Upwards & Onwards to La Ronge

SaskEnergy President & CEO Doug Kelin, addresses the crowd at the announcement on March 8th.

Here’s another story for the TransGas history books. For the first time ever, natural gas service will soon become a reality in La Ronge. Not only will this milestone greatly impact residents in northern Saskatchewan, but it will also mean a major initiative for TransGas.

Starting this Spring, TransGas will support the engineering and construction of a 152-km high-pressure pipeline running from Montreal Lake to La Ronge. If necessary, we could also build a compressor station north of Anglin Lake, and are looking at opportunities to support the community by hiring construction personnel from the area to help us with this project.

The total cost of this initiative is $20.8 million, with the Government of Saskatchewan and SaskEnergy each contributing $7 million, and the remaining $6.8 million resulting from residential and commercial customer contributions.

Once the project is complete in the spring of 2008, more than 800 residents of La Ronge Air Ronge, Weyakwin, Ramsey Bay and the Lac La Ronge Indian Band will benefit from everything natural gas has to offer. And TransGas will have completed a major project that will positively impact northern Saskatchewan for generations to come.
Through Wind, Hail or Snow

This last winter may have started out slowly, but winter did eventually arrive with the most noteworthy storm of the year being on January 10. Communities around Saskatoon, Melfort and St. Louis were hardest hit by this storm, one of the worst in history.

In Saskatoon, this major snow blizzard, with 70 – 80 km winds, brought the city to a complete halt with limited visibility in the city and zero visibility outside the city limits.

While the priority is to keep the gas flowing to our customers, we must ensure the safety of our staff is not compromised in doing so. A meeting was quickly held on the morning of the 10th, before the blizzard had come into full force, where we developed a contingency and emergency plan. Three of our storage/compressor sites in the area, Prud’homme, Melfort and St. Louis, were deemed critical to ensuring sufficient gas flow.

Prud’homme storage production was being used that day and it was critical to ensure production was maintained. With the aid of a local farmer with a tractor and plough hired by TransGas, Logan Eden, District Mechanic Operator, followed behind, leaving Saskatoon at 6:30 pm and arriving in Prud’homme around 10:00 pm. It’s a trip that normally takes only 40 minutes! He was then able to ensure there were no issues staying overnight at the Prud’homme plant.

In addition, it was determined the Melfort plant was needed as a booster station in this critical situation. Murray Cook, District Mechanic Operator, via means of a borrowed SaskPower snowmobile was able to get to the plant to do the required job, staying overnight as well.

In St Louis, it was decided the plant should have staff on hand during the storm, so prior to the height of the blizzard reaching their community, Charlie Simonot and Len McCutcheon, District Mechanic Operators in the area, headed out in their truck and were able to maneuver the elements and get to the St Louis plant safely, staying overnight at the St Louis plant.

Staying overnight at the Prud’homme, Melfort and St Louis plants not only ensured the safety of our staff members during the storm, but also made sure our customers were not left out in the cold.

We would like to take this time to say thank you to Logan, Murray, Charlie and Len, and to all our field and operations staff who go the extra mile through extreme situations and, no matter the elements, through wind, hail or snow - are able to keep the gas flowing so our customers stay comfortable and warm.

Did You Know?
Did you know that TransGas is planning an expansion in Southeast Saskatchewan?
For more information see the News Release on our website or contact Debbie Brown, Director TransGas Customer Services at 306-777-9595 or Barry Ell, Manager Customer Facility Requests at 306-777-9489.
As of March 19, TransGas storage customers have a total inventory in storage of 7.6 PJ or 21% of full, based on total contracted storage of 36.1 PJ firm and summer use. TransGas storage customer net withdrawal during the 2006/07 winter is projected to be 26 PJ or 81% of the 2006/07 winter design withdrawal. Physical storage withdrawal during the past winter was reduced by 5 PJ from the storage customers nominated net withdrawal as a result of TransGas buy/sell activity. As of March 19, a total of 29 PJ of storage injection remains during 2007 summer to refill all contracted TransGas storage.

Good News on the Storage Horizon

Considering storage requirements are on the rise, TransGas is heeding the call and as part of a larger expansion project, proposing a cavern development project near Landis to help meet the growing needs of our customers.

In late March, representatives from TransGas held an Open House in Landis to inform residents of a proposed storage development project in the area. If approved, TransGas will develop three additional storage caverns to compliment the two existing facilities constructed in the 1970s. Facility construction and cavern well drilling would begin this Summer/Fall, with cavern mining to start the first quarter of 2008. The first gas injection is slated for the second quarter 2009.

The purpose of the Open House was to bring TransGas and the community together, to educate residents about the work we are proposing, and what this will mean to Landis and the surrounding areas. Basically, it’s just the first building block in a positive relationship we’re going to develop with people in this part of Saskatchewan.

Community support is key in our storage cavern developments, and our objective is to ensure their support every step of the way.

More communication is also planned for the Landis area through activities such as a new internet site explaining project details and developments; meetings with local decision-makers; and the good old-fashioned face-to-face communication through more Open Houses and information sessions as the project proceeds. Stay tuned for updates!
Riding to the Edge of the World For Autism Awareness

Snow, gravel roads, and the frigid Canadian winter are all challenges TransGas employee Dan Powaschuk is ready to face, but none of them are going to stop him from spreading his message about Autism.

