

Rio Bravo Project FAQs

1. What is the pipeline relocation project? Why does the pipeline need to move?

We are relocating a 16-inch natural gas transmission pipeline. The New Mexico Department of Transportation is planning to replace the existing Rio Bravo bridge and make other improvements to the roadway. Before NMDOT's work begins, New Mexico Gas Company will remove its pipeline that currently runs across the bridge and install a new pipeline.

2. Is the current gas line safe and will it be safe during construction of NMGC's pipeline relocation project?

The existing pipeline is safe, and it will remain in place along the Rio Bravo bridge during our construction project. After the new pipeline goes into service, the old pipeline will be decommissioned and removed.

3. Why does the pipeline need to go under the river? What is the benefit?

It is a better location for a natural gas pipeline. Although the existing pipeline is safe, underground pipelines are preferred whenever possible.

4. Are there additional locations in New Mexico where natural gas pipelines have been installed under rivers?

There are numerous pipeline crossings installed under rivers in New Mexico and other states. This type of installation is common across many industries that utilize pipelines because it minimizes environmental impact compared to open trench installation.

5. Will natural gas service to customers be interrupted during the pipeline relocation project?

Service will continue for customers without interruption throughout the pipeline relocation project.

6. How long will it take to complete the NMGC pipeline relocation project?

New Mexico Gas Company's pipeline relocation project will start in July and it is anticipated to run through mid-October. Much of the work that will be visible to neighbors and passing motorists will end by mid-September.

For information on the New Mexico Department of Transportation's bridge construction and road improvement project, please see:

<https://nm500riobravo.nmdotprojects.org/>

7. During construction of NMGC's pipeline relocation project, at what time will work start and end each day?

Work will run from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily from Monday through Saturday. However, there is a notable exception. When crews begin to pull the new pipeline through the borehole, that operation must continue for 24 hours a day for about three days.

8. How much additional traffic will the construction phase of NMGC's pipeline relocation project potentially cause for residents?

Temporary lane restrictions will be required on Rio Bravo at certain times. We will share information in advance. Residents in the area will also see heavy equipment and additional vehicle traffic near the work zones during the project.

9. What air quality measures are in place during construction of NMGC's pipeline relocation project?

A dust control plan with associated control strategies will be in place to minimize airborne fugitive dust. We have applied for and expect to receive a dust permit from the City of Albuquerque.

10. I have additional questions or concerns. Who can I contact?

Please send an email to Neighbors@nmgco.com and we'll get back with a response as soon as possible.