



## *Media Release*

For Immediate Release

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### **SaskEnergy 2012 enhanced safety and pipeline integrity program begins**

A mild winter has allowed SaskEnergy to begin its 2012 enhanced safety and pipeline integrity program several weeks ahead of schedule. Initial system upgrade work will begin today in the Hillsdale neighbourhood, with more crews added to the project in the coming weeks, once spring thaw is complete.

The 2012 program will continue to focus on areas with soil conditions prone to ground shifting when excessive moisture is present – including portions of South Regina, as well as the communities of Leader and Prelate. The program will involve a combination of visual inspection of pipeline, and upgrades to natural gas service lines and other underground and above-ground pipeline facilities.

“The safety of our customers remains SaskEnergy top priority and we’re investing more time and money in safety initiatives to meet system challenges, such as those created by changing soil conditions,” said Dean Reeve, Executive Vice President, SaskEnergy. “For 2012, we will spend \$40 million on our enhanced safety program. We’ve committed to this higher level of funding for at least the next five years.”

Last year, 2,200 natural gas service connections had system upgrade work conducted, with 1,300 of these in the Regina neighbourhoods of Whitmore Park, Hillsdale and Douglas Park. Another 500 services were upgraded in other Regina neighbourhoods, 300 in the communities of Cabri and Kyle, and 100 in other parts of the province.

“Another important part of the enhanced safety program is SaskEnergy’s leak survey work which has continued throughout the winter months, targeting areas in Regina that had previously been impacted by the high levels of soil moisture and ground shifting caused by extreme conditions in 2011. This enhanced work will continue throughout the spring.” Reeve said.

SaskEnergy reminds all residents of Saskatchewan that in the event of an emergency or if they detect a natural gas odour, they should contact SaskEnergy immediately, 24 hours a day at 1-888-7000-GAS (1-888-700-0427).

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