

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

**For Immediate Release**  
**OGC IB # 04-10**  
**January 15, 2010**

## **COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE VICTORIA PIPELINE INCIDENT**

**VICTORIA** – At approximately 10:20 PM on Sunday, January 10, 2010 a contractor performing a water line removal and replacement project for the Capital Regional District was performing an excavation at the intersection of Pleasant Avenue and Bay Street in Victoria, British Columbia.

The contractor struck a 6" pipeline carrying odourized natural gas and operating at a pressure of approximately 275 psi (~1900 kPa).

The facts surrounding the incident are under investigation by the BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission).

The Commission regulates the pipeline and is seeking to determine facts leading to the pipeline strike as well as factors in the decisions related to the management of the strike.

Pipelines in British Columbia are subject to a number of statutes and regulations administered by the Commission and other agencies. In addition, pipelines regulated by the Commission are subject to the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards adopted and enforced by the Commission.

### **CSA clause 10.3.11 - Ground Disturbance**

#### **10.3.11.1**

At construction sites in the vicinity of pipelines, the operating company, upon request or after becoming aware of construction activity near its pipelines, shall provide visual markings of the location of such pipelines.

**Note:** *The colour yellow should be used for such markings. Regional associations, also known as Common Ground Alliances, provide guidance in damage prevention best practices and information on one-call systems.*

#### **10.3.11.2**

Operating companies shall communicate with those who propose ground disturbance in order to determine the scope of the proposed ground disturbance work and to

communicate the company-specific safe work practices.

**Note:** *Operating companies should communicate to excavators the importance of pre-marking to outline the boundaries of the dig areas or to identify dig routes. The use of white marks for pre-marking is recommended, and in all cases, the marks should be appropriate for the site taking into consideration environmental conditions. See CSA C22.3 No. 7.*

#### **10.3.11.3**

Operating companies should establish safety zones for buried pipelines and communicate the conditions that the excavator is required to comply with when working in these safety zones.

The Commission is making a number of formal information requests to the pipeline operator to determine facts contributing to the cause and subsequent management of the incident.

**For more information, please contact:**

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