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 international 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
- Wipe and clean the internal walls
- 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.

Enbridge continues to monitor decommissioned pipelines by:
- Maintaining cathodic protection (an electrical current that curbs corrosion)
- Right-of-way monitoring and maintenance
- Depth-of-cover surveys
- Maintaining signage and contact info
- Ensuring the line stays on one-call program databases

Why is the pipeline left in place?
Decommissioning in-place minimizes the effect on communities and the environment.

Landowners are not responsible for Enbridge's decommissioned pipelines.