



Enbridge's Line 10

Pipeline decommissioning

Preserving peace of mind

When we decommission a pipeline, we continue to look after it. Landowners are not responsible for Enbridge's decommissioned pipelines—we are. Forever.

What's decommissioning?

A decommissioned pipeline is a line that is taken out of service safely and permanently, but is left in place while other existing or new pipelines in the same right-of-way continue to provide service to end users.

What happens to the pipeline?

We wipe and clean the inside of the line, disconnect the line from our system and segment the line where necessary.

Why leave the pipe in the ground?

This practice minimizes the effect on communities and the environment, and the stability issues that surround soil disturbance.

Does that mean you forget about the line?

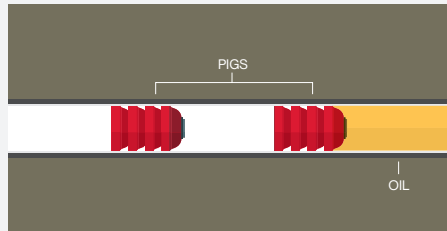
Enbridge is responsible for a decommissioned pipeline forever. We monitor a decommissioned line just as we would an active line.

Can you do this whenever you want?

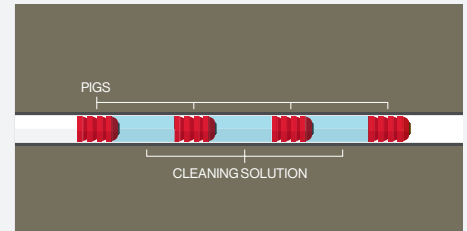
When Enbridge decommissions a line, we must first seek and receive approval from the National Energy Board.

Decommissioning, step by step

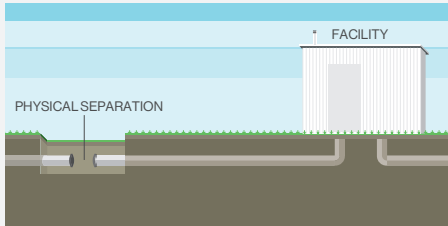
Before decommissioning a line, we perform engineering and environmental assessments in consultation with landowners. Once the National Energy Board approves a decommissioning application, the process typically involves these steps.



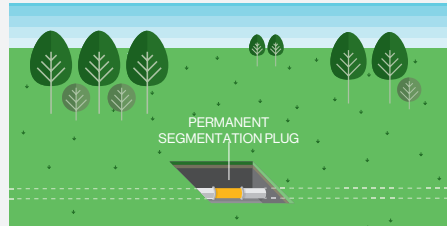
1. Remove the vast majority of the oil using specially designed cleaning instruments.



2. Clean the Pipeline: A combination of cleaning instruments and cleaning solution is used to wipe and clean the pipeline.



3. Disconnect the pipeline, sealing it off from active facilities like pump stations, to prevent oil from re-entering the decommissioned line.



4. Segment the pipeline with permanent physical barriers to prevent it from acting as a water conduit. Segmentation plugs are strategically placed along the pipeline.



5. Monitor the pipeline by maintaining cathodic protection, regular patrols, exact location signs, depth-of-cover surveys and Click Before You Dig program information.

Leaving the decommissioned pipeline in place is the safest and least disruptive option — it means no additional disturbance from excavation and removal and less risk of future soil and slope instability.

Avoiding soil disturbance

Removing replaced sections of pipe entails major construction activities and disturbance to farmlands, neighbourhoods, roadways, wetlands, and green spaces, which we prefer to avoid whenever possible.

By leaving a decommissioned pipeline in place, we avoid the added disturbance and significant construction activities that excavation and removal would bring. Leaving the line in the ground also reduces the risk of soil and slope instability, settlement and compaction issues that could compromise the safety of active pipelines sharing that right-of-way.

A long-lived load-bearing structure

A decommissioned pipeline will have a very long remaining life as a load-bearing structure for supporting soil and surface loads.

Independent engineering research and analysis suggests the rate of corrosion would be extremely slow and occur over many centuries. This research also suggests that any associated changes to the land surface would be gradual and that the maximum estimated surface change, after many centuries, would be a depression no deeper than the length of a ballpoint pen, about eight metres across.

Looking after the line

We are responsible for our decommissioned pipelines forever. We monitor decommissioned lines, just as we do with active lines, in various ways:

- Maintaining cathodic protection (an electrical current that curbs corrosion);
- Right-of-way monitoring and maintenance;
- Depth-of-cover surveys;
- Maintaining signage and contact info; and
- Maintaining the line's profile for Call/Click Before You Dig programs.