

Case Study: **CCI Gas System Oversight and Compliance Services**

The Situation

Gas distribution systems have leaks and most distribution operators conduct periodic leak surveys to repair or replace faulty equipment. On a current project for a mid-west gas utility, we found approximately 5% of customer visits required either preventative maintenance or gas leak remediation. This number is higher when surveying elevated pressure meters and on post-deployment surveys. Recent incidents across the country have raised questions in the public's mind about the safety of older pipelines and utilities need to stay on top of their integrity management programs.

In October of 2016, this powerful natural gas explosion in New Jersey leveled three homes and damaged almost twenty more. A gas leak inside the basement of one home was the cause of the incident.



New rules issued recently in response to the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act mandate strict testing and maintenance requirements. Since corrosion and leak rates may differ greatly based on the meter location (Indoor/outdoor) and the environmental conditions (humidity, temperature, direct exposure), utilities need the proper plan for their specific territory and customer base. States are accelerating the replacement of high risk pipe and other measures to prevent future incidents. Utilities must remain vigilant in meeting the regulated requirements and core safety protocols to ensure a safe reliable system.

The CCI Solution:

In light of recent events in the gas sector, utilities are under increased pressure from their regulators, the media, the general public, shareholders, and their own management to do all that they can to ensure that their assets operate as intended in a timely, safe and efficient manner. Regulatory agencies issue violations if the utility has no tests, investigations, or demonstrated experience that unprotected pipe exposed to the atmosphere does not require coating or painting. Many companies are challenged to meet these requirements due to an aging infrastructure, shrunken experienced workforce, and budgetary constraints. As a result, many pipeline and utility operators are increasingly turning to business partners for support and expertise for these highly-regulated functions.

CCI provides atmospheric corrosion inspections and gas leak surveys as a part of our overall gas services division. We identify and repair areas of metal loss due to general corrosion, localized corrosion pitting, or peeling scale on the steel surface that has damaged the pipe. We identify early issues which, if allowed to continue, may affect the safe operation of the pipeline at some point in the future. Our team can provide a solid assessment of the integrity of your gas system assets and make repairs or replacements in the field to prevent future incidents and maintain the system moving forward. Together, we can work to provide safe, reliable gas operations and ensure you are fully compliant with all local, state, and federal requirements.

For more information, please contact:
Mike Maguire, Vice President
610-960-4110
mmaguire@contractcallers.com