Patriots Energy Group

COMPRESSOR STATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Why are compressor stations needed?

A Natural gas compressor stations are above-ground facilities that facilitate the transportation of natural gas across the country to end users. As natural gas moves through a pipeline, distance, friction, usage and elevation differences slow the movement of the gas, and reduce pressure. The purpose of a compressor station is to maintain the pressure of the gas inside the pipe at a level that enables natural gas to move sufficient volumes for reliable service to delivery points.

Q How large is the compressor station site and where will it be located?

A The compressor station will be located on Hwy 5, south of the Town of Blacksburg on 18 acres of property currently owned and maintained by PEG. The compressor station will be enclosed in a 6.5 acre fenced site. The temporary staging area for construction supplies is approximately 1.3 acres and will be returned to previous usage after construction.

Q What equipment is housed at a compressor station?

A The facility will consist of a compressor building, housing the compressors unit(s); above ground piping; an office building; an auxiliary building; natural gas coolers; an auxiliary generator; an air compressor; storage tanks; mufflers and exhaust silencers; filter/separators and safety systems. The major operating equipment at the compressor station is enclosed in security fencing and monitored to allow for access only by authorized personnel. The station safety features include remote cameras, natural gas and fire detection equipment, fire suppression system and motion detection system.

Q Are natural gas compressor stations safe?

A Safety of our system, employees and customers is our top priority. Natural gas compressor stations must be engineered, constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) safety standards which are intended to protect the public and prevent accidents. PHMSA inspections are conducted during the design, construction and operation of pipelines and compressor stations. The record shows that natural gas compressor stations are extremely safe. Since 2002, when detailed data was first collected by federal regulators, there have been no reported incidents where a member of the public was injured because of a compressor station incident.

Q What types of safety systems are required?

A A variety of safety systems and practices designed to protect the public and station employees are utilized. Compressor stations are designed with continuous monitoring devices along with emergency shutdown systems capable of stopping the compressor units, isolating the station, and safely venting gas quickly in the unlikely event of an emergency. Natural gas is lighter than air, so will rise and dissipate quickly into the atmosphere. These systems are designed and routinely tested to be reliable, and since the natural gas is routed past the station, it is extremely rare to have a compressor station incident.

Q How are compressor stations monitored?

A Compressor stations are maintained by highly skilled and experienced pipeline personnel along our pipeline systems. To ensure safe operations, well trained gas controllers work around the clock in a high-tech control center to monitor and control the gas as it travels through all sections of the pipeline network.

Q What will be seen or heard if an emergency shutdown occurs?

A In the unlikely event of an emergency shutdown, a loud noise often compared to the sound of a jet engine or a freight train would be emitted lasting anywhere from one to four minutes. This sound is the result of the release of pressure from the compressor station piping.

Q Were environmental and cultural studies completed on the site?

A Environmental and Cultural studies were completed on the site. These studies were filed with applicable regulatory, state and local agencies.

Q Can compressor stations cause vibration?

A Vibration is caused by direct vibration or by low-frequency noise emitted from a compressor station. This is similar to what happens when noise from a speaker causes the floor to shake or when a helicopter flying overhead causes a window to rattle. Companies are required to comply with FERC's rule at 18CFR 380.12(k)(4)(v)(B) to ensure that there is no increase in perceptible vibration from the operation of the compressor station.

Q **Are there storm water, drinking water, runoff and spill concerns with compressor stations?**

A Natural gas transmission compressor stations do not pose a risk to storm water and drinking water. The York Road Compressor Station will not be a source of spills as pipelines that connect with the station transport natural gas, not oil or natural gas liquids.

