percent of the gas is methane.

## COMMITMENT

Blackhill Energy LLC (Blackhill) is committed to the protection of the public and the environment through the safe operation and maintenance of its pipeline systems. Blackhill's qualified personnel are trained in emergency response activities.

Blackhill has committed the necessary resources to fully prepare and implement its emergency response plans and has obtained, through contract, the necessary private personnel and equipment to respond, to the maximum extent practicable, in a "worst case" discharge or substantial threat of such a discharge.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Blackhill utilizes its 24-hour Emergency Contact number (1-800-330-0289) as a hub of communications in emergency response situations. The operations team has a vast catalog of resources and capabilities. On-site communications are conducted using cellular telephones, and portable radios (in company vehicles) and land-line telephone systems from Company facilities and offices.

## SPILL CONTRACTORS

Blackhill works with several professional companies to assist in the event of a spill and includes Nuverra Environmental, Elk Environmental Services, Waste Management, and Farmer Boy Restoration. These companies can be relied upon for an appropriate level of response with spill response equipment and trained personnel.

For more information regarding Blackhill emergency response plans and procedures, call Blackhill's 24-hour emergency contact number at 1-800-330-0289 and ask for the appropriate area (county) contact, or email [rlouge@blackhillenergyllc.com](mailto:rlouge@blackhillenergyllc.com).

## SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT

Blackhill maintains emergency response equipment at strategically located facilities. This includes spill booms (of several types, sizes and lengths as needed in different areas), sorbent materials, hand tools, power tools, pumps, hoses, personal protective equipment, first aid and miscellaneous supplies. Emergency response equipment is maintained at Blackhill's facilities in Bradford County, Pennsylvania

## INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

Blackhill utilizes an expandable Incident Command System. Depending upon the size and complexity of an incident, additional company or contract personnel may be added as needed. Additional federal, state, or local agencies may be integrated into the Incident Command System by utilizing a Unified Command Structure.

**STOP-CALL BEFORE YOU DIG! IT'S THE LAW!**

**PENNSYLVANIA 811 ONE-CALL SYSTEM DIAL 811 or (800) 242-1776**



**Pennsylvania 811**  
A Privately funded non-profit Pennsylvania Corporation

# **BLACKHILL ENERGY**



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1. In the Event of an Emergency**
  - A. What to DO
  - B. What NOT to DO
  - C. What Blackhill will DO
- 2. How to Recognize a Natural Gas Pipeline Leak.**
- 3. Steps to Prevent Accidental Ignition**
- 4. How We Keep Our Pipeline Safe.**
- 5. How to Prevent Damage to Our Pipeline Facilities.**
- 6. Pennsylvania 811 One-Call System**
- 7. Pipeline Safety**
- 8. Emergency Contact List**
- 9. Location of Facilities (Maps)**



# BLACKHILL ENERGY



## PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for public officials and emergency response teams when dealing with natural gas pipeline emergencies with Blackhill Energy.

## 1. In the Event of an Emergency

### A. DO...

1. Call your local Blackhill office at: **(800) 330-0289** (Canonsburg, PA) - 24 hours/day.
2. Keep the public at a safe distance.
3. Always allow Blackhill officials onto the site.
4. Take precautions to prevent accidental ignition of gas if there is no *fire* (See Section 3, *Steps to Prevent Accidental Ignition*).
5. Evacuate the area if necessary.

### B. DON'T...

1. Attempt to extinguish a natural gas fire.
2. Attempt to operate pipeline valves.
3. Use vehicles, compressors, pumps, generators, phones, or any heat or open flame devices in the surrounding areas. These items are possible ignition sources for the gas. See also Section 3, *Steps to Prevent Accidental Ignition*, of this manual.

### C. Blackhill will...

1. Shut off the flow of gas.
2. Identify and assess the emergency.
3. Provide the emergency response (ER) team or officials with information to minimize damage and to control the situation.

