



# NATURAL GAS INSTALLATION IN “THE INTERIOR”

NORTH POLE, ALASKA

## THE RIGHT TEAM FOR THE JOB

Robinson Brothers Construction maintains expertise and professionalism in the face of extreme conditions, often leading our crews to high-stakes projects in remote locations. In mid-2014, a team from RBC traveled to North Pole, Alaska, 15 miles south of Fairbanks, to “The Interior.” Under the management of superintendent Dave Griffin, safety manager Joe Bergren and project manager Steven Welch, RBC contractors worked in conjunction with two other contractors to install a major natural gas distribution system for Interior Gas Utility (IGU).

Each of the three contractors was responsible for placing and testing its own section of the gas line, with RBC’s being about 19 miles long. Our operations included up to 30 people comprising drilling, trenching, fusing, pressure testing and restoration crews – drilled 16 miles and trenched 3. Four drills and unwavering attention to detail kept the team on schedule and committed to its Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), even during severe rains.



**MAP DETAIL:** The gas line was installed near North Pole, Alaska, about 15 miles south of Fairbanks. **MAIN:** RBC team members install 8-inch HDPE (high-density polyethylene) gas line with Electro-Fusion fittings at the Interior Gas Utility (IGU) job site in North Pole, Alaska.







**LEFT:** RBC team members utilize a portable fusion machine to weld 40-foot lengths of 8-inch gas line. **RIGHT:** The 8-inch HDPE gas main was installed in trench with a "benching" technique for safety and better access. **BELOW:** Former Alaska governor Bill Walker stands with RBC CEO Dan Cook at the kickoff for the IGU project.

## SHOWING RBC'S CORE VALUES

As our first large-scale gas project that included pipe placement as well as responsibility for all safety tests, the IGU install represented an opportunity for RBC to demonstrate its commitment to quality and careful strategy. Crew members checked pipe depth and pressure at every step, also securing valves, valve boxes and gas line test locators along the path of the installation.

RBC contractors also restored all pre-existing right-of-ways and hydroseed where land was disturbed. They went out of their way to explain the project to property owners near the job site and answer questions ahead of the installation. Amid inevitable complaints from some residents, crews stayed positive, reassuring them that their property would be fully restored and, in some cases, even improved.



## PRAISE & FUTURE PLANS

The IGU installation — the first of six phases — was completed in June 2015 on time and under budget, drawing industry attention, as well as a site visit by then-governor of Alaska Bill Walker in 2014. The skill, dedication and conduct of RBC's crews during the project earned our company an outstanding reputation, placing us among the most desirable contractors to work for in Alaska.

Our thoughtful planning and precise execution opened the door to a sustained partnership and continued revenue with IGU, specifically. RBC remains the utility's preferred contractor as it plans future sections of the natural gas distribution system.

For information on how RBC can take your project to the next level, call our office at (360) 576-5359.

## IGU BY THE NUMBERS

- 16 miles drilled
- 3 miles trenched
- 25-30 crew members
  - » 4 directional drills
  - » 2 trenching crews
  - » 4 fusing crews
  - » 2 pressure testing crews
  - » 1 restoration crew