

PIPELINE



Celebrating the big 7-0!

It's hard to believe, but it's been 70 years since DC Gas began delivering clean, safe, and efficient natural gas to customers in DeKalb, Cherokee and Etowah counties.

"We have an excellent management team, with a good blend of older and younger employees - both in the office and in the field," said Collinsville Mayor Johnny Traffanstedt, who has served on the DC Gas board of directors for the past 15 years. *"Everyone works really well together."*

It all started in 1953 when community leaders in Fort Payne, Collinsville, and Centre joined forces to establish the DeKalb-Cherokee Counties Gas District.

With zero customers and zero in revenue, the group borrowed approximately \$2 million - the equivalent of \$25M in today's dollars - to construct the initial DC Gas System in these three towns.

The investment paid off with steady growth. In 1960-1961, expansions took place into Cedar Bluff from Centre, and onto Sand Mountain covering Crossville, Geraldine, Fyffe, Rainsville, and Powell. After the expansions, DC Gas served about 3,000 customers, and the service area could not significantly expand due to capacity limitations from the pipeline.

That system remained in place until 1993-1996, when DC Gas took on one of the largest public works projects ever in Northeast Alabama. DC Gas borrowed over \$15 million to construct a 53-mile main extension that added a second connection to the Southern Natural Pipeline.

The project tripled the transportation capacity, and quickly doubled the number of customers that DC Gas was able to serve to approximately 6,000.

"That gave us a lot of flow and allowed us to really grow," said Phillip Roberts, who worked at DC Gas from

1979 to 2008. He was then elected to city council in Centre, and joined the DC Gas board in 2008.

Numerous expansions have occurred since the extension, though smaller in scope. Two significant expansions that added two high pressure feeds to the Sand Mountain-area were completed around 2015. The two lines added redundancy, and increased reliability for that area.

"In the last two years, we added almost 40 miles of additional main in five different expansion projects," said Johnny Eberhart of Fort Payne, DC Gas board president who has served on the board since 2000.

"We've seen customer growth from about 6,200 to just over 8,500 since 2000," Eberhart said. *"The DC Gas main office was relocated to South Fort Payne, its current location, in 2015 to be near the warehouse and customer service center."*

In 2020, the Centre main office was constructed adjacent to the Center warehouse.

"We've increased our lines, and added a lot of new equipment," Traffanstedt said. *"A few years ago, we started a plumbing department. That's done real well and brought in new customers."*

Roberts said the number of customers has grown in the last 20 years, and DC Gas has been able to expand, meeting demands as business needs change.

In 2003 Sara Lee started to downsize, and in 2007 socks mills began to relocate out of Fort Payne, Eberhart said.

"Both of these industries were significant customers to the Gas District,"

Eberhart said. *"Our focus was shifted to expand service to poultry farms in DeKalb and Cherokee counties. Today, we serve over 100 individual poultry farms in our service area."*

It took vision, innovation, and commitment to bring natural gas service to the residents of the region. Its 45 employees continue to serve the DeKalb and Cherokee counties with the latest equipment and expertise available.

Eberhart noted DC Gas doesn't



Present Day DC Gas Employees

receive grant funding or any government funding to maintain or grow the system. In profitable years, funds are reinvested directly back into the system for either growth or integrity management.

"It's a very well-run company. I've enjoyed every meeting I've attended," Traffanstedt said. *"We want to keep making it better for all our customers."*

Eberhart agreed, adding they are continually working for the safety and expansion of the system.

"I would like to thank all past employees and board members who laid the foundation of a commitment to excellence, and to the current group of board members and personnel who continue to carry on the tradition of providing natural gas safely to our customers," he said. *"I know our district is in the right hands to carry DC Gas into the next 70 years."*





Featured Appliances



Call Before YOU DIG!

It's spring, which means time to dig around in the yard, planting flowers and vegetables. Or maybe you're planning some backyard projects such as a fence or swimming pool. Even installing a mailbox can require digging.

Before you put the shovel in the dirt, take time for safety with a quick 811 call to help prevent damage to our natural gas pipelines. They can be found everywhere.

811 is the national call-before-you-dig number where you can request that the approximate location of buried utilities be marked with paint or flags. Have your address where you plan to dig ready, including the county and nearest cross street. Also be prepared to give the type of project you are working on and the exact area of the property where you plan to dig. After the call, give DC Gas 48 hours to respond and ensure that buried natural gas lines have been marked. Let's stay safe out there!



Need a new grill to fire up this season? We've got you covered with great grills at affordable prices. Our Broil King Grills give you plenty of primary cooking surface, along with easy start, electronic ignition. They come in various sizes and prizes, so pick the right one to fit your needs and budget.



The **Crown S440** Grill at \$919 provides a durable cast aluminum oven, four stainless steel burners and a heavy-duty, three-position cast iron cooking grid. The drop-down side shelves give you room to set your hamburger patties, steaks or chicken for prep.

The **Crown S490** Grill, priced at \$1019, offers more cooking space and a porcelain-coated warming rack, along with a premium rotisserie kit.



The **Monarch 320**, priced at \$639, is a smaller grill, but still gives grill masters plenty of cooking space, and shelves for prep.

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The **RE199** delivers hot water on demand with an advanced non-condensing system, priced at \$770 after installation and customer rebate.

We offer several financing options for DC Gas customers in good standing who own their home and property. Ask a representative how we can help you.