



A newsletter for Jo-Carroll Energy
natural gas members

Protect your family. Protect your land.

Farming is the lifeblood of our communities. When working with landowners, we don't want to impede your operations; we just want to keep families and communities safe, and that safety is a shared responsibility.

Hitting a pipeline or underground utility can impact your family for generations. Underground lines can be located less than 12 inches below the surface due to topsoil removal, erosion and weather. Never assume the location or depth of underground lines.

Contact us at Jo-Carroll Energy to discuss your project and to check the location and depth of underground lines. Even if you have discussed your project with us you still always call 811 before you dig, deep plow, till, rip, install a fence or drain tiles.

Operators will locate the pipeline, perform a depth and safety analysis and work with you to help protect you, your land the pipeline or under ground utility line.

Operators will typically request to be on-site during projects that are near large distribution lines, or high pressure lines, to provide safety guidance regarding clearances and backfilling procedures.

To learn more about how you can be safer on your land and farm visit farmsafe811.org or if you have questions about utilities that may run underground on your property you can contact Jo-Carroll at 800-858-5522.

NATURAL GAS Incentive Program

Natural gas has always been a good idea. With our incentive program it's even better! Jo-Carroll Energy offers a variety of incentives to help our natural gas members enjoy the advantages of natural gas heating, cooking

► Natural Gas Appliance \$50

Incentives of \$50 per appliance are available for EnergyStar rated stoves, clothes dryers, fireplace inserts, generators & more.

Fuel Switching Incentive of \$100 per new appliance.*

► Natural Gas Water Heater \$50

Incentive of \$50 are available for new water heaters with EF ≥ .67.

Fuel Switching Incentive of \$100.*

► Natural Gas Furnace/Boile \$125

Incentive of \$125 are available for new furnace/boiler with AFUE ≥ 95%.

Fuel Switching Incentive of \$200.*

► Natural Gas Outdoor Appliances up to \$100

Incentives of 10% of cost up to \$100 are available for new deck heaters, outdoor fire pits and outdoor grills.

► Natural Gas Outdoor Living up to \$150

Incentives of 10% of cost up to \$150 are available for new pool heaters and hot tubs.

Fuel Switching Incentive of \$100 for new or existing units.

► Insulation & Air-Sealing

Incentives for existing homes are available. These include:

- \$300 for a **Home Energy Audit** completed by a JCE representative
- Up to \$500 for **Home Insulation and Home Air Sealing**



UP TO

\$925

CASH BACK

on the

BIG FOUR

Water Heater • Furnace
Stove • Clothes Dryer

Add other appliances or
outdoor living and save
even more!

Complete details and forms
available at: jocarroll.com

The Natural Gas Industry: Investing in Pipeline Safety



Learn how the natural gas industry ensures pipeline safety

There are about 2.5 million miles of natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines across the U.S. These pipelines are generally safe they're getting safer, according to U.S. Department of Transportation statistics. Over the past three years, the average number of serious incidents involving natural gas pipelines has decreased by 17% compared to the previous 20 years. Also, the average number of injuries resulting from gas pipeline events has decreased by 12%.

The natural gas industry spends \$22 billion annually to help enhance the safety of natural gas distribution and transmission systems, according to the American Gas Association. In addition to pipeline replacement, location marking, and pressure testing, the following are common pipeline safety practices used by natural gas companies:

- Installation of automatic or remote-controlled shutoff valves
- Elimination of overpressure incidents
- Robotic devices called "smart pigs" crawl through the inside of a pipeline to clear debris and take measurements to detect any problems
- Periodic leak surveys that include identification of super emitters and aerial patrols using airplanes and drones
- Education of landowners, excavation contractors and emergency response officials about safety practices and procedures
- Corrosion mitigation by cathodic protection and application of coatings
- Pipeline material quality assurance
- Improved incident response capability
- Cybersecurity risk remediation and mitigation

Be sure to call 811 at least three full days before you perform any digging work. If you detect a natural gas leak by smell, sight or sound immediately leave the vicinity and call 911 and your local gas company.

Pipeline leak survey complete

In the month of April Jo-Carroll Energy performed a leak survey on our eight-inch high pressure natural gas mains in Whiteside and Henry counties. All residents and landowners affected by this inspection were sent a letter explaining the process, its importance and a map of the location of the line we would be inspecting.

The survey process was done by driving the Jo-Carroll side-by-side over the ground directly above the gas mains. A remote methane leak detector (RMLD) was pointed at the ground in the direction of the main. If there were any vapors of gas coming up through the ground, the RMLD would have detected it.

"We were able to complete this project in five days and had the inspection wrapped up April 15 before the farmers got into the fields," said Manager of Gas Operations Pat Anderson. "The inspection went extremely well and no issues were found."

As farmers take to the fields for the 2023 crop season we encourage you to be aware of where any underground pipelines or utilities might be located. If you have any questions or concerns about a pipeline on your property, please reach out to Jo-Carroll Energy at 800-858-5522.



Jo-Carroll Energy
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

STAY IN TOUCH



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