

Glossary

Abandonment – Permanent deactivation of a pipeline in a manner that leaves it safe for the public and the environment.

Aboveground Structures – Any surface equipment associated with a pipeline, such as pipeline risers, headers (aboveground portions of a pipeline), valve stations, pigging equipment, maintenance equipment to clean and inspect the pipeline, separators, metering shacks, line heaters, tanks, secondary containment, or processing plants. The landowner will be compensated separately for any aboveground surface equipment.

Cathodic Protection - A technique used to control the corrosion of the pipeline.

Compressor Station – Used to maintain pressure of natural gas to ensure it keeps moving through a pipeline.

Confirmation of Non Objection – A signature on this form confirming that you have no outstanding objections will be sought by the company for its licence application to the AER.

Consultation – Informing affected parties of a proposed application in-person or by phone.

Discontinuation – Temporary deactivation of the pipeline or part of a pipeline in a manner that leaves it safe for possible future use. This typically includes cleaning out the pipeline and applying a corrosion inhibitor to preserve it for future use.

Egress – The ability to leave or exit.

Emergency Response Planning (ERP) – A plan that outlines what steps the operator will take in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Response Zone (EPZ) – This is the radius around a pipeline where people and the environment could be negatively affected in event of a worst-case scenario incident.

Ground Disturbance – Any work, operation, or activity that results in the disturbance of the earth, including, without limitation, excavating, digging, trenching, plowing, drilling, tunneling, augering, backfilling, blasting, topsoil stripping, land levelling, peat removing, quarrying, clearing and grading, but does not include... a disturbance of the earth to a depth of less than 30 centimetres that does not result in a reduction of the earth cover over the pipeline to a depth that is less than the over provided when the pipeline was installed, [and] cultivation to a depth of less than 45 centimetres below the surface of the ground. (Pipeline Rules)

Integrity Digs – Occur when an operator excavates a portion of a pipeline to examine its integrity or repair an issue.

Line Heaters – Line heaters are often used on gas pipelines to prevent hydrate formation during pressure reduction.

Metering Stations – Allow the company to monitor and analyze the quality and quantity of natural gas in a pipeline.

Notification – Written communication to inform the parties of the proposed application

Release Volume – The amount of hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) that could be released in the event of an incident

Setbacks – The minimum distance that infrastructure must be from a pipeline. In Alberta, this distance is determined by the amount of hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) in the pipeline.

Pigging Equipment - A device with scraper blades or wire brushes that cleans the interior of a pipeline. Pigs that collect information about the pipeline are called “smart pigs.”

Pipeline Leak – Occurs when a substance has escaped the pipeline, but the operation of the pipeline is not immediately impaired.

Pipeline Break – Occurs when a substance has escaped the pipeline and the operation of the pipeline is immediately impaired.

Processing Plants – Used to separate, remove, or transform the various components of oil and gas into products that are ready for sale.

Provincial Pipeline – An oil or gas pipeline that operates within Alberta and is regulated by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER).

Release Volume – Refers to the amount of H₂S that could be released from a pipeline in the event of an incident.

Reclamation – the process of bringing the land back to “equivalent land capability,” where it can support various land uses after conservation and reclamation similar to what existed prior to an activity being conducted on the land

Remediation – The process to address contamination to soil, groundwater, or the environment caused by energy activities.

Resumption – Resuming operations on a previously discontinued pipeline or pipeline that has not been in active flowing service within the last 12 months.

Right of Entry – In the event that a right-of-way agreement cannot be obtained with the landowner, the company can obtain a right-of-entry order from the Surface Rights Board (SRB) under the Surface Rights Act that enables them to construct and operate a pipeline on private land without the landowner’s consent.

Right-of-Way – An agreement for a specific portion of land negotiated between a landowner and a company to provide the company with the right to construct and operate a pipeline on private land.

Secondary Containment – Well site design attributes used to prevent damage to the environment from spills and leaks.

Separators – An unfired apparatus used for separating the gaseous and liquid components gleaned from the well.

Smart Pig – This is a device that cleans the pipeline but also collects data about the pipeline's condition

Temporary Work Space (TWS) – Land immediately adjacent to the right-of-way that may be used during construction, repairs, incidents, or integrity digs. This agreement is typically negotiated separately from the right-of-way agreement. TWS may also be referred to as a “staging area.”

Valve Stations – Junctions that allow the operator to isolate any segment of a pipeline in the event of an incident or for ongoing maintenance.