

Who is NGC?

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) is a state enterprise responsible for the purchase, sale, transmission and distribution of natural gas throughout Trinidad and Tobago. On behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, NGC owns and operates both sub-sea and land pipelines.

Through its investment in Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited, NGC is involved in the processing of natural gas for export to markets across the Americas and the Caribbean.

NGC is involved in the production of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) through its investment in the Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago and provides tariff-based transmission services to shippers of natural gas that supply Train 4 of Atlantic LNG.

The National Energy Corporation (NEC), a subsidiary of NGC, contributes to the promotion and facilitation of investment in the local natural gas sector by providing and managing industrial sites and supporting infrastructure, including marine and port facilities.



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NATURAL GAS PIPELINE





What is the NEO Pipeline?

The NEO Pipeline is the North-Eastern Offshore pipeline. It will transport natural gas from BHP Billiton's Gas Export Platform (GEP) in the Angostura Field, located off the northeast coast of Trinidad, to NGC's existing New Abyssinia Accumulator Station (BUD) before it is fed into the country's gas transmission network.

NEO comprises a 36-inch diameter marine pipeline segment that runs southwards for 83 km from the BHP Angostura Field until landfall at Mayaro Bay. There is also an onshore segment that runs for 10.5 km from the Mayaro Bay Regulator Station to NGC's New Abyssinia Accumulator Station at Beachfield.

The total length of the pipeline system is approximately 94 km.

How long will construction take?

Construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2009 with the Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) and the laying of the pipe string for the HDD. Construction of the onshore segment, from Mayaro to New Abyssinia, will take place between January and August 2010. It will be followed by the marine pipeline installation lays during April/August 2010. All works will be completed by October with pre-commissioning during November/December 2010. Finally, commissioning will be carried out and completed by the first quarter of 2011.

What are the benefits of this project to Trinidad and Tobago?

- The increase in natural gas supply from new sources in the North East Coast marine area will mean increased revenues for the country.
- Increase in reliability of the supply to NGC's Trinidad customers because of this additional source.
- Reliability of supply to Tobago. Tobago's primary supply will be the Pipeline to Tobago. If however, BHP Billiton's GEP is unable to supply gas to Tobago, NGC can supply natural gas from its Beachfield facility via the NEO pipeline.

What measures will be taken to prevent impact on the environment during construction?

The marine segment of the system will be constructed by a pipe-laying vessels, which will lay approximately 3-5 miles (5-8 km) of pipeline per day. During this exercise the vessel will not have a fixed location but will move forward continuously as it lays the pipe along the seabed. The exercise is likely to take no more than ten weeks and will not impede fishermen in their daily routine.

HDD Technology will be used in the coastline crossing where the pipeline comes ashore to minimize impact on the environment. Only water-based environmentally acceptable clays will be used in the process. The HDD technology is very environmentally friendly since it allows the pipeline to be installed without cutting through the coastline. In addition, silt and turbidity screens will be used in the immediate vicinity of the onshore project site, thereby reducing silt build-up in the watercourses.

Onshore, the pipe will be laid within the existing 30-inch-diameter pipeline Right of Way so site preparation disturbances to the environment will be minimal. Also, the pipe will be buried to a depth of 5 feet, reducing the opportunity for third-party interference. Where possible, the physical features of the surrounding areas will be left intact to reduce slope exposure and potential erosion. Disturbed areas will be reinstated as far as possible and maintained. NGC has adopted a "No Net Forest" policy and will reforest an area that is equivalent to the area cleared for construction.

Safety during the Operations Phase

In all its operations, NGC is guided by the following safety objectives:

- to prevent injury and loss of life to the public and NGC's employees
- to minimize damage to facilities and the environment

Pipe joints intended for the marine pipelay have been concrete-coated. This helps ensure that when the pipe is laid on the sea bed there will be minimal movement from underwater currents. In areas where extremes in weather conditions could cause pipe to shift, concrete mats will be used to further anchor the pipe to the seabed.

Pipeline integrity of both the land and marine segments will be monitored by regular inspections. This ensures that the segments are free of defects.

The Beachfield facilities are manned 24/7 and equipped with a state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Access system for monitoring gas flows and system pressures. The system allows the operator at the Point Lisas Control Room to open and close critical valves in the event of an emergency.

NGC has an Emergency Response Plan for all its facilities that details steps to be followed and levels of responsibility for activating a response when necessary. NGC also conducts regular emergency drills to test and improve its emergency plan.