



THE PIPELINE SPRING 2026

Welcome to The Pipeline!

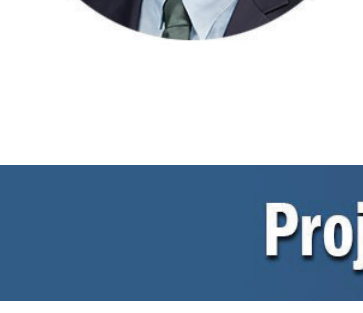
Each quarter, this newsletter provides an opportunity for our team to share updates on projects, the natural gas industry, and any other Southern Star news related to the communities where we live and operate.

“As we begin 2026, I’m honored and excited to step into the role of Director of Commercial Services for Southern Star at a time when our work, our partnerships and our future have never been more interconnected. Our strength has always come from the trust we share with our customers, and my vision is to build on that foundation – advancing a customer experience rooted in collaboration, foresight, and shared success. Our foundation is built on strong customer partnerships, and my vision is to deepen those relationships while advancing a customer experience that is proactive, responsive and value driven.

We are focused on attracting and growing gas supply in ways that strengthen the system for the long term; while investing in a team whose industry knowledge, commitment, and problem-solving mindset help you, our customers, navigate what’s next with confidence.

This edition of our newsletter reflects that forward momentum, from the Cedar Vale incremental capacity project—made possible through the partnership and support of our large shippers and designed to deliver value for years to come—to insights from Winter Storm Fern that highlight resilience, leadership engagement, and operational coordination. We also want to share a preview of our upcoming customer conference, where open dialogue and collective vision will continue to shape the path ahead.

Together, these stories underscore what’s possible when we move forward with purpose, partnership, and a shared commitment to the future.”



Robin Joska Director, Commercial Services

Project Insights: Cedar Vale



Growth projects strengthen our system’s reliability and help increase the opportunities available for our customers. Let’s take a closer look at one of these current projects, Cedar Vale.

The Cedar Vale project is a system expansion initiative designed to increase natural gas capacity and improve service reliability for customers across our system. The project includes construction of a new natural gas compressor station in Osage County, Oklahoma, strategically located between Southern Star’s Blackwell and Grabham stations.

Benefits of adding this additional compression include:

- Increased firm capacity in high-growth markets that support residential, commercial, industrial and power generation demand
- Improved deliverability and pressure support, particularly during periods of peak usage
- Greater supply diversity, enhancing system flexibility and reliability
- Support for long-term economic development, helping communities and businesses grow with confidence in natural gas availability

“By proactively investing in infrastructure like Cedar Vale, Southern Star is strengthening its system today while positioning customers for future growth opportunities,” said Caleb Haynes, Manager, Capacity Planning & Customer Solutions.

Progress on the Cedar Vale project has progressed steadily over the past several months. The project team has completed key regulatory milestones and is actively securing remaining schedule drivers for our target in-service date of December 1, 2026. Southern Star will continue to provide updates as the year continues and look forward to continued investments in strengthening the service our team provides.

Code Blue Ensures Performance & Reliability



When winter weather arrives, it takes every team member across the natural gas industry to ensure communities receive the energy they rely on. Our team and, assuredly, plenty of our customers felt this impact during Winter Storm Fern in January. Southern Star initiated a new practice this year, Code Blue, to help ensure our team is focused and stands ready when these peak cold weather events arrive.

Code Blue provides our team with a playbook to ensure Southern Star’s preparedness and ability to maintain uninterrupted service to our customers by minimizing nonessential meetings and communication during peak weather events. This ensures our team’s focus and mindset can home in on the coordination and planning necessary.

“Code Blue provided a heightened sense of focus and mindset company-wide for our team, which promoted coordinated action and minimized risk to operations,” said Will Wathen, Vice President, Operations.

During Winter Storm Fern, Southern Star saw a peak demand of 2.74 Bcf on January 26 and delivered more than 2.0 Bcf per day for most of the storm’s duration.

