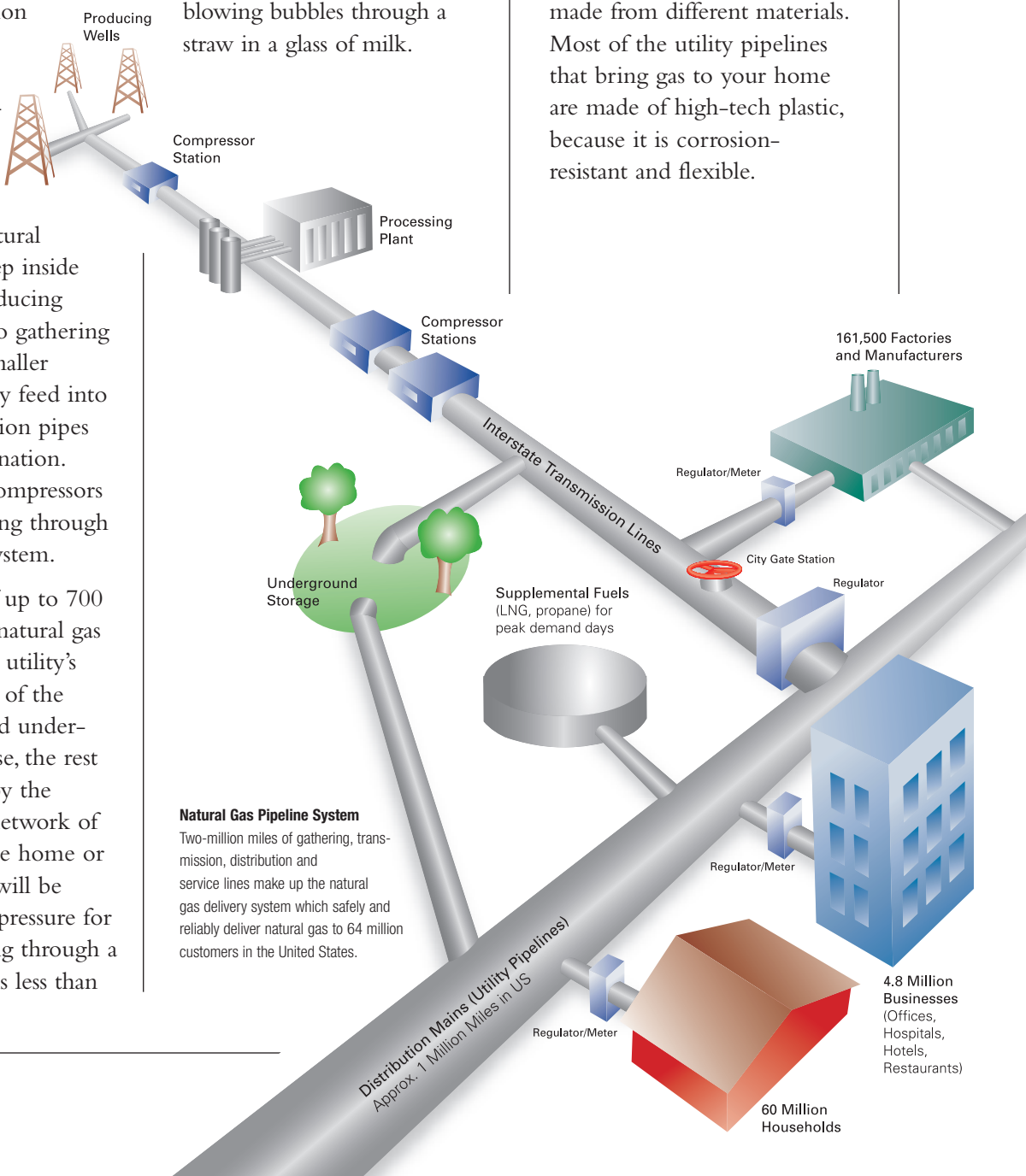
The Natural Gas Delivery System

Natural Gas Pipelines: Safe, Sound and Underground

Every day in the United States, several million cubic feet of natural gas travel through an underground pipeline delivery system to 64 million customers. The natural gas flows from deep inside the earth into producing wells and then into gathering pipelines. These smaller pipelines eventually feed into the large transmission pipes that crisscross the nation. Machines called compressors keep the gas moving through the transmission system.

After a journey of up to 700 miles per day, the natural gas arrives at the local utility's gate station. Some of the natural gas is stored underground for later use, the rest of the gas is sent by the utility through a network of smaller pipes to the home or business where it will be used. The normal pressure for natural gas traveling through a household's pipes is less than the pressure created by a child blowing bubbles through a straw in a glass of milk.

Natural gas pipelines are made from different materials. Most of the utility pipelines that bring gas to your home are made of high-tech plastic, because it is corrosion-resistant and flexible.



Natural Gas Pipeline System
Two-million miles of gathering, transmission, distribution and service lines make up the natural gas delivery system which safely and reliably deliver natural gas to 64 million customers in the United States.

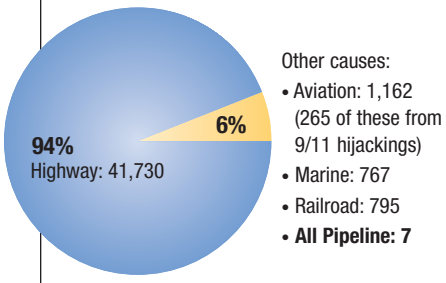
Pipeline Safety Record

Safety incidents on natural gas pipelines are rare, yet more natural gas is traveling through the pipeline system than ever before.

Safety is the number-one priority of America's natural gas industry. The pipeline infrastructure, which includes 1.4 million miles of natural gas pipeline, is the nation's safest energy delivery system, according to U.S. government statistics.

Pipelines Have Outstanding Safety Records

Transportation-Related Fatalities, 2001



Source: U.S. National Transportation Safety Board

Together, gas utility and pipeline companies spend close to $7 billion annually to ensure that natural gas is delivered in a safe and reliable manner.

"Call Before You Dig"

The leading cause of accidents on the pipeline delivery system is hitting a line when digging or trenching, accounting for 60 percent of all incidents on gas utility pipelines. In most cases, this damage results when someone performs an excavating activity without first asking the natural gas company to mark the location of its lines, or fails to follow common sense practices when excavating near a gas line. That's why the natural gas industry strongly supports "call before you dig" programs, which have enormous potential to decrease pipeline incidents.

Pipeline Markers

Natural gas companies install aboveground markers to indicate the location of buried gas lines. The markers were developed by the natural gas industry and later incorporated into federal law. Line markers, sometimes called right-of-way markers, are placed at public road crossings, except in urban areas where utility locator services that locate and mark underground facilities are available.

For more information about pipeline safety:

American Gas Association . . . . . .www.aga.org
Common Ground Alliance . . . . . .www.commongroundalliance.com
U.S. Dept. of Transportation "Dig Safely" program . . . . . .http://ops.dot.gov/damage.htm

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