

A quick look at the NEO project

The North Eastern Offshore (NEO) project involves the construction of a 36” diameter natural gas pipeline. The line will leave the BHP Billiton Gas Export Platform (GEP), currently under construction, off the east coast of Trinidad, in the Angostura field, and arrive on land at NGC’s Mayaro Regulator Station. At the same time, NGC is constructing a 12” pipeline from the BHP’s GEP to Cove Industrial Estate, Tobago.

NGC is responsible for the construction of the pipeline, while BHP will construct the platform and its associated pipeline infrastructure including the part of the pipeline that originates on the platform. The offshore segment of the line will be 84 km long. It will travel another 10 km on land to NGC’s BUD facility at Abyssinia.

What’s going on with NEO

Pipes ready for use

NGC imported 8054 lengths of pipe for the project from India. Those which will be used underwater are concrete weight-coated to provide stability of the pipeline on the seabed and protection from third party damage.

HDD in progress

NGC is performing a Horizontal Direct Drilling (HDD) operation starting 1.6 km offshore at Mayaro. This complex technique allows us to lay segments of the pipeline under the shoreline without open cutting, to avoid damaging the environment. To do this, a hole is bored horizontally under the area and the pipeline is drawn through it like thread through a needle. The HDD will be conducted on a 24-hour basis and will be finished by mid-January 2010. It will follow the initial pipe laying on the seabed which is underway in preparation for the pipe full into the drilled hole.

What’s next

Once the HDD and other preparatory works are completed, we will begin to lay the onshore pipeline which will be tied-in to the New Abyssinia Accumulator Station (NAAS). This activity is scheduled to commence in January, 2010 and should be completed by August, 2010. This will be followed by construction of the main marine pipeline from May to August, 2010. We expect all works to be completed by November 2010 and first gas supplied in January 2011.