## 2. How to Recognize a natural gas pipeline leak

Leaks from natural gas pipelines are rare, but we want you to know what to do in the unlikely event one should occur. Natural gas is a colorless, odorless, non-toxic substance. Blackhill does not add an odorant to its gas. Odorants are typically added just before the natural gas gets to the final customer and in some other situations. You **cannot** depend on being able to smell natural gas in our system.

There are several other ways to detect a leak. If you see any of the following signs on or near our pipeline right-of-way, call the number listed on the nearest pipeline marker immediately:

- . a hissing sound
- . dirt or debris being blown into the air
- . brown patches in vegetation on or near the pipeline
- . bubbles appearing on the surface of water
- . a dry spot(s) in a moist field
- . fire apparently coming from the ground or burning above the ground
- . water being blown into the air at a pond, creek, lake, or river.

A. **What to do about a Leak?**

1. Leave the area at once!!!! Warn others to stay away.
2. Avoid using potential ignition sources, such as motor vehicles, telephones, doorbells, electric switches, or flashlights. See also Section 3, *Steps to Prevent Accidental Ignition*, of this manual.
3. Avoid direct contact with escaping vapors.
4. Never try to extinguish a fire.
5. Never try to operate pipeline valves.
6. Remain upwind at a safe distance.
7. Call Blackhill at the telephone number listed in this brochure or the one listed on the nearest pipeline marker.  
If it is not apparent which company is involved or a number is not available, call the One-Call Center (Pennsylvania 811) at 811 or (800) 242-1776 to notify all utility companies in that area.
8. Call the local fire department or 911 from a safe distance.

**3. Steps to Prevent Accidental Ignition**

1. Ensure that all personnel restrict smoking to designated areas away from hazardous areas.
2. Ensure that no open flames are permitted in or around areas where there is a possible leak or presence of gas.
3. Use only intrinsically safe devices or devices rated for use in hazardous locations when working in areas where there is a suspected gas leak or the potential presence of gas. (Equipment used in these hazardous areas shall be classified for use in Class I, Div. 1 locations.) This includes flashlights, portable floodlights, extension cords or any other electrically powered equipment.
4. Ensure that all necessary precautions are taken to prevent electric arcing and static electricity charges in restricted areas. Ensure proper bonding and grounding.
5. Ensure proper ventilation (i.e., keep the concentration of gas in the air below 0.5%) whenever performing work that requires the use of equipment that is a potential ignition source in areas where there is a presence of gas.
6. Control traffic and restrict access to a safe distance from the area.

**4. How We Keep Our Pipelines Safe**

Safety starts long before actual construction begins. At steel rolling mills, where pipe is fabricated, pipeline representatives carefully inspect the pipe to ensure that it is of high quality and meets both federal and industry-wide standards.

Coating systems are used to prevent corrosion of the pipeline and facilities.

During construction, pipeline representatives inspect the fabrication and construction of the pipeline. Welds linking the joints of pipeline are X-rayed to ensure their integrity.

Once the pipeline is in the ground and before it is placed into service, it is pressure-tested with water in excess of its operating pressure to verify that it can withstand high pressure. This process is called *hydrostatic testing*.

Once the line is put in the ground, covered, and placed into service, pipeline markers are posted at regular intervals to let you know there is a pipeline in the area. Blackhill's telephone number is posted on the markers so you can reach us anytime.

After the pipeline is installed, we install a system called cathodic protection, which prevents corrosion of the steel pipeline.

To help protect our pipelines against third-party damage, regular inspections by motor vehicles and walking patrols keep a watchful eye on the pipeline routes and adjacent areas.

Pipeline maintenance crews perform facility inspections, check for construction activity in the vicinity of the pipeline and maintain the pipelines and their rights of way. Higher populated areas are inspected and patrolled more frequently.

In addition, the pipelines undergo periodic maintenance inspections, including leak surveys and valve and safety device inspections.

Blackhill representatives are available to meet with local emergency response officials, excavation contractors, and local landowners to educate them about pipeline operation and emergency response procedures. Information is routinely distributed to provide 24-hour emergency telephone numbers and locations of our pipeline in the area.

Finally, Blackhill maintains clear pipeline rights of way. A clean right of way allows easy identification of construction-related activities. Regular monitoring is imperative to prevent third-party damage.

