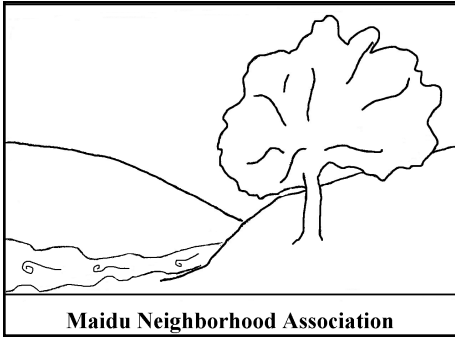


MAIDU NEIGHBORS

RCONA

MAIDU NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

January 2020



Choose Who Supplies Your Natural Gas

By Alan Bartley

Did you know one has choices who you buy your natural gas from? It is call wheeling by the gas industry. The natural gas delivery system owned by PG&E is an open access system. They are only required to transport gas to the end user and maintain it at a consistent 1,000 BTUs (energy) per cubic foot.

Why 1,000 BTUs, i.e., why at a constant energy level? Natural gas from wells varies in BTU value. Gas delivered to your home is always 1,000 BTU to ensure the air-to-gas blend stays correct for use by your furnace or stove. It's what your equipment expects and if it varied it could cause damage or fail to burn properly. By the way, liquid propane has 2.5 times the BTUs per cubic foot as natural gas as-delivered which is why if you switch from one gas to the other you have to do a conversion to protect your equipment.

But back to who you buy gas from. In addition to meeting the requirement to deliver the gas to your home, PG&E would also like to sell the natural gas to you, but one has choices there. Right now there is a large surplus of natural gas and prices at the well head are at historic low prices while PG&E is charging a premium price. The estimate is that there is a 200 year supply at present and at predicted usage levels it can be produced from existing wells.

As an example of current gas pricing, gas that sells for \$3.50 per 1000 cubic feet at the well head here in US would sell for \$27 at a port in China. It may be we will export some of our surplus as liquified natural gas (LNG) to other countries. We would either have to construct facilities to compress gas to LNG and to load ships or convert facilities designed to receive LNG to load LNG. One such port is in Ensenada, BC, Mexico.

To locate a supplier to "wheel" gas thru PG&E lines I would use a computer to search for them. (*Editor's Note: See the following article for some starter ideas on that topic.*)

Why do we have so much natural gas now?

We went from a shortage of natural gas in the 80's and 90's to a huge surplus because of an improvement in directional drilling technology (steering a well away from vertical). In the 80's drilling a directional well could cost as much as 10 times more than a non-directional well. A very large target was needed, often the underground target needed to be 150' sphere. The survey tool needed to be lowered on a wire from the surface a process that could take several hours.

Beginning in the early 90's survey tools could be located just behind the drill and send angle and direction back to the surface. This reduced (*continued next page*)

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Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 28th, 2020, in the Activity Room at Sargeant Elementary School. Enter the school grounds from North Cirby—look for a sign marking the entrance by the chain-link fencing. We invite you to attend. At most meetings a Roseville Police Officer will report on local crimes and answer questions.

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Our web site is maiduna.com

Choices in Natural Gas — (continued from cover page)

the size of the underground target to 3' and the drill could be steered. Here's a real life example of how this helped increase our energy supply. An area in Kern County that had been in production since the early 1900's, where wells could produce 1-5 barrels of oil a day, could be re-drilled directionally maximizing exposure in the production area and could produce 100 barrels of oil a day.

When exploring for gas, a marginally economic well could be drilled to increase exposure to gas bearing rocks such as the Austin Chalk and increase production 10 times. If the producing rock was suitable for fracturing (also known as "fracking") then much larger increases could be achieved.

A candidate for fracturing needs to be deeper than 5,000', rocks 60 million years or older, and the least principal stress direction should not be toward the surface. This is because fractures open up along the least principal stress direction during hydraulic fracturing. The criticism of fracturing comes from fracturing for coal gas which is done in very shallow wells (less than 1,000') without almost any information about the least principal stress direction. If it happens to be toward the surface, then in these wells the water bearing layers in the earth can be breached and allow natural gas to contaminate them.

More Information on How to Buy Gas from Another Supplier

Are you interested in the idea of buying your gas from a company other than PG&E? As mentioned in Alan Bartley's article (above and on cover page), PG&E is required to offer this as an option. A company, other than PG&E, that can sell gas to you is known as a *Core Transport Agent* (CTA). CTAs are not affiliated with PG&E.

If you buy gas from a CTA, then they supply gas to PG&E and the latter supplies gas to you. Then you receive a bill for the gas from the CTA or PG&E, depending on their set-up. If for some reason the CTA failed to deliver gas to PG&E, then PG&E would continue to supply you with gas, but would also bill you for it at their own rates. In either case you will continue to be charged by PG&E for the cost of transporting the gas to you so it has the revenue to maintain the gas pipelines, pay for inspections, pay for meter-readers, etc. These PG&E services are paid through "distribution and transmission charges."

