Pipeline decommissioning: Preserving your peace of mind

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

In Canada, the National Energy Board (NEB) regulates the decommissioning process for pipelines that cross provincial or federal borders. When we decommission a line, we first seek and receive approval from the NEB, and we monitor a decommissioned line just 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:

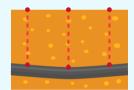
Maintaining cathodic protection (an electrical current that curbs corrosion)



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?

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 – we are. Forever.

