Pipeline Reclamation Problems? WE CAN HELP!

The North Dakota Department of Agriculture’s pipeline and reclamation oversight pilot program connects landowners and surface tenants experiencing pipeline reclamation issues with an independent ombudsman. The role of the ombudsman is to help surface owners/tenants and pipeline companies identify and bring resolution to pipeline reclamation issues. Pipeline reclamation problems addressed in the early stages have a higher degree of resolution and can often be resolved before further erosion of confidence and loss of productivity by all parties.

If you are not getting an adequate response for pipeline reclamation problems directly from the pipeline company, contact the North Dakota Department of Agriculture at 1-800-242-7535 or go to our website at www.nd.gov/ndda to request assistance in resolving them.

Reclamation

- Define goals/timeframes for successful land recovery
  - Vegetation restoration
  - Weed control
  - Topographic feature recovery
- Disturbed areas should be monitored and documented to ensure land recovery goals will be met
  - Determine the duration and frequency of monitoring and maintenance

Point of Contact

Clearly identify the pipeline company contact who will be working with you throughout the entire process.

To find pipeline company contacts, go to www.ndoil.org → Oil Can! → Easement Information Center → Pipeline Company Contact Information.

To request gathering line data, go to www.dmr.nd.gov → Oil and Gas Division Website → Gathering Pipelines → Request Information About Gathering Lines On Your Land.
Surface owners and tenants are in the best position to identify concerns or potential problems that may occur from pipeline installation. Consider the following as you work with the pipeline company to successfully site a pipeline on your land. Your efforts will improve communication and avoid many issues before problems occur.

**Pipeline Route**

If you have concerns with the pipeline route, work with the pipeline company to adjust, determine or evaluate an alternative route. Also, consider current and future land use needs which may be impacted by the pipeline route and easement restrictions.

**Landowner Considerations:**

- Document, inventory and photograph the landscape before and after pipeline installation. This will be helpful in determining your landscape recovery goals
- Identify current and future land use
  - Farmland
  - Hay land
  - Rangeland/pasture
  - Landowner/surface tenant access points
  - Livestock grazing (grazing periods/when in use)
- Fences/gates
- Corrals
- Outbuildings
- Sensitive areas (e.g. springs)

**Easement**

- Timeframe for construction
- Permanent easement width
- Construction easement width
  - Type of pipeline installation
    - Trenched
    - Plowed
- Erosion control
- Dust control
- Construction site cleanup
- Landowner/surface tenant easement access points

**Pipeline Construction**

Pipeline construction may affect the use of your land during and after construction. Consider the following:

- Construction timeline
- Number and size of pipes
- Pipe burial depth
- Type of pipeline
  - Oil
  - Gas
  - Water
- Location of risers/surface structures