



# Outer Loop Utility Project Pipeline Safety

Natural gas pipelines are one of the safest and most efficient methods of transporting energy that powers our everyday life. In the United States, more than 3 million miles of pipelines deliver natural gas each day to homes, businesses, and industries. (*U.S. Energy Information Administration*)

## Key Pipeline Safety Facts

- The pipeline industry is regulated and monitored by **multiple federal and state safety and environmental agencies**.
- Pipelines are built to **rigorous engineering specifications**, including high-strength steel wall thickness, protective coatings, advanced welding techniques, and corrosion control systems.
- Pipelines are **continuously monitored 24/7**, with automated control systems and remote sensors.
- **Regular inspections use “smart pigs”** — robotic devices that travel inside the pipeline to detect any anomalies.
- **Aerial and ground patrols** visually inspect the route.
- The most common cause of pipeline incidents is excavation damage by third parties. The **Texas One Call system, or 811 program** helps prevent this.
- **Automatic shut-off valves** and **remote-controlled valves** limit the impact of rare incidents.
- The American Gas Association (AGA) reports that natural gas pipeline and utility companies spend approximately **\$7 billion per year** to ensure the safety and reliability of the infrastructure.
- HEP has an **outstanding safety record**. The company won first place in Safety Performance and earned a Perfect Record award from the GPA Midstream Association.

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