The Life Cycle of a Pipeline in Alberta

Land Survey
The survey gathers information on the topography and helps determine the preferred location of the development. A landowner does not have the right to refuse access for surveying, but the company is expected to provide reasonable notice and pay damages. [Page 4]

Stakeholder Engagement
The company will begin building relationships with landowners and their communities. Concerned parties can submit a pre-application Statement of Concern (SOC) to the AER. When the licence application is received at the AER, they will need to submit a Statement of Concern so the AER can determine if they are directly and adversely affected.

Consultation & Notification
Potentially affected parties will be notified or consulted in accordance with AER Directive 056. [Page 8]

Negotiation of Right-of-Way
The landowner will be approached by a licensed land agent to negotiate a right-of-way or easement agreement. [Page 4-8]

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) is available from the AER at any stage in the life cycle of a pipeline.

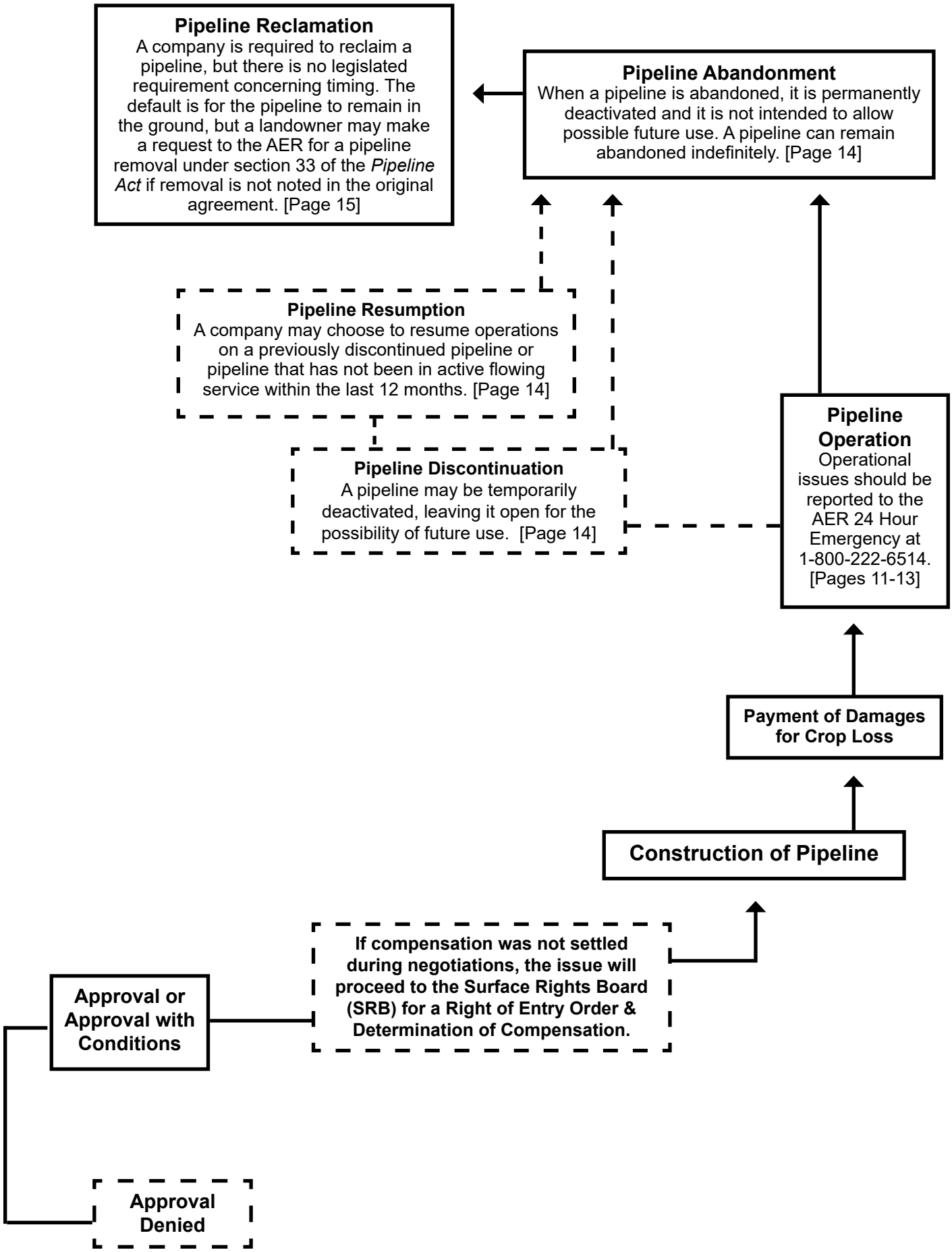
Confirmation of Non-Objection
In addition to the right-of-way agreement, the company will seek a Confirmation of Non-Objection for their application to the AER. If compensation is the only outstanding issue, the company may ask the landowner to acknowledge this in writing, as compensation is outside of the jurisdiction of the AER. [Page 8]

Licence Application to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER)

Baseline Review
The licence may go through the automatic process if they have been able to comply with technical requirements, there are no outstanding landowner objections (other than compensation) and a relaxation of a technical requirement has not been requested. [Page 9]

Additional Review
The licence application may go through the reviewed process if they have been unable to comply with technical requirements, there are outstanding landowner objections (other than compensation) or a relaxation of a technical requirement has been requested. Once the application has been submitted to the AER, concerned parties have 30 days to submit an SOC. The AER may attempt ADR prior to holding a hearing. [Page 9]

AER Decision


Pipeline Reclamation
A company is required to reclaim a pipeline, but there is no legislated requirement concerning timing. The default is for the pipeline to remain in the ground, but a landowner may make a request to the AER for a pipeline removal under section 33 of the *Pipeline Act* if removal is not noted in the original agreement. [Page 15]
Pipeline Abandonment
When a pipeline is abandoned, it is permanently deactivated and it is not intended to allow possible future use. A pipeline can remain abandoned indefinitely. [Page 14]
Pipeline Resumption
A company may choose to resume operations on a previously discontinued pipeline or pipeline that has not been in active flowing service within the last 12 months. [Page 14]
Pipeline Discontinuation
A pipeline may be temporarily deactivated, leaving it open for the possibility of future use. [Page 14]
Pipeline Operation
Operational issues should be reported to the AER 24 Hour Emergency at 1-800-222-6514. [Pages 11-13]
Payment of Damages for Crop Loss
Construction of Pipeline
If compensation was not settled during negotiations, the issue will proceed to the Surface Rights Board (SRB) for a Right of Entry Order & Determination of Compensation.
Approval or Approval with Conditions
Approval Denied