

PG&E - Marketing & Communications | Your Energy Dollars at Work in Orangevale - Hydrostatic Testing

Tonight, we are out here finishing up a hydro test. Earlier in the month, we successfully strength tested our pipeline, and then tonight is the final steps where we're bringing it back into service. Hydrostatic testing is a method of integrity assessment for pipelines, and so what we do during a hydrostatic test is we take the pipeline out of service. We fill it up with water, and we pressurize the pipeline to above the normal operation pressure, so that way, when we put them back into service, we know that they're safe to operate.

We turn the line to service like we're doing tonight. We will de-energize the area by stopping the flow of gas to the area, and then once it's safe to do the work, well, the welders will go and cut the caps off, install new pipe, weld that in, and then once that's welded in, that passes inspections. Then we're good to again start the flow of gas.

I love my job. I love what I do. I live and work in this community. My family and my friends are here, and I like and appreciate that I get to be a part of doing something that's benefiting the community and making it safer.

When we're able to validate the strength of these pipelines, we're able to continue to run them and operate them for many years to come. And that's savings for our customers because we're not having to replace that pipeline. We made a commitment after the San Bruno accident that we would become the safest gas utility in the nation. We're well on our way, and this work is part of that.