## **5. How To Prevent Damage to Our Pipeline Facilities**

Maintaining a safe pipeline system requires your participation as well. Department of Transportation (DOT) statistics tell us that the single greatest cause of pipeline incidents is damage from outside forces. Most pipeline accidents occur when individuals or third-party contractors are not aware of a pipeline's location before they begin construction or excavation. It is important that we form a partnership for safety. We can work together to reduce third-party damage to the pipeline, prevent accidents, and maintain public safety.

Here is what you can do. Watch for suspicious activity and construction near the pipeline right of way. No one should conduct blasting, digging, ditching, drilling, leveling, or plowing near the pipeline right of way without contacting the local one-call center at least three working days in advance to have underground utilities marked.

Once we are notified, Blackhill will locate and flag the pipeline and/or right of way and will assist you or the contractor by suggesting safety measures that should be followed while working around the pipeline.

## **6. PENNSYLVANIA 811 One-Call System, Call Before You Dig!**

1. Always call Pennsylvania 811 three (3) working days before you dig. Doing so will allow the utilities an opportunity to locate and mark their underground facilities in advance of the planned excavation. *Gas pipelines will use **yellow** stakes, flagging, or paint to mark underground lines.*
2. Hand dig within the tolerance zone. Law specifies the width of the tolerance zone to be 18" from each side of the facility. The tolerance zone includes the width of the facility and the 18" measured horizontally from each side of the facility. For example, a 36" natural gas pipeline has a tolerance zone of 72".
3. ONE-CALL automated response system will notify you of the member facility owner's status on your request at the end of the second working day.
4. Protect and preserve these approximate markings until they are no longer required for safe and proper excavation.
5. If the markings of facilities are destroyed or removed before excavation commences or is completed, the excavator must renotify ONE-CALL and the company locator will remark the location within two working days of the notice.
6. Maintain a reasonable clearance between any subsurface utility facility and the cutting edge or point of powered equipment. The law requires use of due care inside 18" of the outside edge of an underground facility.
7. Marking indicates only the approximate location of buried lines. Hand dig test holes in a careful

and prudent manner to determine the precise location of underground utility lines. Blackhill will provide an inspector when a contractor is digging within our right-of-way. *No excavation is allowed on Blackhill right-of-way unless an inspector is on site.*

8. If you must expose a line, state law requires you to protect and support the line while working on site. Ask the company locator for help and advice when you are near underground lines
9. If you have not called the state One Call System or followed the pipeline marker instructions, damaging a natural gas interstate pipeline is a **federal offense**.

## 7. Pipeline Safety

Natural gas pipelines are this country's safest mode of transportation. According to statistics from the National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Office of Pipeline Safety, there is greater danger associated with driving a car or traveling in an airplane than by living near a natural gas pipeline.

The safety of interstate pipelines is regulated by DOT's Office of Pipeline Safety, which imposes a broad range of rigorous standards and inspection requirements for pipeline design; material specifications; construction standards; maintenance and testing requirements. These standards must be met long before a pipeline can be placed into service.

### Blackhill Commitment to Safety

Safety and reliability are the most important aspects of Blackhill's pipeline operations. Although pipelines are the safest form of natural gas transportation, we understand that you may have concerns. That is why we want you to understand our commitment to protecting the public, the environment, and our natural resources by operating in a safe, reliable manner.

