

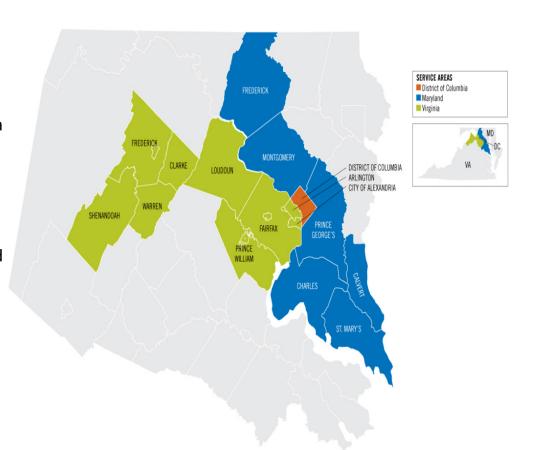
# Reducing Methane Release Through Effective Damage Prevention Programs

Scott Brown
MAY, 2017

### **WG** Overview

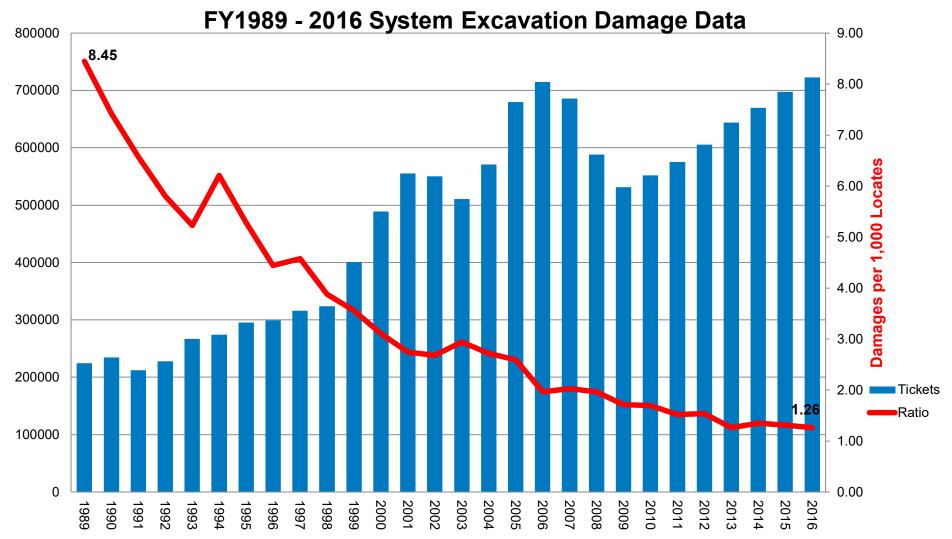


- Washington Gas was founded in 1848
- Franchise area covers 6,213 square miles
- Distribution system in District of Columbia
   Maryland, and Virginia
- Over 1.1 million customers
- 1,000,000+ services
  - 93% residential and 7% commercial and industrial customers
- Over 14,500 miles of main and 12,500 miles of service



### We Have Come a Long Way







### How did we accomplish this?

#### **Five Key Elements of Damage Prevention**



#### Executive buy-in

- Weekly operations call
- Scorecard presence
- · Identifying the total cost of damage to WG
- Integral component of WG safety program

## Long term relationship with locator (32 years)

- Supportive of career development program, employee retention, long term investments
- Locator audits 100% of locates against WG GIS looking for inconsistencies or omissions

#### Field presence

- Excavator training (FYTD17: 5,931)
- CARE- A-Van Outreach stops (FYTD17:300)
- Transmission Standby field education (FYTD17: 363)

# Collaborative stakeholder relationships

- Rewrote MD law and rewriting DC law to comply with PHMSA 9 Key Elements of DP program
- · Collaborative development of DP programs
- WG Homeowner Ambassador Program