On March 16th, Dan set off for the ‘edge of the world’. Dan left Regina on his motorcycle for a 4,240 km public awareness journey up to Tuktoyaktuk in the Canadian Artic with anticipated stops in various cities along the way. His goal is to increase public and media awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a developmental condition that affects the central nervous system and impairs social interaction, communication, and development.

Dan’s inspiration, his four year old son Eric, was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder two years ago. Since Eric’s diagnosis, Dan and his wife Line have been working hard to provide him with a home development program to encourage his growth.

On March 5th, TransGas/SaskEnergy had hosted a media conference to wish Dan well and donated $1,000 to Saskatchewan Families for Effective Autism Treatment (SaskFEAT). A large crowd of TransGas/SaskEnergy employees and numerous media outlets came to listen to Dan’s story and learn more about Autism. According to Autism Society Canada, 1 in every 251 children born in Saskatchewan will be affected with autism. Today, autism is recognized as the most common neurological disorders affecting children.

“We think we’re very fortunate to have an employee who’s stepping up to provide some leadership for all of Saskatchewan to learn more about autism,” said Doug Kelln, president and chief executive officer of SaskEnergy. “We thought it was a great opportunity to show our support toward provincial autism work that’s being done.”

Lisa Simmermon from SaskFEAT, who also has a son with the disorder, spoke about ASD and the challenges those who have it face. “We’re hoping with the information made available, families will not feel this tremendous sense of isolation that they currently are experiencing in many places,” said Lisa. “They feel terribly alone and they feel terribly frustrated by the lack of services and the lack of cohesiveness in services.”

Line Powaschuk, Dan’s wife who was also in attendance said, “I don’t know how to express what it’s doing for us. It’s giving us a sense of making a difference — that’s one of the things parents have to face when they have children with autism is that you feel very helpless. You feel like you can’t do anything to change (it).” Line went on to say, “The more help these people get, the better. Whatever you do, it’s never enough. There could always be more — and there could be more. It’s never enough.”

Through his expedition, Dan hopes to narrow the gap — even if it takes him to the ‘edge of the world’. We couldn’t say it any better and our sentiments are the same when Line also went on to say, “I’m very, very proud of him. I just want him to come back in one piece, which I trust he will do.”

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2007 Outage Scheduling & Coordination

Under ‘Today in TransGas’ (Planned Outages) on the TransGas Website, you will find a list of any planned TransGas outages. This report is intended to provide an early notice to customers to help in the planning of their own facility maintenance work and downtime. As of March 19, over 120 outages in the TransGas system have been scheduled for 2007. To date approximately 15% of these outages have been completed. The majority of these outages are scheduled during 2007 summer, and as in the past few years the majority of the planned outages relate to the TransGas pipeline integrity program.

TransGas will continue to post and update all outages impacting customer service on the TransGas website on a monthly basis. As a result of effective outage coordination with our customers, minimal customer impact is expected during 2007 due to any planned TransGas outage activity. Please contact your Key Account Manager about your scheduled downtime or if you have any questions or concerns in this regard.

Did You Know?
Did you know that effective November 2007 additional costs for winter construction will be considered standard service costs and eligible for TransGas investment?
Timely and accurate daily measurement is important for our customers to manage their business and for us to manage our pipeline. In November 2004, TransGas implemented a new Gas measurement Acquisition System (GMAS) that would improve the day to day accuracy of the daily energy reported. In 2006, the system appeared to reach its capacity, whereby the daily polling and upload of the measurement was often not successful. With Ron Carman, Umesh Mistry and David Danserea at the leading the investigation and thinking outside of the box, they determined why the problems were occurring and which solutions could fix them.

As a result, daily polling success rates have risen to 90%. This provides the same percentage level of accuracy in our Daily Energy and Shipper accounts and therefore offers more accurate up-to-date information for our customers.

On March 8 of this year, TransGas celebrated these recent improvements to our measurement system, recognizing the efforts of all the staff involved.

(l. to r.) Ron Carman, David Danserea, Derek Leach, Umish Mistry
Fourth Highest Daily Transport

The TransGas 2006/07 winter peak day occurred on February 14 at 1.49 PJ, and was the fourth highest daily transport of all time. The February 14 transport was 96% of the 2006/07 winter peak day design, and was slightly less than all-time peak day deliveries of 1.54 PJ that occurred on February 6, 1994. On February 14, Saskatchewan deliveries accounted for 62% of the total transport. In addition on February 14, 35% of the gas supply, or 520 TJ/d was received from TransGas storage production. During the period of February 1 to 16, TransGas had 16 consecutive days that the transport was 1.3 PJ or greater.

During peak day operation, the system performed well with no significant issues. The reliability of our service is vital during periods of extreme winter temperatures in Saskatchewan.

TRANSGAS AND MIPL
ACTUAL PEAK DAY TRANSPORT DELIVERIES (1998/99 TO 2006/07)

February 6, 1994: All-time total system transport peak of 1.54 PJ.

YOUR LINK TO SUCCESS
Safety Stand Down Week

On 2007 February 28, TransGas/SaskEnergy staff took part in Safety Stand Down Week. We are very proud of our safety record and our company promises to continue to grow as an organization whereby safety is never compromised.

**Did You Know?**

Did you know that as part of our system integrity program, TransGas completed the running of a one-of-a-kind ultrasonic inline inspection tool through 165 kms of our 12” from Beacon Hill to Leoville on January 11th? The data is being analyzed and inspection work completed over the next few months. Watch for the complete story of this very unique project in the next issue of the Link.