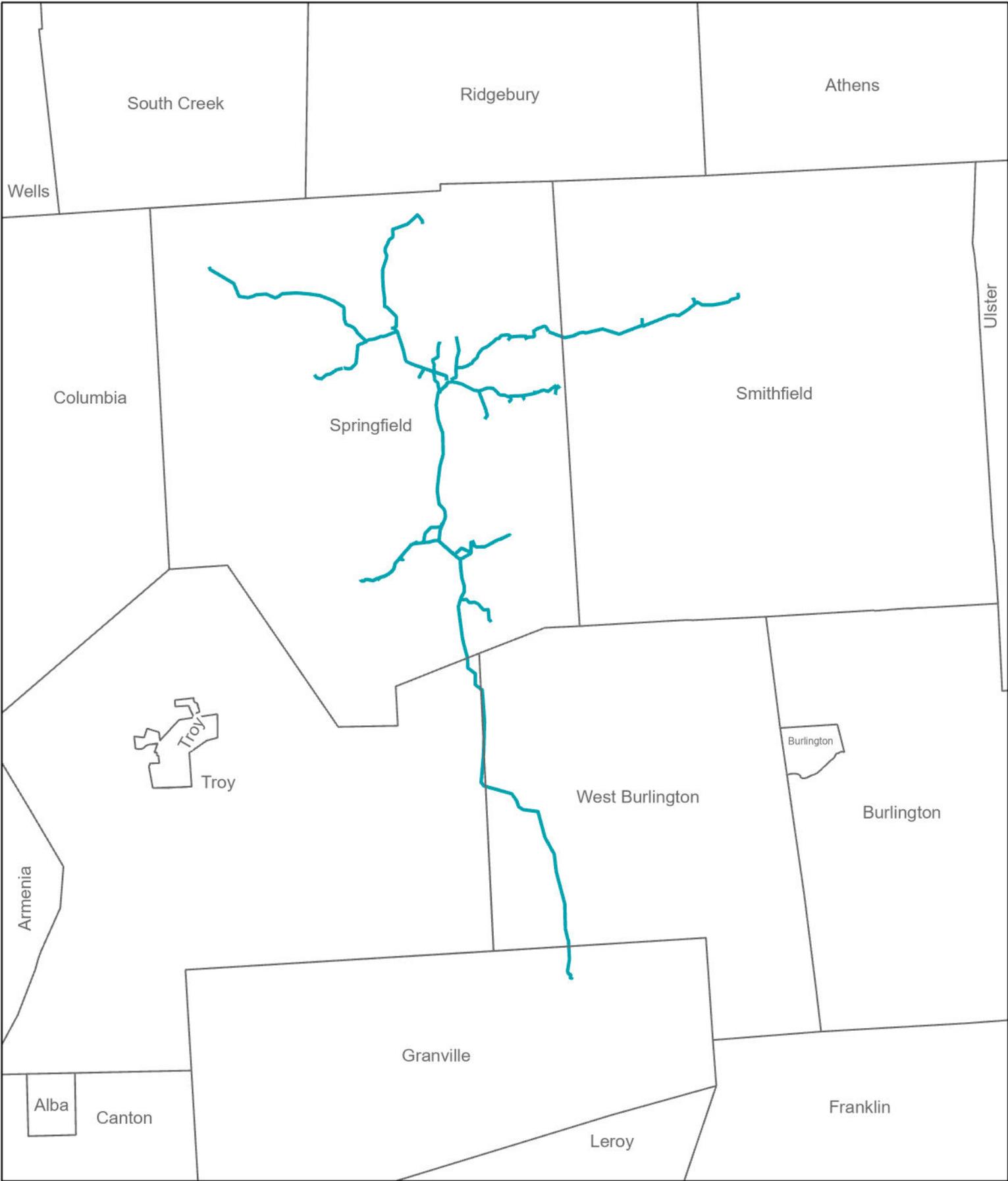
## 8. Emergency Contact List

Please contact Blackhill's 24-hour Emergency Contact Number (24/7) 1-800-330-0289. Pipeline Control will direct you to the appropriate field contact for the area of emergency.

24-hour Blackhill Energy Emergency Number: 1-800-330-0289			
Department	Name	Title	Phone
Regulatory/ Environmental	Regina Logue	Emergency Services Liaison	412-600-4208
Engineering	Matt Pitts	Sr. Assets Engineer	330-277-9235

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Federal DOT <https://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/PublicAwareness/PublicAwareness.htm>  
PA One-call [www.pa1call.org](http://www.pa1call.org)  
Blackhill Energy, LLC [www.blackhillenergyllc.com](http://www.blackhillenergyllc.com)



**GATHERING MAP**

*Bradford County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

— Active Pipelines

