

HIGHWAY 96 NATURAL GAS PROJECT

Spring 2026



This map is a graphic and may not show exact locations.

Overview

Xcel Energy will replace approximately one mile of natural gas line in Arden Hills, Shoreview, and New Brighton, Minnesota as the first phase of the Highway 96 Natural Gas Project. Work will occur along Highway 96 West between Lexington Avenue North and Old Highway 8 Northwest, and along Old Highway 8 Northwest between Highway 96 West and 1st Avenue Northwest.

This work will allow us to continue to provide safe, reliable natural gas service throughout the community.

Schedule

Construction is expected to begin in May 2026 and will continue through October 2026.

Schedules are subject to change.

Construction

During work, you may notice:

- Traffic control
- Marking of utility lines and utility survey holes
- Road and sidewalk closures
- Temporary changes to access
- Construction noise

We will install the natural gas line by open trenching and boring.

- Open trenching involves digging a trench and placing the natural gas line in the trench
- Boring uses a specialized machine to create an underground pathway through which the natural gas line is pulled or drilled

We restore work areas to conditions required by permits as weather allows. Work areas may be left temporarily restored after construction until we can complete final restoration.

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Safety overview

Public safety is at the foundation of all we do. The safety of the public around our natural gas system influences every decision we make. We take a proactive approach to public safety by implementing safety measures before, during and after construction.

The project has been designed to meet federal and state standards and safety requirements for installing, maintaining and operating natural gas infrastructure.

Learn to recognize a natural gas leak

If you ever suspect a natural gas leak, leave your home or business immediately. Once safely away, call **911**, then Xcel Energy at **800-895-2999**.

It is important to know how to recognize potentially dangerous natural gas leaks, so use your senses. Signs of a natural gas leak include:

- A “rotten egg” or sulfur-like odor, though it may smell differently to you
- Hissing, whistling or roaring sounds outside near the natural gas line or inside near an appliance
- Dirt spraying into the air or continuous bubbling in a pond or creek
- Unexplained dead or dying vegetation

Call before you dig

A common cause of natural gas incidents results from improper or unauthorized digging near underground utilities. Prior to digging, call **811** or visit gopherstateonecall.org to have buried utility lines located and marked. This helps prevent dangerous conditions that result from damaging a buried line.

Natural gas construction safety

During construction and installation of the natural gas line, we:

- Implement a corrosion prevention system designed to eliminate metal loss
- Verify pipe welds using an independent third party

Once the line has been installed and prior to putting it into service, we:

- Internally inspect the line
- Perform internal pressure tests to verify the line’s integrity

During the lifetime of the natural gas line, we:

- Conduct annual hazard patrols and leak surveys and regularly inspect the line
- Monitor (24/7) the line and other infrastructure through our staffed gas control center

Be aware of scams

At no time will any on-site Xcel Energy employee or authorized contractor associated with the Highway 96 Natural Gas Project need to obtain account information.

All Xcel Energy employees and most contractors who perform work for us carry company IDs. Ask to see a company ID if someone on your property claims to be working for Xcel Energy, regardless of the work being performed. If the person cannot show you an ID, ask them to leave and return only with proper identification.

Some contractors working on our behalf may not have Xcel Energy IDs. If you would like to verify that the contractor is authorized to work on our behalf, please call Customer Care at **800-895-4999** or visit xcelenergy.com/IdentifyingAuthorizedWorkers.

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