

Obtaining Gas Service for Compressed Natural Gas Refueling Stations

Overview

This document outlines the information required from customers and the process followed by SoCalGas to provide natural gas service to those intending to install and operate a compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling station within our service territory. In accordance with the G-NGV tariff, all CNG stations must be separately metered and billed. SoCalGas must install a natural gas meter and, when necessary, a service line for each CNG station that receives natural gas from the SoCalGas pipeline system. In some situations, additional pipeline construction is necessary to provide service.

Customer Information Required

The following information is required for each proposed CNG station installation:

- CNG station address, including nearest cross street
- Contact information, including name, company, address, phone, and tax id number
- Party responsible for paying natural gas bills, if different from the contact information
- Desired gas meter location¹
- Maximum CNG station natural gas flow rate (standard cubic feet per minute)
- CNG station compressor(s) specification sheet and operating schedule
- Annual CNG station natural gas usage for year one, two and three of operation; include supporting detail, such as a list of vehicles to be fueled, party that owns and/or operates the vehicles, expected vehicle fuel use, and timing of vehicle purchases
- Pressure requested at the point of delivery (if not standard pressure)²

¹ It is highly recommended that a plot plan or sketch of the property be provided to avoid delays.

² The standard delivery pressure at the point of delivery is eight inches of water column or about 1/3 psig.

³ Preliminary NGV Site Evaluation form results are only valid for six months if not acted upon. Requests for service after this time will require a new evaluation.

Obtaining Natural Gas Service

The following describes the process to obtain natural gas service at CNG stations:

Step 1

Contact SoCalGas at cleantransportation@socalgas.com; an Account Executive will be assigned to your project.

Step 2

The Account Executive contacts the customer to discuss the project and gather additional information.

Step 3

The customer completes a Preliminary NGV Site Evaluation form. This form must be requested by the occupant of the legal premises, or permission granted by the owner of the legal premises to the requester. Natural gas service options are evaluated and results summarized and provided to the requester. Estimated time to complete this is three to four weeks. There is no cost for the initial analysis. Additional analyses cost \$3,650 each.

Step 4

The Account Executive and customer discuss the Preliminary NGV Site Evaluation form results and develop plans for natural gas service.³

Step 5

The customer completes a Request for Non-Residential Gas Facilities (Form 5). A SoCalGas region engineer will be assigned to the project to prepare a design, develop a cost estimate and construction schedule, and research necessary permits. This may take several months or longer to complete.

Step 6

The Account Executive and customer review the project cost estimate and schedule.

Step 7

The Account Executive sends a Line Extension Contract and Gas Installation Bid document to the customer for signature and payment, if required.

Step 8

Before service construction can begin, the customer completes a Line Extension Contract and Customer Responsibility Form and payment. Once permits are received from the necessary authorities, construction is initiated to install a natural gas meter, service line, and any additional pipeline construction necessary to serve the CNG station. This may take several months or longer to complete.

Step 9

The customer completes construction and receives a building and safety permit from the local municipality for the natural gas houseline installed from the compressor/dryer up to the natural gas meter location.⁴

Step 10

The customer calls 1-800-427-2000 to create a SoCalGas account for the station.

Step 11

The local municipality contacts SoCalGas to confirm building and safety permit approval for the natural gas houseline installed up to the gas meter.

Step 12

The customer contacts 1-800-427-2000 to request natural gas meter "turn on" to initiate gas service. SoCalGas will dispatch a crew to turn the meter on and begin supplying gas to the CNG station. Estimated time to complete this step is five to seven days.

⁴ Testing and inspection of the natural gas houseline should be completed as soon as possible to avoid delays.

