CUSTOMER SITUATION:
Texas Gas needed to install an isolation valve in a 6-inch, 213 psi gas distribution line in the city of Austin. The line ran parallel with a busy thoroughfare and work could only be done between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Valving on one side of the planned installation would be used to stop and divert flow so customers downstream would not lose service. A location was selected on the other side using the new STOPPLE® Train plugging system from TDW to isolate the work area so the line could be cut and the new isolation valve installed. It was the first field application of the new system.

TDW SOLUTION:
The STOPPLE Train plugging system is a new design from TDW consisting of two plugging heads. The two heads, linked together, are inserted into the line through the same tapped hole. The void between the plugging heads allows for monitoring of pressure changes through a bleed port. The sealing element on the secondary plugging head provides double block and bleed capabilities at pressures ranging from 0 psi to 1,000 psi. For the Austin project, a STOPPLE fitting was welded to the pipe and tapped with a Model 760 tapping machine. The STOPPLE Train pugging head was inserted into the pipe, and the pipe was swept several times - inserting and withdrawing the plugging head - to clear the area of chips cut from the pipe (tapping with no flow had left chips in the line). A seal was achieved, the pipe cut and the new isolation valve installed.

CUSTOMER BENEFIT:
Texas Gas received many benefits from the use of the STOPPLE Train system, including double block and bleed protection. The system also provided maximum safety and economy. The innovative double block and bleed feature was achieved through insertion of two plugging heads through a single fitting, resulting in reduced fitting, welding, excavation, crane and other site support costs.