

Values Moment

Utility Identification

Natural Gas Lines vs. Telecommunications Conduits



- Enbridge Gas Inc. Damage Prevention department received an inquiry to verify a suspected natural gas line that was safely exposed by the excavator
- Upon arrival of the Enbridge crew, a records review was conducted, and it was determined that the asset in question was not an Enbridge owned facility
- It was later confirmed to be a telecommunications conduit
- Internet Service Providers (ISP) may use yellow coloured conduit to run their service lines
- ISP service lines are typically $\frac{3}{8}$ " making identification very difficult when compared to $\frac{1}{2}$ " natural gas service lines



How to Spot the Differences

- Natural gas lines are not conduits, meaning they do not house interior cables
- Natural gas lines are hollow-cored which allows natural gas to travel freely
- Natural gas lines have a nominal pipe size of ½” or larger making them thicker than ISP conduits
- Plastic natural gas lines have tracer wires wrapped around the exterior of the pipe for traceability
- Natural gas lines service lines typically run perpendicular to natural gas mains
- Gas mains running parallel to the boulevard or road edge have larger nominal pipe sizes which allow them to be more identifiable if exposed
- Gas mains are usually installed at greater depths than telecommunications conduits

