

Petroleum Technology Natural Gas Compression*

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Career Cluster

(AAS Degree/Certificate)

SAN JUAN COLLEGE

NATURE OF WORK

Natural gas technicians operate and maintain a variety of natural gas fired engines and compressors. Technicians will work on engines ranging from 100 horsepower to over 6000 horsepower. Natural gas compression is used to transport natural gas from the wellhead, to processing plants, and then to deliver natural gas to homes around the country. The opportunities in the natural gas field are unlimited. If a student wants to work here in Farmington there is an array of jobs available, but if the technician would like to be a little more adventurous there are jobs across the country and even across the oceans. Natural gas technicians are also needed for offshore drilling rigs.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Natural gas compression technicians normally work outdoors but some jobs will require the technician to work in a shop situation. Technicians work with a variety of hand and power tools to accomplish the job. They will be required to travel on dirt or muddy roads to repair the units that need service.

POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS

Compressor Systems Inc., CompressCo, Energen Resources, Stewart and Stevenson, Wagner Equipment, Hanover Company, Enterprise Products, C & J Manufacturing, Dugan Production, Henry Productions, and El Paso Natural Gas.

JOB OUTLOOK

The oil and gas industry has faced severe labor and skill shortages for many years. Many experienced workers left the industry during a large slowdown more than a decade ago. The industry is also facing the imminent retirement of large numbers of baby boomers.

CAREER OPTIONS

Natural Gas Compression Technician

ESTIMATED SALARY RANGE

New Mexico — \$30,000 - \$44,000

SJC Basic Program Information

- Class enrollment is limited to 15-20 students per semester per instructor.
- This degree provides entry-level employees with the basic knowledge and skills of gas compression equipment and maintenance required to efficiently and safely maintain, troubleshoot and operate compression packages.
- Classes transfer to Texas A & M University-Commerce to be used towards a bachelor's degree, see advisor for details.



*Most of this information is provided by the instructor of Natural Gas Compression at San Juan College.

Reviewed on May 17, 2010