



Well Drilled Unknowingly Close to High Pressure Natural Gas Pipeline

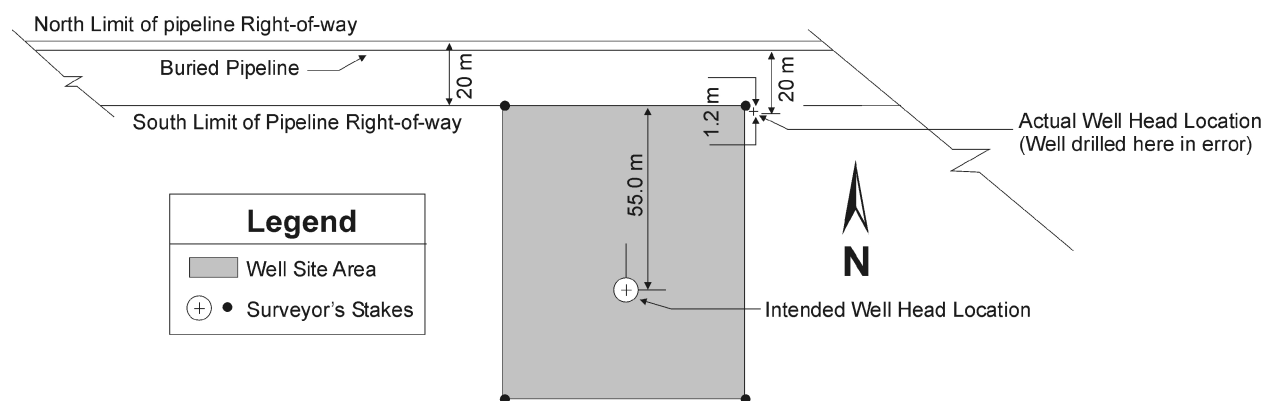
Incident Description

A well was inadvertently drilled within 1.2 metres of a pipeline right-of-way and 20 metres of a large diameter high pressure natural gas pipeline. As indicated by the diagram below, the original well location was to be located 55 metres from the pipeline right-of-way. The well owner's drilling foreman who was responsible for locating the well was not on-site during the rig set-up. In their absence, the rig company's manager, who was unaware of the nearby pipeline right-of-way, incorrectly spotted the well location. Also, the well owner did not comply with the requirements of the pipeline company's letter of consent to notify the company 72 hours prior to the actual drilling date. Therefore, the boundaries of the right-of-way were not staked.

Cause of the Incident

The causes of the incident were:

- the well owner did not verify the well location for the rig company prior to drilling the well;
- the rig company incorrectly spotted the well location; and
- the well owner did not comply with the pipeline company's request to be notified prior to drilling.



Preventive Actions

- Well owners should verify the location of a well prior to authorizing the start of drilling activities on a well site; and
- Well owners should comply with the notification requests of pipeline companies to ensure that the boundaries of a pipeline right-of-way are identified prior to any activity on a well site.

For further information regarding this advisory please contact the National Energy Board at (403) 292-4800 and ask for assistance from staff who deal with pipeline crossing matters.