



# Atlanta Gas Light®

An *AGL Resources* Company

## VINTAGE PLASTIC CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

Atlanta Gas Light launched its integrated Vintage Plastic Replacement Program (also called "Vintage Plastic") in August 2013 after receiving approval from the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) to replace approximately 750 miles of plastic pipe installed between 1965 and 1983 with the majority installed before 1974. Replacing the older pipe with newer, technologically advanced plastic pipe with a longer useful life will help ensure an even safer and more reliable natural gas pipeline system. Atlanta Gas Light was one of the first gas utilities in the nation to begin a comprehensive pipeline replacement program. Our 15-year Pipeline Replacement Program (PRP) completed in 2013 replaced more than 2,700 miles of bare steel pipe across the state and became a model replacement program for utilities across the country.

**REPLACEMENT PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED IN A PHASED PROCESS.**



Markings help identify the locations of existing utilities in a project area.



Open cut construction (left) and directional drill installation (right) are the most common methods of completing a replacement project. On occasion a method referred to as "pipe splitting" will be utilized. In this process old abandoned gas pipe will be split and inserted with new plastic pipe.



Traffic control measures are used when pipeline replacement work requires a temporary lane closure for worker safety.

### Step 1: Locate Existing Utilities

Before construction can begin, existing utilities, such as water, sewer, phone, etc. must be located. This helps to ensure that these services are not accidentally damaged by Atlanta Gas Light contractors when the replacement work gets underway. Spray painted markings on streets, sidewalks, and along public right-of-way show where these underground utilities exist. While the paint used is not permanent and eventually washes away, it is important that the markings remain visible for the safety of both the public and construction workers in the area. Leaving the marks visible throughout the replacement of gas lines also protects other utilities from disruptions and unplanned service interruptions.

### Step 2: Replace the Gas Main

Next the contractor will replace the vintage

plastic gas main with state-of-the-art plastic pipe either through "open cut" construction, directional drilling, or pipe splitting. The existing mains to be replaced are in public right-of-way, typically just behind the curb of the street or pavement edge. The "open cut" method involves excavating a narrow trench in the road or along the right-of-way. Directional drilling helps to reduce construction impacts because it uses two smaller excavated areas where crews can "push" the pipe through one hole and "pull" it out the other. Pipe splitting also helps reduce construction impacts because new pipe is inserted in old abandoned gas lines that have been previously split. Similar to directional drilling, crews open two excavations on either side of the pipe to be replaced and pull new pipe through an existing hole. Gas is put back into the line once the replacement has been made.

Depending on the amount of gas main replaced, the actual service connection work could happen several weeks after the initial work in an area.





Connecting the service line to the main line usually happens in the right-of-way but may require some work on private property.

### Step 3: Connect the New Line to Homes and Businesses

Once the new natural gas main is installed, the individual service lines to homes and businesses need to be transferred (also known as being “tied over”) to the new

distribution line. In many cases, the service line will need to be replaced altogether. Depending on the amount of gas main replaced, the actual work to transfer the existing service or replace it entirely could happen several weeks after the initial gas main replacement. This gap in timing results from the need to have all of the new gas main installed before gas is introduced into the main.

The construction work to replace the natural gas service line most frequently begins in the public right-of-way and extends to the customer’s gas meter (typically at a building wall). During any service line work, gas must be briefly shut off to the property. Residences and businesses will receive a door hanger one to two days prior to the gas service interruption with contact information and scheduling information on when the service interruption will transpire.

### Step 4: Restore Gas Service to Homes and Business

Once the gas service line has been replaced and/or transferred to the new natural gas main, an Atlanta Gas Light contractor or field service representative will schedule a time to enter the residence or business to re-light all working appliances that operate on



All Atlanta Gas Light contractors and employees should present Atlanta Gas Light identification prior to entering the premises.

natural gas. This step is coordinated with the occupant, resident, or property owner so that someone can be onsite. **Customers should NOT attempt to relight their appliances.**

### Step 5: Restore Construction Area

Since the replacement process is completed in phases, Atlanta Gas Light contractors use temporary restoration materials such as wheat straw on soft surface areas. On hard surface areas that have been disturbed (such as sidewalks, driveways, streets, etc.) gravel or temporary asphalt patches will be used until permanent restoration can be completed at the end of the project.

Atlanta Gas Light’s contractors are responsible for final restoration at the end of the project. Using temporary restoration measures while the work is in progress stabilizes the area of construction, whether a yard, sidewalk, or street, while allowing the project to move forward in an efficient manner. The amount of time between the initial excavation and final restoration can be several weeks or even months based on a number of variables, including weather, project area terrain, etc. Atlanta Gas Light’s goal is to restore an area as closely as possible to its pre-construction condition once the project is complete while adhering to all local paving and erosion control ordinances.



Temporary restoration (left) includes asphalt or gravel patches, hay for erosion control, and other short-term measures. Final restoration (right) may include permanent asphalt patches or repaving, seed or sod in yards, and sidewalk restoration.

The amount of time between the initial excavation and final restoration can be several weeks or even months based on a number of variables, including weather, type of pipe material used, project area terrain, and more.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as Atlanta Gas Light works to improve the safety and reliability of the natural gas system in your area.

Questions about Vintage Plastic projects in your area? Please visit [www.atlantagaslight.com/vintageplastic](http://www.atlantagaslight.com/vintageplastic) or contact Atlanta Gas Light at (404) 584-3142 or [vintageplastic@aglresources.com](mailto:vintageplastic@aglresources.com).