### Leveraging technology

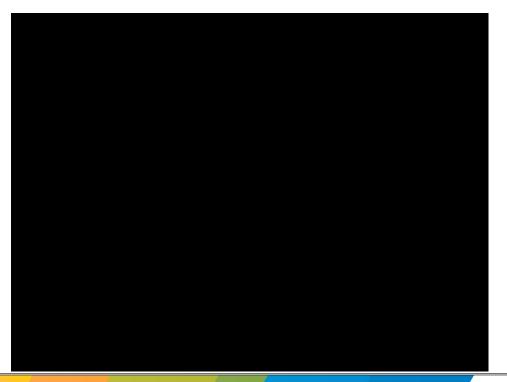
- Utilize RFID for all new installations (plastic pipe)
- GPS enabled locating documentation; layer on our GIS with ortho photography
- Development of GPS enabled paint wand

#### **Damage Prevention**





- To prevent loss of life, injuries, damage to property and the environment by damage to underground utility lines.
- To protect from damage thousands of miles of underground utility lines that provide essential services to DC & MD citizens and businesses.







- Damage prevention is an ongoing journey
- Requires ongoing commitment, focus and accountability
- The next step in the evolution of damage prevention is EPR
- providing enhanced communication between ALL stakeholders

# **EPR Enhanced Positive Response**



Washington Gas is sharing previously confidential information to help excavators safely excavate around our facilities.

The EPR is designed to reduce damages and provide a safer, more efficient work environment for us all.

Washington Gas believes this new process will soon become the industry standard.



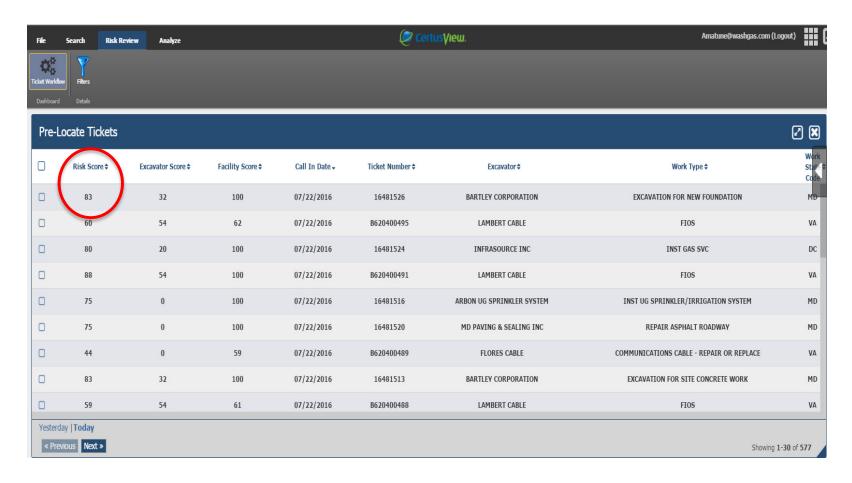
### **UtiliQuest**

- Damage Prevention partner since 1985
- Thurman Smith VP Operations will walk us through the EPR process

