



New program!
Gas Circuit Rider Plus

Gas Programs and Services



**On-demand training.
At your utility.
On your schedule.**

Gas Circuit Rider: Core Program

Get the essentials.

MMUA is a one-stop shop for natural gas utilities. The **Gas Circuit Rider (GCR)** core program is our flagship offering, providing specialized support for member gas utilities. Ensuring Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) compliance is at the core of the program. This service includes both operator technical training and regulatory compliance assistance.

GCR program services

The primary service offered by the Gas Circuit Rider core program is six days of dedicated training and evaluation.

For many program participants, the schedule of services could consist of:

- **Pre-inspection evaluation (1 day)**
- **Assistance with a Minnesota Office of Pipeline Safety (MNOPS) inspection, including field and records, operation and maintenance (O&M) records, gas emissions, and more (2–3 days)**
- **Covered task evaluations—typically plastic pipe fusion (1 day)**
- **Additional compliance assistance with manual or program updates (1 day)**

The GCR core program provides additional benefits to keep personnel current on best practices and qualifications, including emergency plan training, a monthly newsletter, Midwest Energy Association (MEA) membership and tracking, state and federal reporting reminders, 24/7 emergency assistance, and more.

For those who want more training, consultation, or other services, MMUA has introduced the **Gas Circuit Rider Plus** program. Find information on the next page, which also includes a sampling of covered tasks available for evaluation.



Want more training and support?
It's available through
the GCR+ program!

Meet the instructor

Dennis Danielson is the MMUA Natural Gas Circuit Rider. He leads and coordinates all gas services for the organization.

Dennis has more than two decades of experience in municipal gas operations, working in facilities of varying size. He brings an exacting attention to detail and extensive regulatory knowledge to the role.



Enhance the essentials.

In 2024, MMUA is excited to launch the **Gas Circuit Rider Plus (GCR+)** program. This new initiative is designed to enhance the Gas Circuit Rider core program, offering additional flexibility and customization for utilities wanting more time and services.

GCR+ program benefits

Many utilities take full advantage of their Gas Circuit Rider core benefits each year by involving MMUA in program manual review, maintenance, and inspections. This often leaves little time for hands-on technical instruction and other activities that can save costs in the long-term for the utility.

MMUA created the GCR+ program to help utilities maintain and expand their proficiency and excellence in natural gas operations. The program is open to all gas members, regardless of participation in the GCR core program.

Through the GCR+ program, utilities can purchase fully customized sessions for:

- **Training and evaluation**
- **Additional inspection assistance**
- **Qualifying operators for covered tasks**
- **Training new employees**
- **Leak inspection training**
- **Program development/manual updates**
- **Regulator/meter assistance**
- **Additional topics specific to the utility**



New employee training

MMUA is here to help get inexperienced or newly hired personnel up to speed.

Through the GCR+ program, MMUA will work with you to develop an operator qualifications plan to train and qualify recent hires on covered tasks for your natural gas system. MMUA will also set up new users in MEA's Energy U online training portal with e-confirm for real-time operator qualification record information.

Offered topics

This program is designed to suit your needs and to help identify areas for improvement within your system. Through the natural gas programs, you can receive training on the following topics and more:

- Fusion
- Locating
- Regulator inspection and relief
- Customer/commercial meter set
- Pressure testing
- Purging
- Inside/outside gas leak investigation
- Leak survey
- Line marker
- Cathodic protection: pipe to soil, atmospheric corrosion
- Valve: inspection, partial operation
- Installation of gas services and mains: plowing, trenching, depth of cover, inspection for damage

Gas program rate information

Municipal gas in Minnesota

Did you know? Natural gas usage for electricity generation has tripled in Minnesota from 2011 to 2022. Currently, there are 33 municipal gas utilities in Minnesota, ranging from 219 meters at the smallest (Lake Park) to over 30,000 at the largest (Duluth).

Minnesota's natural gas resources are limited, necessitating heavy reliance on interstate pipelines, especially from neighboring states like South Dakota and North Dakota, as well as from Canada. Despite lacking significant natural gas reserves, the state operates as a transit point for gas distribution to other states, with a substantial portion channeled to Iowa and Wisconsin. The industrial sector dominates gas consumption, followed by residential, commercial, and power sectors.



Rate information

Rates for the Gas Circuit Rider Plus program vary based on time, GCR participation, and customization. All rates are subject to change.

- Half-day programming—\$1,260 (GCR participant)/\$1,800 (non-GCR)
- Full-day programming—\$2,100 (GCR participant)/\$3,000 (non-GCR)
- Custom programming (pricing will vary)

Questions

To learn more about our gas programs and services, please reach out to Assistant Director of Technical Services Jay Reading at 320-552-5073 or jreading@mmua.org.

