



An Exelon Company

P.O. Box 1475  
Baltimore, Maryland 21203

www.bge.com

June 2017

Dear Neighbor,

BGE contacted you several weeks ago about your gas meter. However, we have not heard back from you to schedule an appointment with our contractor to review the location of your gas meter and the steps BGE needs to take to protect your gas service equipment from vehicular mishaps. **With your convenience in mind, I kindly request you to call Precision Pipeline Solutions (PPS) at 844.625.9996 in the next week to schedule a site review so we may explain the protective steps we need to take on your property.**

As stated in our earlier communication, BGE is committed to maintaining a safe and reliable natural gas system, and to keeping our customers informed about gas safety initiatives. In September of 2015, a natural gas incident occurred in Columbia, Md., extensively damaging several townhomes. After a several month investigation, the Howard County Fire Department deemed the incident accidental in nature due to a customer vehicle striking the customer's gas meter piping located inside of the garage and causing a release, build-up, and ignition of natural gas. As a result of the incident, in early 2016, the Maryland Public Service Commission directed BGE to identify and protect all indoor gas meters exposed to vehicular traffic.

BGE has developed a project plan that consists of locating gas meters outside of garages where possible and installing protective poles filled with concrete, known as bollards. These measures reduce the risk of vehicular damage to the gas meter, ensuring safe gas service for you and your property. As a result, BGE is currently inspecting gas meters and piping in garages and driveways throughout our service area to determine whether relocation and/or installation of protective bollards will be required. **Service at your property has been identified as requiring this improvement.**

BGE is contacting you to schedule an appointment with our authorized Contractor – Precision Pipeline Solutions (PPS) – to conduct an inspection to relocate and/or protect gas meters. PPS will work to accommodate your schedule, but we request you reply promptly to schedule an appointment with them to access our equipment and review with you what measures are necessary. **Please call PPS at 844.625.9996 to schedule this appointment.**

#### **What you need to know:**

Our goal is to engage you and give you the opportunity to address any questions or concerns you may have regarding this work.

If you have a gas meter in your garage, we will need two appointments. (1) The first, to review with you the current and future outdoor gas meter location as well as the protection options necessary. (2) A second appointment to physically move the gas meter from your garage to outdoors.

If you have an existing outdoor gas meter, we request one appointment to review the bollard placement and address any clearance issues with you. For the actual protective bollard work, you will not need to be at your home or business while the work is occurring and the contract crew will not need to enter your home or business. An appointment will not be necessary if you have no questions or concerns regarding this work.

- This work is allowed under BGE's gas service tariff approved by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

- **The gas meter relocation and installation of gas meter protection will occur at no expense to you.**
- **All of our employees and contractors carry photo identification or business cards. Do not hesitate to ask for identification if you have any concerns.**
- All work, except garage gas meter relocation work, will be done outside.
- Work at your property will likely be completed in one day. If we cannot finish in one day, the area will be covered for safety.
- All piping after BGE's gas meter is owned by and the responsibility of the customer. In order to relocate the gas meter, BGE will also install any additional customer piping necessary at no cost to you. However, the piping installed by BGE will thereafter be your property and your responsibility.
- Per state law, prior to installing the bollards, underground utility lines (gas, cable and electric, for example) will be identified by colored flags and/or paint near the work area.
- One or two bollards, depending upon the location of the gas meter, will be installed.
- The bollards have a diameter between 2 and 4 inches. (sample 2 inch bollards are pictured below)
- The bollards will be installed 1-3 feet below the ground surface and will extend 3 feet above the ground surface.
- The bollards will be installed 12 to 18 inches from the equipment being protected.
- Bollards will be painted with a protective paint that will protect the pole from weather damage. After initial painting, you are welcome to repaint the poles in any color you choose.
- The area and landscaping around the new bollards will be restored as close as possible to the condition they were in prior to construction.

For more information on the project, visit [www.bge.com/meterprotection](http://www.bge.com/meterprotection). If you have any questions, please send an email to [MeterProtection@bge.com](mailto:MeterProtection@bge.com). Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process. I look forward to hearing from you this week.

Sincerely,

*James Cwieka*

James Cwieka  
Principal Project Manager  
BGE



This is a representative photo of gas meters and bollards.