Pipeline decommissioning: Preserving your peace of mind

When Enbridge decommissions a pipeline, we remain responsible for that pipeline.

The decommissioning process, for pipelines that cross provincial or federal borders, is overseen by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER). When we decommission a line, we first seek and receive approval from the CER, and we monitor a decommissioned line as we would an active line.

How do we decommission a pipeline?
- We remove oil from the line
- Physically disconnect the pipeline from our system
- And segment the line, where necessary

A decommissioned pipeline will have a very long remaining life as a load-bearing structure. Independent engineering research and analysis suggests the rate of corrosion would be extremely slow, and occur gradually over centuries.

Why is the pipeline left in place?
The decommissioning process is designed to minimize the effect on communities and the environment:
- It reduces the risk of soil stability issues
- It avoids major construction activities, and reduces the potential risk to existing pipelines from heavy equipment

Landowners are not responsible for Enbridge’s decommissioned pipelines.