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## **GAS INDUSTRY TIMELINE – PART I: 211 B.C. to 1899**

- 211 B.C. (China) – first recorded natural gas well drilled near Chongqing. Gas was used as a fuel to dry salt.
- 615 A.D. (Japan) – first records of Japanese gas wells.
- 1775 – early records of “burning springs” on the Kanawha River in what is today’s West Virginia.
- 1792 (Scotland) – first use of coal-gas for lighting.
- 1806 (London, England) – first gas main laid.
- 1815 – first gas meter constructed.
- 1817 – first public street lamp lighted in Baltimore, Maryland.
- 1820 – natural gas discovered near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania by a salt works drilling for salt water. This was shortly followed by the first recorded natural gas “incident” when the gas accidentally ignited and burned down the plant.
- 1821 – natural gas discovered and actually used as a fuel in Fredonia, New York.
- 1822 – Boston Gas Light Company chartered.
- 1825 (England) – first patent issued for a gas regulator.
- 1834 – first use of cast iron pipe in a distribution system in the United States.
- 1840 (London, England) – first use of gas meters.
- 1851 – Dr. Pole’s formula for calculating the flow of gas in low pressure pipes introduced. This was one of the earliest flow formulas developed and is still used today for sizing low pressure service lines.
- 1859 – Drake discovers oil near Titusville, Pennsylvania. First use of pressure regulators in gas lights. First industry journal published.
- 1861 (France) – the telegraph is utilized to change gas pressure based on a pressure reading at a remote location.
- 1862 – first federal tax on natural gas. 420 gas light companies are operating in the United States.
- 1863 – the American Meter Company is formed.
- 1865 – first natural gas company formed in Fredonia, New York.

- 1872 – first “high pressure” gas line built to Titusville, Pennsylvania from a nearby gas well. Line pressure was essentially well pressure. The cast iron pipe had a nominal diameter of 2 inches and was approximately 5 ½ miles long.
- 1878 – Thomas Edison patents the forerunner to today’s electric light bulb.
- 1880 – first natural gas compressor station.
- 1884 – Welsbach patents an improved gas light mantle. It is not until 1891 that the mantle is commercially successful.
- 1885 – Massachusetts passes first state law regulating gas companies.
- 1886 (England) – first prepayment gas meter invented.
- 1888 – first high pressure natural gas meters (30 psig pressure rating) made by the Metric Metal Company.
- 1897 – wheel-type trencher is developed.
- 1899 – first experimental seamless steel pipe made.

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