# What Else is working FOR Washington gas?

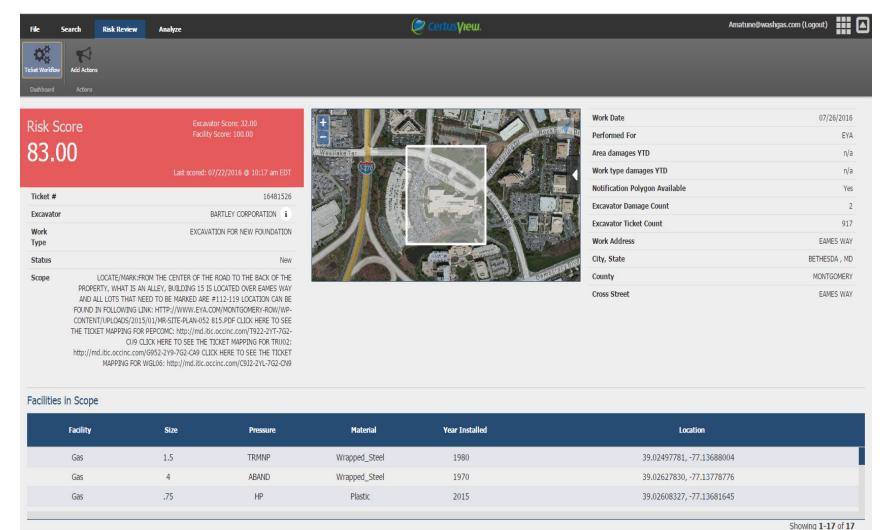


#### **PLANT AT RISK (PAR) PROGRAM**



#### **PLANT AT RISK**



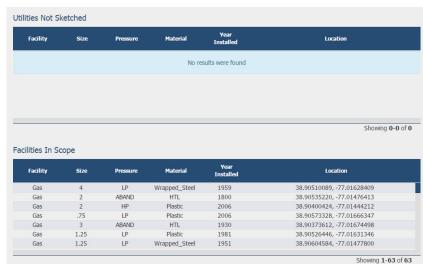


Washington Gas
MAY 31, 2017

#### **PLANT AT RISK**



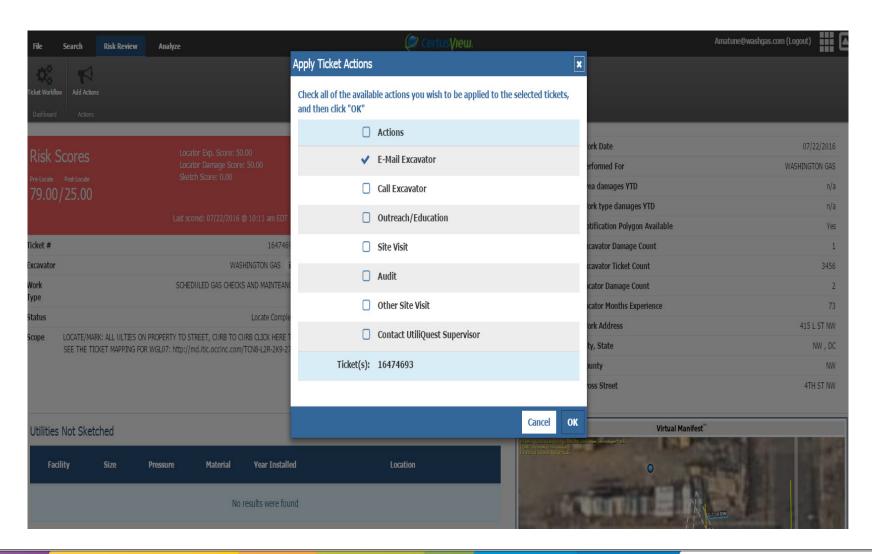












Washington Gas MAY 31, 2017

#### **PLANT AT RISK**



#### PAR (Plant At Risk) [16431633] Excavator Email Alert

FieldAware@certusview.com

Sent: Thu 7/7/2016 12:27 PM

To:

Dear Excavator,

This ticket has been identified as high risk of gas damage. Prior to excavation please contact Amanda Matune at 703-750-4588 for details or information about this ticket.

# What Else is working FOR Washington gas?



#### Homeowner Ambassador Program



# What Else is working FOR Washington Gas?



811 Community & Contractor Outreach



# What Else is working FOR Washington Gas?



**PipeTown** is an emergency response training facility. We have utilized this facility to train both excavators and locators on the properties of natural gas. It is very effective as you will see.





# What Else is working FOR Washington Gas?



#### **CARE-A-Van**



## **Concluding Thoughts**



85% Reduction in damages since 1989 due to DP Programs = 85% reduction in methane gas loss from third party damages.

Success has been attributed to:

- Executive buy-in
- Long term relationship with contract locator,
- Leveraging technology
- Field presence
- Collaborative relationships with excavators and stakeholders



### Thank you!

