



Spring/Summer | 2025 *A newsletter for JCE Co-op natural gas members.*

Farming safety and natural gas line awareness

Farming is a vital part of our communities, and the work farmers do keeps us all going. However, while you're focused on your operations, safety must always come first—especially when it comes to natural gas lines. Knowing where these lines are located on your property is crucial for protecting not only your family and farm but also the future of the community.

Before you dig, plow, till, rip, install a fence or set up drainage tiles, always remember to call 811. This free service will send trained operators to mark the location of underground utilities, including natural gas lines, on your property. Even if you've already spoken with JCE Co-op about your project, calling 811 is still essential to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Natural gas lines, especially underground pipelines, can be located just a few inches below the surface. Erosion, weather changes or topsoil removal can affect the depth, so you should never assume where the lines are or how deep they are buried. Striking a pipeline or utility line could cause significant damage, disrupt your operations and potentially harm your family. That's why it's important to always take precautions when working the land.

JCE Co-op can assist you by discussing the specific details of your project and helping you check the location and depth of any underground lines. For projects near high-pressure or large distribution lines, we recommend having an operator on-site. They can provide guidance on safety clearance and the best backfilling practices to avoid accidental damage to pipelines.

Farm safety and awareness of underground utilities are responsibilities we all share. By working together, we can help prevent accidents and ensure that your farming operations run smoothly and safely.

For more information on farming safely near natural gas lines, visit FarmSafe811.org. If you have any questions about utilities on your property, contact JCE Co-op at 800-858-5522.

Stay safe, and protect your farm and your future.

Budget billing accounts recalculate in May

Members with budget billing for their natural gas and/or electric accounts will have the budget amounts recalculated in May. Because the budget amount is based on an average of previous 12 months' use and outstanding credits or debits may accrue, the May true-up recalculation may result in an increase or decrease depending on changes in your use patterns.

Be sure to check your May statement to see if your budget amount has changed. A message in blue will appear on your statement to indicate the new budget amount if the recalculation resulted in a change. If you do not see a message on your statement, your budget billing amount remained the same. You will begin paying the new budget amount in June.

If you have more than one billing account on budget, it is possible that one or both amounts may change.

Due to a software change, starting in November of 2025 all budget billed accounts will convert to levelized billing, and budget billing will be sunset. You can find more information on our website at jcecoop.com/budget-billing.

JCE Co-op AMI installation update

JCE Co-op is continuing the process of installing Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) for our natural gas members. Starting in May, we will resume changing out meters and installing AMI modules. Each home with natural gas will receive an upgrade to their existing meter. In some cases, a new meter may be installed alongside the AMI module, depending on the condition and age of the current meter. These installations will continue throughout this year.

You do not need to be present while the work is being completed. Once the upgrade is finished, we will leave a door hanger with any necessary follow-up instructions.

This AMI solution will reduce the need for a JCE Co-op meter reader to visit your property each month. The AMI technology will automatically collect consumption data from your gas meter and securely transfer this data over a network to our database, which is then used for utility billing.

With this system in place, we will be able to take more frequent readings and minimize estimated bills, improving the accuracy of your meter readings.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact JCE Co-op at 800-858-5522.



THANK A GAS UTILITY WORKER!

Pat Anderson Hunter O'Neill Ethan Herber Josh Hoppman Michael Kusmaul Mike Hoppman

National Gas Utility Workers' Day

In March we observed Natural Gas Utility Workers' Day, a time when communities such as ours give recognition to the employees who provide one of their most valuable assets their natural gas utility.

March 18 is the date of the New London, Texas school explosion in 1937 that led to the widespread odorization of natural gas and an increased emphasis on safety. Safety is a vital aspect to natural gas distribution and the employees of distribution companies endeavor to make natural gas delivery as safe as possible.

We dedicate March 18 to celebrate the hard work of natural gas utility employees in addition to their accomplishments in our community. Our customers recognize the need to access reliable, affordable, safe energy and depend on the service of the natural gas utility employees for that need.

We are here for our community and invite you to join us in celebrating your local natural gas utility workers. If you have any questions regarding your public natural gas utility or your upcoming energy needs, please feel free to contact Patrick Anderson at 800-858-5522 Ext 1502.

Pipe leak survey starting in April

In the month of April, JCE Co-op will perform 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 will be sent a letter explaining the process and its importance along with a map of the location of the line to be inspected.

The survey process will be done by driving the JCE side-by-side vehicle over the ground directly above the gas mains. A remote methane leak detector (RMLD) will be pointed at the ground in the direction of the main. If there are any vapors of gas coming up through the ground the RMLD will detect it.

"We are usually able to complete this project within a weeks time, depending on weather, and wrap up before the farmers get into the fields," said Pat Anderson, manager of natural gas operations.

As Farmers prepare for the 2025 crop season, we encourage you to be aware of where any underground pipeline or utilities might be located. If you have any questions or concerns about a pipeline on your property, please reach out to JCE Co-op at 800-858-5522.

How to detect gas leaks and what to do in case of an emergency

Natural gas is odorless, but a distinctive, sulfur-like odor is added to help detect leaks. If you smell this odor, or hear a hissing sound near gas lines or appliances, act immediately.

What to do:

1. Evacuate the area. Leave the building immediately, avoiding any actions that could cause a spark, such as using electrical devices, turning on lights or using a phone.
2. Call for help. From a safe location, contact JCE Co-op or 911. Do not use your phone inside the building.
3. Do not re-enter. Do not return to the area until authorities or a JCE Co-op representative confirms it is safe.

Preventative measures:

- Regularly check your gas appliances and lines for signs of wear.
- Schedule routine maintenance and inspections of your gas-powered systems.

Your safety is our top priority. If you ever suspect a gas leak, take action right away to protect yourself and others. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to JCE Co-op at 800-858-5522.



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