CTAs are regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). The CPUC doesn't regulate the rates CTAs charge, but provides consumer protections. CTAs must register with the CPUC. The registration materials help the CPUC ensure that CTAs meet certain standards of operational capability and have histories of good conduct. The CPUC can help resolve a complaint you may have against a CTA.

Before joining PG&E's Core Gas Aggregation Service, a customer such as a resident or business owner must agree through a contract to buy natural gas from a CTA other than PG&E. Customers are required to make a minimum 12-month commitment to Core Gas Aggregation Service and purchase natural gas from a CTA. Under certain circumstances, a customer may return to PG&E or go to another provider within their 12-month commitment.

You will receive one of three types of billing for your CTA gas and PG&E distribution and transmission charges:

- *PG&E Consolidated Billing* — PG&E consolidates their monthly gas distribution and transmission charges and a CTA's gas charges into a single bill.
- *CTA Consolidated Billing* — A CTA consolidates its monthly charges and PG&E's charges into a single bill.
- *Separate Billing* — PG&E and a CTA separately bill for their respective monthly charges.

You can experience delays of a few days in receiving your monthly bill if your CTA is using PG&E as its biller. However, your bill due date remains the same.

If there is any kind of gas emergency, such as a leak, you still contact PG&E.

Still interested in seeing what alternatives there are to paying PG&E for gas? To get to a PG&E list of registered CTAs on a web page, do a Google or Bing search for "**pg&e core transport agents**". Or follow the link at the bottom of the next page to the list and additional information on this story.

An Online Resource for *Bee* and *Press-Tribune* News from the Library

If you have a Roseville Library card, you now have access to newspapers around the country including the *Roseville Press-Tribune* and the *Sacramento Bee*. The service, new to the City's Library patrons as of January, is called *NewsBank*. To access it, have your library card number at hand, go to the City's web site at Roseville.ca.us, and search for "NewsBank". The top results will get you to the starting page. Then

1. Use the link at the bottom that says "No user name and Password?"
2. Search using "rose" and pick the entry "RosevillePublic". At least that was the one that worked for us as our library card was not recognized by the "RosevillePublicLibrary" entry.
3. Enter your library card number.

You can read current issues of either paper. You may search the *Sacramento Bee* back to 1984. The *Tribune's* search goes back to 2009. Other papers across the state and country are also available.

Would You Like to...

We have three voluntary positions that just opened up, and if you like to get out in our neighborhood you may find one that works for you. We'd appreciate your help!

- **Block Captain** — There are two Block Captain openings. You would join the ranks to those who are delivering newsletters to your doorstep. One route available delivers to homes on Sally Way, Rebecca Court, McKinley Drive and Jo Court. The other route delivers to homes along McLaren Drive, Balboa Drive, and Muir Court. Both can be walked easily and would take about a half-hour per month to do the deliveries. Contact [feedback\(at\)maiduna.com](mailto:feedback(at)maiduna.com) if interested.
- **Distributor** — This position supports multiple Block Captains by providing them the bundles of newsletters they will deliver. As the block captains are spread across the neighborhood, a car would likely be the way you would do the deliveries unless you are an enthusiastic walker, or enjoy a bike ride with several stops. Contact [feedback\(at\)maiduna.com](mailto:feedback(at)maiduna.com) if interested.

On Our Radar

- **Correction** — Our article on the "Easy Entry Holiday Decorating Contest" last month mis-identified one of the winning home addresses. It should have said **1437 Spring Valley**, not 1438. Fortunately, if you visited that street it was easy to tell which home had the most "colorful" decorations. Thanks, again, to any neighbors who had the time and skills to decorate our neighborhood for the holidays.
- **Thank You Destiny Transportation Services** — Our Holiday Decorating Contest judges didn't have to worry about driving and looking at homes as Destiny Transportation Services donated a chauffeured SUV for them to ride in. Destiny can also provide limousines and can be your answer to getting to the **airport**. Contact their owner, Michael Hayes, at 916-821-4364 if you need a ride.
- **Another Tree Planting** — After a final tree planting at Maidu Park on Saturday, January 25th on the east side of the park, there will be another City and Roseville Urban Forest Foundation (RUFF)-sponsored planting across town along the open space adjacent to the South Branch of Anelope Creek, is scheduled for **Saturday, February 22nd**. The closest street intersection is Old Coach Drive and Fiddymont Road. The best way to get the latest tree planting news around town is to sign-up for RUFF's email list at their web site (rosevilletree.org) or email them at info@rosevilletree.org and hear directly from them.

Our Events—Our Association has developed a tradition of having the following events. We set the dates for each one as the time approaches to match the availability of the people who will help put them on, but they usually don't vary by more than a few weeks from year to year.

- April—*Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale.*
- August—*National Night Out.*
- October—*Park Clean-up.*
- December—*Santa in the Neighborhood*

For more Information

Want to know more about items in this newsletter such as how to buy natural gas? Go to mna.rcona.com/2020-links. Or scan this QR code with a suitable app. There are links there to our related sites including our Facebook page.

