

QGC places remodeled **Hunter Gate Station** into service

Upgrades will help meet customer demand and improve overall system

Questar Gas has completed a major remodel of its Hunter Gate Station. Located in a predominantly residential area on the



Seth Plaizier, an engineer in Questar Gas's high-pressure design and project management department, shows off the new control-valve building at the company's recently re-modeled Hunter Gate Station.

west side of the Salt Lake Valley, the Hunter Gate Station takes gas off Kern River's interstate pipeline system and delivers it into QGC's high-pressure distribution system. After six months of construction, the facility was tested and placed into service at the end of November.

According to Seth Plaizier, the project's lead engineer and a member

of QGC's high pressure design and project management department, the \$15.6 million upgrade accomplishes two main objectives. It helps QGC meet growing customer demand for natural gas and, more importantly, improves the overall integrity of QGC's system.

"With these improvements, we've increased natural gas through-put capacity at the Hunter tap to 250 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd), and the station is easily modifiable to handle 400 MMcfd for future needs," Plaizier said. "That's almost a third of the daily peak delivery capacity for our entire system. That will not only help us meet future growth in the valley but also as we begin to deliver more gas to the other side of the Oquirrh into the Tooele area. A larger gate station also improves overall system redundancy."

The Hunter Gate is one of eight along the densely populated Wasatch Front. It's one of only two on the west side of the Salt Lake Valley. The other is the Riverton Tap, with a daily through-put capacity of 200 MMcfd. "We're pretty well covered now to handle any event where we have to take a gate out of service for maintenance or any other reason," said Plaizier.

Work at the station included installation of two ultrasonic meters, two new control valves, a duel tap on Feeder Line 11, new pipeline

heaters, and a complete overhaul of the security and electrical system. The odorization system was replaced and a new filter separator was added for removal of unwanted liquids and solids from the gas stream. The entire facility also has natural-gas-fueled backup generation in case of a power failure. The construction work was performed by Flare Construction, Inc., based in Coalville, Utah.

"Flare was brought in specifically to do this work," Plaizier said. "Hunter Gate is the first job they have done for Questar Gas. We have been so pleased with the work they have performed that we have brought them on as a full-time high-pressure contractor."

The station sits on nearly one-and-a-half acres. Several new buildings totaling more than 12,000 square feet of space were built to house major components, including the meters, the control valves, odorization equipment, line heaters and electrical equipment.

Much of the station's former equipment was in good condition and has been successfully re-purposed for use at other company facilities.

One of the heaters was refurbished and installed at a regulator station in Utah County on Feeder Line 26. Two odorant tanks are also being used at new locations: one at a compressor station near the southern Utah community of Central and another at the WECCO Tap on Feeder Line 72 near Cedar City. Additional used but perfectly good odorization equipment was installed at the Alan Allred Station in Indianola.

According to Plaizier, all of the new buildings at the Hunter Gate Station were designed to meet the "most stringent" seismic standards. Thanks to grout-filled, concrete-block walls and sound-dampening insulation on the walls and ceilings, as well as mufflers in the duct work and where pipe enters or exits any building, the Hunter Gate Station will operate more quietly.

"When they flip the switch in gas control and the station is running, the neighbors will hardly notice a thing," Plaizier said. "It'll be quieter than the traffic passing by on 3300 South."

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