Q **Do you coordinate with local first responders?**

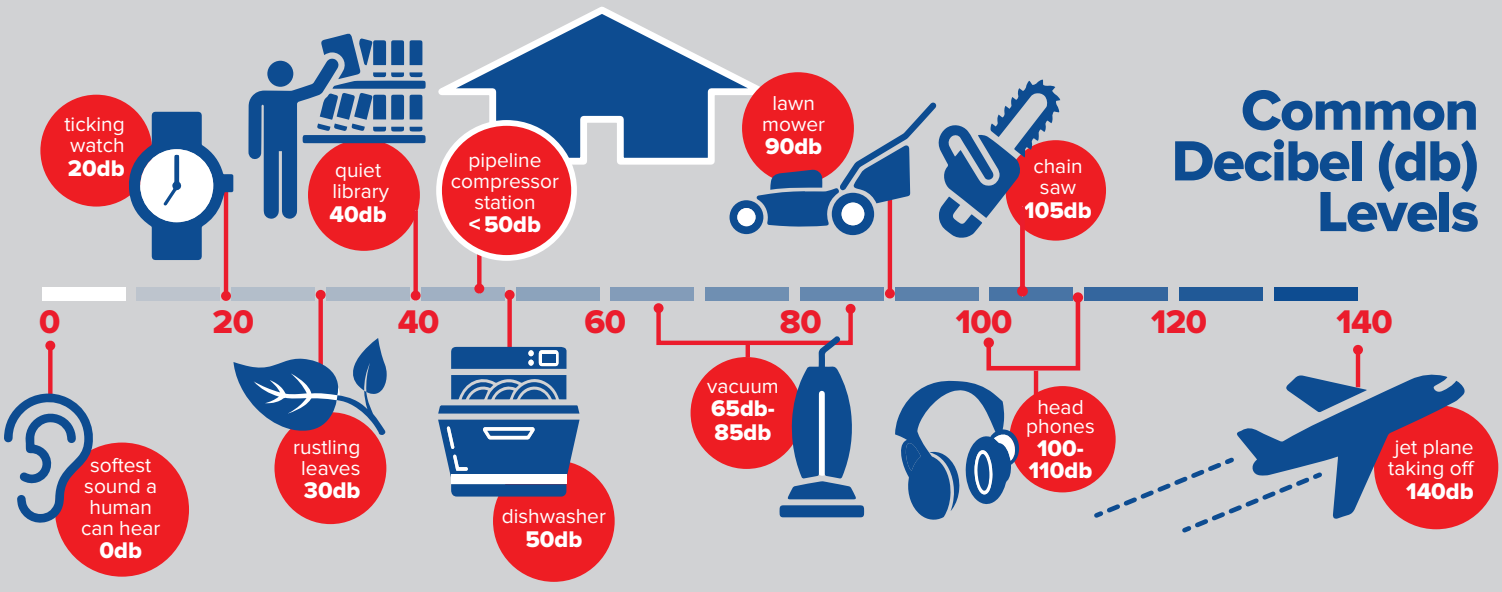
A We are committed to our partners in safety by providing training and pertinent information about our facilities. Following PHMSA regulations, our public awareness program addresses and outlines communications and programs for local first responders and their departments. Training and drills are developed and shared with responders on how to coordinate a response in the unlikely event of an emergency.

Q **What is the impact of intentional natural gas releases at compressor stations?**

A At times, a compressor station operator may need to release transmission-quality natural gas intentionally as part of safety procedures or to conduct maintenance on the facility. This activity, often referred to as a "blowdown," can be part of operations or planned maintenance. Regulators consider the possibility of blowdowns during the permitting process of all newly constructed or modified transmission compressors. They require operators to limit air emissions and noise during these events. Transmission-quality natural gas is lighter than air and dissipates quickly into the atmosphere. Through the permitting process, reviewing agencies confirm that all emissions, including emissions from planned blowdowns, meet the regulatory requirements developed to protect public health.

Q **How loud are compressor stations?**

A Regulations require pipeline compressor station noise levels to not exceed an average day-night sound level of 55 decibels (dBA) at the nearest noise sensitive area (NSA), (e.g., residences, schools, hospitals, churches, playgrounds and camping facilities), when operating at full load. Noise surveys are conducted before and after construction to verify these federal noise levels are not exceeded. As a point of reference, the average home dishwasher is 50 dBA.



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please visit our website at: *www.patriotsenergy.com/peg-compressor-station*