



**The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
Media Release**

NGC Board accelerates completion of critical 24-inch pipeline repair project

March 6th 2026

The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (NGC) has announced the successful closure of a critical infrastructure project, with the completion of the repair of its 24-inch subsea gas transmission pipeline after four and a half years of protracted and inexplicable delays under the former administration.

On June 24th, 2021 NGC detected a leak on its 24-inch pipeline, which brings gas from Perenco TSP, EOG Osprey and Shell Dolphin to NGC's New Abyssinia Accumulator Station (NAAS) at Beachfield, Guayaguayare. This 24-inch pipeline is located a few hundred feet from the Port of Galeota in approximately 10 feet water depth and, at the time of the leak, was transporting approximately 350 mmscfd.

In August 2021, the pipeline was isolated and de-pressured, and a temporary leak repair clamp was installed to contain the leak. During this period of isolation, as an interim solution, gas was diverted through NGC's 30-inch offshore transmission pipeline, which was already transporting 150mmscfd.

In March 2022, **some nine months after the initial leak**, the decision was taken to pursue permanent repairs to the pipeline. Local contractors were invited to tender for the works in December 2022, leading to award on May 31st, 2023 in the amount of **TT\$ 28,016,284.08**, as approved by the then Board.

Work by the contractor commenced in August 2023, but was subject to persistent delays until June 2024. On February 7th, 2025 the contractor submitted a variation claim to NGC for an amount equivalent to almost 100% of the original contract price. In April 2025, NGC's then Board approved a variation of **TT\$9,504,294.18** which represents approximately 35% of the original contract price.

The then NGC Board first addressed this matter in April 2023 (**nearly two years after the original leak**) and did not engage with the issue again until March 2025.

Shortly after the current NGC Board was constituted, the new Board requested an investigation into this matter, given the inordinate delay in repairing this critical pipeline. The investigation highlighted the following:

- 1) The isolation of the 24-inch subsea pipeline resulted in a significant loss of operational flexibility for NGC, culminating in an **estimated revenue loss in excess of US\$277 million (TT\$1.5 billion)** during the four-and-a-half year period that the 24-inch pipeline was out of service.
- 2) The diversion of the 350 mmscfd previously transported through the 24-inch pipeline to NGC's 30-inch pipeline significantly increased the risk profile of the 30-inch pipeline, which

was constructed in 1982, and accelerated wear and tear, thus compromising the remaining useful life of the pipeline. The higher throughput also elevated the likelihood of a pipeline failure given the age of the pipeline. A complete loss of volumes on the 30-inch pipeline could have resulted in a total volume loss to NGC of 500 mmscfd which would have triggered deep curtailments to downstream customers potentially necessitating a shut down of most of the Point Lisas Industrial Estate, and caused power outages and possible blackouts, with **estimated economic losses in excess of US\$2 billion (TT\$13.5 billion)** over the four and a half years.

The new NGC Board was installed in July 2025 and it was under their steer that permanent repairs to the pipeline were finally completed on November 22nd, 2025 **after four and a half years**. The pipeline subsequently passed all quality assurance tests and de-mobilisation was completed on November 30th, 2025. **The aggregate cost of the project was approximately TT\$40 million, with cost overruns of approximately 70%.**

During reinstatement activities on the 24-inch pipeline on December 10th, 2025 a second leak was identified approximately 80 feet upstream of the original repair site. The Board categorised and dealt with this second leak as an emergency situation, and the pipeline was immediately isolated and de-pressured. With the support and direction of the Board, NGC mobilised specialist diving services and internal engineering resources to execute an **expedited repair**. The pipeline was safely restored to service on January 13th 2026 – **within one month compared to four and a half years taken under the watch of the previous administration**. NGC is currently advancing a more permanent engineering solution to ensure continued safe and reliable operation of this aging infrastructure.

The Board strongly condemns the lack of urgency on the part of the previous administration to advance this project within acceptable timeframes. **Given its potential and actual consequences (both operational and financial), the protracted delay of repair works constituted an egregious lapse in governance and risk management.**

The Board underscores that asset integrity management across NGC's network is essential to protecting the stability of Trinidad and Tobago's natural gas value chain, ensuring public safety, preserving national revenue, and maintaining the Company's license to operate in service of the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

Since its appointment, the new Board has prioritised decisive corrective action. This includes tightening project oversight, requiring greater leadership accountability, and enforcing more rigorous reporting and performance obligations. These interventions have yielded direct results as evidenced by the expeditious repair of the 24-inch subsea pipeline since we have taken office.

The Board emphasises that it is actively collaborating with NGC's executive leadership to identify and rectify systemic gaps and inefficiencies, not only within individual projects, but across the organisation. As part of this renewed focus on integrity and accountability, NGC is implementing a comprehensive subsea inspection campaign to reduce potential value leakage, strengthen operational resilience, and mitigate risks that could otherwise lead to financial impairment or reputational harm for the Company and, by extension, the nation.

The public can be assured that the Board is resolute in its commitment to strengthening governance, raising performance standards, and ensuring that NGC continues to operate in alignment with the national interest. The overarching objective is to restore confidence, protect the country's energy assets, and support the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of Trinidad and Tobago's energy sector.

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Photo 1 – Mr. Gerald I. Ramdeen, Chairman, NGC, announced the successful closure of a critical infrastructure project, with the completion of the repair of NGC's 24-inch subsea gas transmission pipeline at this morning's media conference.



Photo 2 (L-R): Mrs. Abbigail Meah-Ali, Vice President (Ag.), Technical Services; Mrs. Shivani Ramroop, Vice President (Ag.), Legal and Corporate Affairs; Mr. Steve Ravi Seetahal, Director, NGC; Mr. Edmund Subryan, President (Ag.), NGC; Mr. Gerald I. Ramdeen, Chairman, NGC; Mr. Salicram Ramkissoon, Vice President (Ag.), Operations; Mr. Ramnarine Oral Bedassie, Deputy Chairman, NGC; and Mr. Joseph Toney, Director, NGC.