

# Hydrostatic testing.

**At TC Energy, the safety of the public and our employees is a priority. To ensure our pipeline continues to meet the highest safety standards, we perform a number of routine procedures to verify the pipeline's integrity. Hydrostatic testing is one of these procedures.**

Once a new pipeline is lowered into the ground, the trench is backfilled and a series of tests – including hydrostatic testing – is completed. Water is placed into the pipeline and pressurized to a level higher than the pipeline will experience during regular operation. If a leak occurs during testing, we repair or replace the affected section and only place it into service after it has been tested and deemed safe.

Existing operating pipelines may periodically have hydrostatic tests completed as part of our Pipeline Maintenance Program. After depressurization of the operating pipeline, the product travelling through the pipeline – either natural gas or oil – is removed from the pipeline. Cleaning tools are pushed through the pipeline with compressed air to remove any debris that may be within the pipeline, before the pipeline is filled with water. The pressure in the pipeline is then increased beyond normal daily operating pressure. If there is a defect in the pipeline, water will escape helping us locate the defect, so that we can repair or replace the affected section of pipeline.

TC Energy recognizes water and water systems as fundamental components of the ecosystems where we operate. Using water to test the integrity of the pipeline addresses both safety and environmental concerns. The water used in the hydrostatic testing is typically withdrawn from nearby dugouts, lakes, watercourses or municipal sources, in accordance with applicable permits. Prior to discharge, the water may be filtered if required and sampled as needed to confirm the water meets the permitted requirements and applicable federal and/or provincial and state water quality standards. The water will then usually be discharged to land or else in or near the same watershed.

TC Energy installs crossing or warning signs at road crossings and trails on the right of way (the area of land containing pipelines) before and during test activities. Hydrostatic testing normally lasts from one to 24 hours. During testing, the right of way is restricted to TC Energy personnel only. No farming or recreational activities are allowed during this time.



## **Regulatory comment**

*TC Energy facilities are federal and/or provincial and state regulated. The regulators work with TC Energy to ensure our pipelines are constructed, tested and operated safely.*

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact your local TC Energy representative.

## **General enquiries**

450 – 1 Street S.W. Calgary, AB  
Canada, T2P 5H1

1-800-661-3805

[TCEnergy.com](http://TCEnergy.com)

