

# Pioneer Square natural gas construction look-ahead (Week of Sept. 23, 2013)

In conjunction with WSDOT's Alaskan Way Viaduct Replacement Program, Puget Sound Energy's natural gas contractor, Michels Corporation, has been working to relocate PSE's high pressure natural gas pipeline in Pioneer Square. Last week, the final section of pipe was installed along Western Avenue. Before the new pipeline can be put into service it must be tested and the old section of pipe must be retired. Below is a snapshot of construction activities scheduled for this week.

## Michels construction activities



- Pipe testing will take place on Monday, Sept. 23 and Tuesday, Sept. 24.
- Beginning as early as Wednesday, Sept. 25, final street paving will take place on Yesler Way between James Street and Western Avenue.
- On Thursday, Sept. 26, the newly installed natural gas pipe will be filled with natural gas.
- On Friday, Sept. 27, crews will be retiring the section of old pipe, which requires us to burn off excess natural gas in the pipeline before permanently isolating it from the larger system. Here's a look at what you can expect:
  - You may see a large, controlled flame that is expected to burn for approximately six hours on Friday
  - Flaring will take place at the intersection of S Main Street and Occidental Avenue as well as on Western Avenue between Yesler Way and Columbia Street.
  - Because the natural gas is burned off as soon as it leaves the pipe, the flaring procedure is safe and controlled. Only minimal amounts of natural gas will escape into the atmosphere, and because natural gas is lighter than air, it will quickly dissipate.
  - The flame will be monitored nonstop by natural gas employees until the flaring procedure is completed.

## Michels work hours\*

- Pipeline activities (testing the new pipe, filling it with natural gas and decommissioning the old section of pipe) will be conducted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Mon-Fri)
- Paving will take place between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. (Mon-Fri) and 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (Saturdays)

\*Work hours may vary based on location, local events and permitting requirements.

## Traffic impacts

- Expect parking impacts near equipment staging areas and in construction zones
- Please follow all posted signs and flaggers
- Bikers and pedestrians should use caution when traveling in construction zones



*Safety is our top priority when it comes to designing, constructing, operating and maintaining the natural gas system serving more than 750,000 PSE customers. Thank you for your patience as we work to safely relocate this vital natural gas pipeline in downtown Seattle.*

For more information:

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Text "PSEviaduct" to **555-888** to receive updates about the project (standard text message rates apply, text "stop" to unsubscribe).

