



Pipeline study corridors: What you need to know

A study corridor is established along the proposed route of a pipeline to determine the best possible locations for the pipeline facilities and potential workspace areas.

The initial study corridor for a new “greenfield” pipeline project will be about 600 feet wide. A study corridor along existing pipeline rights-of-way will be about 300 feet wide—to allow future pipeline route refinements as necessary to incorporate landowner, environmental and construction related concerns.

Once field evaluations are complete, the pipeline corridor will be reduced to a much narrower width—typically, about 100 feet.

If your property is within the initial study corridor, an Enbridge right-of-way agent will contact you for permission to perform survey activities on your property in connection with any proposed project.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How will you notify me if my property is affected?

A: Enbridge’s Lands and Right-of-Way Department is responsible for developing and maintaining relationships with landowners near Enbridge’s pipeline facilities. These agents are trained professionals and are involved in most aspects of a project’s development – from the initial project plan through construction and into operations.

Representatives collect and evaluate information necessary to determine the pipeline path. As part of that effort, landowners whose property is within the initial study corridor will be contacted for permission to perform survey activities on their property in connection with a proposed project.

(Continued on reverse)



Q: What can I expect to happen during a survey on my property?

A: Surveys are necessary to obtain field data, assess environmental impacts and address individual landowner concerns. These activities are planned only along the portion of your property within the study corridor. These surveys will be performed in a minimal amount of time, with the goal of little to no inconvenience to affected landowners and minimal environmental impacts.

Q: What is involved in these various types of surveys?

A: A civil survey, which usually takes no longer than two days, involves approximately four to five representatives, intermittently placing wooden stakes along a portion of each property to delineate the study corridor.

An environmental survey, which usually takes no longer than three days, involves approximately two to three representatives walking within the study corridor to identify any vegetative and geological indicators of wetland areas. Our representatives will also look for the presence of any threatened or endangered species, if a suspected habitat is within the staked area.

A cultural resources survey involves two to four representatives walking within the staked study corridor to identify any indicators of potential archaeological resources. If such a site is suspected, archaeologists would return for a limited excavation of the test hole (about 2x2 feet square and 2 to 3 feet deep), which will be restored to its preexisting condition. An archaeological walkover usually takes less than one day, and a limited archaeological excavation should take no longer than two days, weather permitting. Enbridge personnel may need to re-visit a property several times to complete the surveys.

Q: Do your right-of-way agents need my permission to survey?

A: Enbridge makes every effort to communicate, work with, and seek input from each and every landowner. Our efforts to obtain permission to enter properties for survey are a part of our collaborative approach, as we aim to minimize impacts to property and environmental resources when and where possible.

Many states have existing laws allowing access for the limited purpose of survey. Providing access to the property to conduct these necessary surveys does not authorize Enbridge to build a pipeline on the property and will not be used by Enbridge at any time to imply that the landowner supports or agrees with the project.

Q: What if I have questions during the survey?

A: Enbridge's right-of-way agents will be available to meet with individual landowners while the surveys are taking place. All survey work will be performed during reasonable daylight hours only, and all work will be performed by authorized professional surveyors and their crews.

Q: If my land is surveyed, will the pipeline be built on my property?

A: Surveys are necessary to obtain important information for the federal and state agencies that will be reviewing the environmental impacts of the proposed projects. During the survey process, we'll continue to meet with landowners to discuss the project and seek input on the proposed routing.

Q: How will you communicate with me during this process?

A: We communicate early and often about our project activities to build positive relationships and long-lasting partnerships with everyone we encounter. Enbridge's experienced project development teams are committed to an open and ongoing communications process with stakeholders. Everyone will have multiple opportunities to interact and engage with the project team, and participate in the appropriate regulatory processes.

Q: What sort of environmental impacts will these surveys have?

A: Enbridge is committed to protecting the environment. While we don't anticipate any damages to result from these surveys, please be assured that you will be compensated if any damages to your property or crops occur that may be directly caused by these activities.