MEDIA ADVISORY 27 October 2011



MAUI PIPELINE CRITICAL CONTINGENCY UPDATE 1.00pm Update

The following is an update of the Maui pipeline event in the White Cliffs area of New Plymouth.

Good gas conservation efforts made by all customers has enabled the CCO in conjunction with the GIC to notify that Band 6 customers can be reinstated. However it is critical that these customers only begin using gas after notification from their gas retailer.

- There are several thousand Band 6 customers these are mostly small businesses or small users of gas (max 2 TJ per annum)
- Gas retailers **will notify** each customer individually, advising that they may begin using gas via phone, email or text message
- Customers who are not contacted by their gas retailer must remain off the system
- Everyone using gas (Bands 5, 6 and residential users) must continue to use gas frugally
- The Critical Contingency Operator is carefully managing the available gas to make sure the system can continue to operate
- Vector is pleased with the support from Acting Minister Parata and pipeline owner Maui Development Limited
- Progress at the repair site is good, although weather conditions are posing a challenge.
- At this stage and barring unforeseen circumstances the timeframe for making the repair including welding, testing, certification and any other procedures required is estimated at between two and a half to three days. After this the pipe will be repressurised with gas, and then it is up to the Gas Industry Company to revoke curtailment notices and bring customers back onto the system.
- The estimate for repairs is Vector's best estimate at this time. If any unforeseen circumstances arise it may be necessary to revise the repair time estimate. Vector's team of contractors continues to work around the clock to manage the pipeline repair.

Ends