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City of Augusta Inks Contract with Summit Natural Gas of Maine

City of Augusta is estimated to save more than \$600,000 annually

AUGUSTA, Maine - As temperatures begin to fall in Maine, so will the City of Augusta's heating costs. Today, Summit Natural Gas of Maine announced the City of Augusta has officially signed a contract with the company to provide natural gas service to all city buildings, including schools, a decision that will save the city \$641,464 annually.

The decision was made by a unanimous vote at the city council meeting in July and the official contract was recently signed by Bill Bridgeo, Augusta city manager. As part of the contract, Summit Natural Gas of Maine will invest \$63 million in infrastructure to provide natural gas service in the city of Augusta, for a total of more than 130 miles of pipeline, more than any other natural gas company in the area.

"The City of Augusta has found Summit to be excellent to work with — pragmatic, flexible and fair. The city looks forward to the economic benefits from Summit's commitment to having natural gas available to more than 50 percent of our residents and businesses by 2015, and 90 percent by 2019," said Ralph St. Pierre, City of Augusta assistant city manager and finance director.

As part of the signed contract with the city, Summit will serve 17 buildings that include City Center, Police Department, Lithgow Library, Buker Center, Flatiron, Airport Terminal, Airport SRE Building, several Public Works buildings, Hartford Fire Station, DP Wells Fire Station, Western Avenue Fire Station, Hospital Street Fire Station and the Augusta Civic Center. The contract will also include service for six schools in Augusta; Cony High School, CATC Tech Center, Farrington School, Gilbert School, Hussey School and Lincoln School.



Construction crews from Summit Natural Gas of Maine install a portion of pipeline on Sewall Street in Augusta that will provide natural gas service for residents and businesses. Photo courtesy: Summit Natural Gas of Maine

"We are pleased to be in a position to help the City of Augusta save on their energy costs," said Mike Minkos, president of Summit Natural Gas of Maine. "As winter approaches, this is the perfect time for us to provide service and savings for the city's buildings and schools."

Summit Natural Gas of Maine's construction on the natural gas pipeline continues as three construction firms are building-out the first phase of the company's planned \$350 million Kennebec Valley natural gas transmission and distribution project. The City of Augusta joins Inland Hospital and Redington-Fairview Hospital, Sappi Fine Paper North America, UPM Madison and Huhtamaki, as well as many other businesses that have signed contracts with Summit Natural Gas of Maine.

Construction crews totaling more than 400 workers are currently working across the Kennebec Valley from Pittston to Madison installing 68 miles of steel pipe and 66 miles of plastic distribution pipe in various communities throughout the region. To learn more about service areas and the construction project, call (855) 353-4433 or visit www.summitnaturalgasmaine.com.

Summit Utilities, Inc., the parent company of Summit Natural Gas of Maine, operates 20 natural gas districts throughout Colorado and Missouri, and specializes in providing natural gas to areas that are either hard to serve or that aren't being served. These districts represent approximately 36,000 customers, \$260 million dollars in assets, 400 miles of high-pressure steel main lines and approximately 1,500 miles of polyethylene gas main lines.

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Editor's Note: Click the image above or the link below to download the high-resolution print-quality image.

[Photo of construction crew from Summit Natural Gas of Maine](#)

About Summit Natural Gas of Maine, Inc.:

Summit Natural Gas of Maine, Inc. is a subsidiary of Summit Utilities, Inc. Summit Utilities, Inc. acts as a holding company that owns and operates Summit Natural Gas of Maine, Inc.; Colorado Natural Gas, Inc.; Summit Natural Gas of Missouri, Inc.; and Wolf Creek Energy LLC. The company's natural gas subsidiaries construct, install and operate natural gas distribution systems in order to provide natural gas to residential, commercial and industrial customers. For more information visit: www.summitnaturalgasmaine.com.