



## *Media Release*

For Immediate Release

March 23, 2018

### **Investigation into pipeline rupture indicates previously unreported damage**

SaskEnergy has received the initial results from its investigation into the January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 pipeline rupture in the Melfort area. SaskEnergy's engineering specialists have determined that there was previously unreported damage to this natural gas transmission pipeline, which occurred within the past three years. These results have been verified by an independent laboratory which specializes in metallurgical analysis.

The six-inch high pressure transmission pipeline was last inspected in 2015, using two different types of tools inserted inside the pipe; the first checked for loss of steel due to corrosion or damage, while the second tool checked for dents. Neither tool indicated any signs of corrosion or damage.

The laboratory results confirm that, at the location of the rupture, the pipeline had been struck with sufficient impact to leave numerous gouges. While the pipeline did not rupture at the time of the damage, it was dented, weakening the steel; the damaged section gave way on the morning of January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Natural gas service was lost to almost 4,500 homeowners and businesses in St. Brieux, Kinistino, Melfort and the surrounding area due to the pipeline rupture. SaskEnergy was able to repair the pipeline that day, and restore service to all customers by the evening of January 11<sup>th</sup>.

This incident proves how critical it is to have all buried infrastructure clearly marked prior to any excavation project in urban or rural areas. To have underground utility lines marked, free of charge, contact Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call at 1-866-828-4888, go to [www.sask1stcall.com](http://www.sask1stcall.com) or download the smartphone app.

If contact is made with a natural gas line, whether it ruptures or not, SaskEnergy must be contacted immediately, 24-hours a day at 1-888-700-0427.

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For more information, please contact:

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