In addition to operational prioritization, Code Blue ensures communication with our customers is carefully structured and planned out. Front-loaded communication helped reduce uncertainty and provide clarity, while regularly scheduled communication throughout the winter storm gave customers accurate, transparent and timely information.

“This winter event highlighted the strength of early planning, execution and strong coordination,” said Dustin Burch, Manager, Gas Control. “Despite extended cold, supply risks and elevated demand, our teams performed well and maintained reliable service throughout the event.”

There are always opportunities to learn from these winter events, and Southern Star noted action items from Winter Storm Fern to continue to improve upon our process to best serve customer needs. Please reach out to our team with any feedback to help best support you.

Meet Our Team: John Bentley



Southern Star would like to introduce one of our newest Southern Star team members, John Bentley.

John joined Southern Star in November 2025 as Vice President, Engineering & Construction. He previously served in engineering and project management roles with Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania before joining Columbia Pipeline Group (CPG) as Manager of Pipeline Services in 2012. He transitioned to Director of Operations with CPG in 2016 before joining Infrasource in 2018 in the same role.

While working with Infrasource, John led teams providing contractor services to gas distribution and transmission companies in the Midwest and Northeast. Bentley said he is excited to be joining Southern Star now in a transformational time for the company and the industry overall.

“The natural gas industry, as a whole, is thriving, and it is great to be a part of that at Southern Star,” Bentley said. “Our team is focused on finding operational solutions that complement our customers’ increased needs.”

As Vice President, Engineering & Construction, John supports Southern Star’s Project Delivery team, which includes project scoping, estimating drafting, design and project management. He said the team has proven to excel in executing projects that directly increase the reliability of our system and support customer growth.

“The team has developed and is executing on several expansion projects that will add additional storage and supply options for our customers,” Bentley said. “I enjoy working with our team to develop gas supply solutions, create strategic designs and advance our capital processes.”

John said he’s thrilled to be joining a culture that prioritizes safety, innovation and community engagement and focuses on providing the energy fueling our country’s growth.

Southern Star is excited to have John join our team and support our industry during a period of growth and opportunity. Reach out to [John Bentley](#) if you’d like to connect with him if you have any questions or would like to discuss current Southern Star projects.

Join us for the 2026 Customer Conference



Southern Star is excited to welcome our customers to Kansas City again for the annual Customer Conference! The Conference will be held beginning on Monday, May 11 through Tuesday, May 12 at The Loews Kansas City Hotel. There will be a networking event on Monday night as well!

Also, you don’t want to miss this year’s keynote speaker, Eric Eyberg!

Eric Eyberg is the Head of Global Gas & Power Consulting with S&P Global’s Energy division. Known as a big picture, result-driven thought partner, Eric is an industry-recognized midstream, natural gas, LNG and power expert. Prior to joining S&P Global, Eric worked for nearly two decades in senior consulting and commercial gas industry roles.



Shawn Patterson serves as 2026 Chair of SGA Natural Gas Association

Southern Star President & CEO Shawn Patterson is serving as Chair of SGA Natural Gas Association in 2026. “It’s a privilege to lead alongside our passionate and forward-thinking team members who are already involved with SGA, promoting the industry and advancing our members,” Patterson said. [Listen to Shawn discuss the industry and serving SGA on the Pipeliners Podcast on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.](#)



Charles Crews receives 2026 BEYA President’s Award

Congratulations to Charles Crews, Southern Star Chief Operations Officer, on being recognized with the 2026 BEYA (Becoming Everything You Are) President’s Award at the 40th annual BEYA STEM Conference on Feb. 14. The President’s Award is the highest to Crews’ leadership, innovation and well-traveled career journey. [Click here](#) to read more on this recent recognition.



Join our team for our How’s It Flowing meeting this month on **Thursday, April 23 at 2:00 p.m. CST** for monthly updates and helpful tips from our team!

[Click here](#) for the Office and Field Operations contact lists.

We’d love to hear feedback on how we can best serve you!

Contact us at SSCCustomerServices@southernstar.com.