

GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

When the first building was constructed on the new site of Western State Hospital, a coal-fired boiler was installed in the building and there was no gas on the property.

In 1952, when buildings 101, 102, 103 and the temporary Power Plant were constructed, a 4" gas line was laid from the southwestern position of the property line near the existing city water reducing station. The line was a 4" steel line, which ran east to the driveway turning north and continuing to the Pettis Building 103, which housed the Kitchen and the Cafeteria. A 2" line branched from the 4" line to the Kitchen, with the 4" line-continuing north to the temporary Power Plant that housed two HRT Gas/Oil fire boilers.

In 1959, when the present Power Plant was constructed, Columbia Gas of Virginia constructed a gashouse, which housed pressure reducing and metering equipment. A 4" steel line was laid from the gashouse to the newly constructed Power Plant. The gashouse was constructed just off National Avenue, near the northwest portion of the hospital property. At this time, the original gas line was abandoned in place.

In 1964, building 119, the Kitchen/Cafeteria was constructed, and the equipment required gas. A 2" steel line was connected to the 4" steel line behind the Power Plant, ran southeast to the driveway, crossed the driveway, and ran east, parallel to the main steam distribution system to the Kitchen.

In 1968, the Medical/Surgical Building 122 was constructed and a 1" steel line was connected from the Kitchen gas line to the Medical/Surgical Building.

During the summer months of 1969, the coal-fired boiler at building 100 was converted to a gas-fired boiler. A 2" steel gas line was laid from the abandoned Route 250 highway near the front entrance of the hospital to the southwestern portion of building 100. Columbia Gas of Virginia installed a gas meter for the boiler; however, in 1988 the meter was removed because the building was vacant and the boiler was not in use. Columbia Gas of Virginia agreed that if the boiler was ever placed in service again, a gas meter would be installed. The 2" steel gas line is still in place.

In the early 1970's, the 2" steel line from the Power Plant to the Kitchen was abandoned due to leaks caused by rust and corrosion. A new 2" plastic line was laid to serve building 119 the Kitchen. The 1" steel line to the Medical/Surgical Building was reconnected to the new 2" plastic line.

In 1972, magnesium blocks were attached to the steel pipe to decrease the rust and corrosion process. In 1972, when Building 122, Staff Development and Training was constructed, a new gas line constructed of 2" steel pipe, was laid from the rear of the Power Plant to the road near building 101. At this point, the pipe changed to 2" plastic and was inserted into the 4" abandoned gas line, which originally ran in front of the Pettis Complex. This was done to supply the gas-fired boiler, which was installed in the building during its construction.

In 1973, when the Administration Building, 124, was constructed, the 2" plastic line from building 123 was extended to building 124 to supply gas to the gas fired boiler which had been installed in the building during its construction.

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In 1982, before the construction of building 126, the gas line to the Power Plant had to be rerouted so it wouldn't be under building 126. Presently, the line runs north along National Avenue to a point in front of building 126, Physical Plant Services, east under the parking lot of building 126 to the road west of the Laundry, building 125, then southeast to the Power Plant, building 114. When this line was rerouted, more magnesium blocks were attached to the aforementioned steel line.

In November of 2002, a puncture in the natural gas line behind the Laundry forced the replacement of the gas line from the gas meter cage to the Power Plant. This replacement line was a 2" plastic line which was threaded through the existing 4" line.

Presently, all pipes are in good condition and are adequate for their demand. In the future, periodic checks for gas leaks will be conducted, and pipes will be replaced as necessary.

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