

Pipeline Construction Keystone XL Pipeline



The Right-of-Way

Pipelines are built on rights-of-way, which are strips of land that TransCanada has acquired the land rights to safely construct and operate the pipeline.

The permanent right-of-way will be 50 feet (15 meters) wide, with an additional 60 feet (18 meters) of temporary workspace. Additional temporary work space will be required at certain highway crossings, railway crossings, existing pipeline corridors, watercourse crossings and other site specific locations to accommodate pipeline construction activities.

Crude oil pipeline construction involves burying continuous sections of pipe underground and building above-ground facilities to support the pipeline operation. Above ground facilities for the Keystone XL Pipeline will include 26 pump stations, which essentially push the crude oil through the pipeline.

Subject to receiving the required regulatory approvals, construction of Keystone XL is planned for 2013. A number of construction crews or spreads will be working simultaneously on different sections of the pipeline route in Canada and the U.S.

The Keystone XL Pipeline will be built using the latest, most proven technology and techniques to ensure the safe and reliable delivery of crude oil, with minimum impact to land and the environment. Public and employee safety, as well as environmental protection, are key elements in the planning of pipeline construction.

Construction work will not begin until regulatory approvals have been received and easements have been acquired from landowners.

Pipeline Construction

Sequence of Typical Construction Activities

1. Clearing and grading the right-of-way

Trees, brush and crops are removed and a working surface is then prepared by stripping off the topsoil layer and grading the subsoil to create a level work surface. The topsoil is preserved separately from the subsoil so that it may be returned to the right-of-way after construction.

2. Stringing the pipe

The pipe, which has been pre-treated with a corrosion inhibiting coating, is distributed in varying lengths along the right-of-way, then bevelled and bent to suit the contours of the land and, finally, prepared for welding.

3. Welding and Inspection

Sophisticated technology is used to weld the pipe together in one string and each weld is inspected to meet strict safety and quality assurance requirements.

4. Ditching, coating and installing pipe

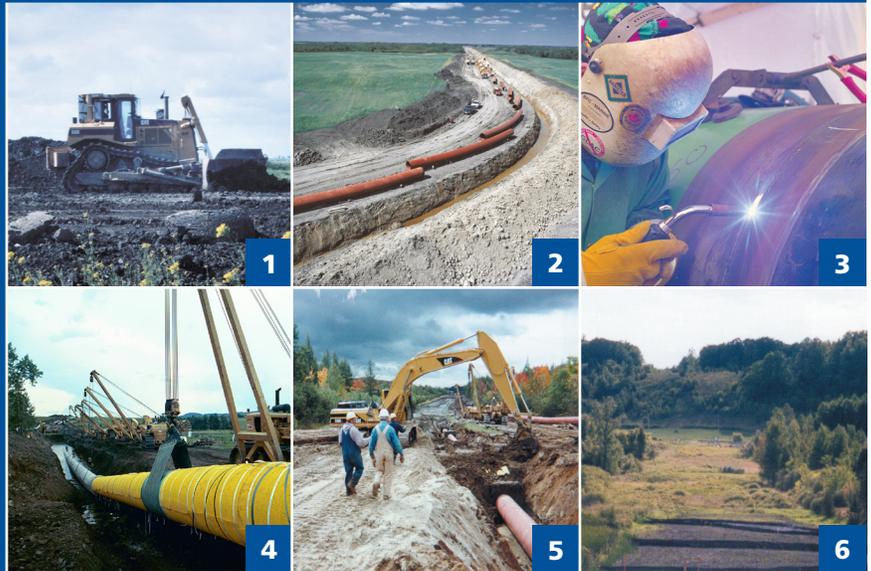
Excavating equipment is used to dig the ditch. Then, the pipe is placed in the ditch. Finally, the welded joints are coated for corrosion protection and the pipeline is inspected.

5. Backfilling and final cleanup

The subsoil is used to cover the pipe in the trench and is then covered with the original topsoil.

6. Right-of-way reclamation

Care is taken to return the land to a condition as close as possible to its previous state (prior to construction). Environmental protection plans are implemented to stabilize the right-of-way and promote the re-establishment of a vegetative cover, where appropriate.



Contact

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