

2024 METER STATIONS AND LATERALS ABANDONMENT PROGRAM

Proposed project



About this program

NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of TransCanada PipeLines Limited, an affiliate of TC Energy Corporation (TC Energy), is proposing to permanently cease operations at 28 meter stations and 31 lateral pipelines, loops and/or Producer tie-ins (PTIs) on the NGTL System within Alberta, as these facilities are no longer necessary to provide service to customers. The Canada Energy Regulator (CER) defines this process as abandonment. As operations will be permanently ceased and service will be discontinued on these facilities, NGTL will file a Section 241 Abandonment application, pursuant to the Canadian Energy Regulator Act for the facilities in the third quarter of 2024.

How will the facilities and associated pipelines be abandoned?

NGTL will submit an abandonment application to the CER that gathers input from interested parties, including landowners, Indigenous groups and environmental specialists. This will help determine the appropriate approach for the facilities that also minimizes the impact to landowners, Indigenous groups, communities and the surrounding environment. For this program, above-ground facilities, including meter station buildings, yard piping and unnecessary fencing, and above- or below-ground cathodic protection facilities will be removed. The program may also include the removal of small diameter pipelines that connect the meter stations to the NGTL System, where appropriate. In addition to removing the facilities, there will be some instances where associated below-ground pipelines will be left in-place. This involves cleaning the pipeline, cutting the pipeline in select locations and capping the cut sections of pipeline to safely leave them buried in the ground.

What size of pipe is involved?

The program involves pipelines ranging from three to 10 inches in diameter and up to approximately 20.5 kilometres (km) in length.

How will I be notified of program activities?

We will be engaging with impacted landowners, Indigenous groups, and communities to inform them about program activities taking place in and around their communities. We believe engagement is a two-way process and invite landowners, Indigenous groups, communities, and interested stakeholders and rightsholders to share their questions and concerns with us so that we can provide information, follow up, and where feasible, incorporate input into our plans.

What is the timeline for this program?

Q4 2023	Began evaluation of site-specific risks at the proposed sites
Q1 2024	Began Indigenous and stakeholder engagement with impacted landowners and communities
Q3 2024	Anticipate filing a Section 241 Abandonment application with the CER
Q1 2025	Subject to regulatory approval, program activities may begin at select sites

What impact will this program have to the NGTL System?

The program will not affect operations on the NGTL System.

Why do you share information on abandonment plans?

We are committed to managing our pipeline assets throughout their full life cycle. Once they are no longer needed, we provide information on the abandonment process for awareness that it is done safely and with no financial liability to landowners.

What steps will TC Energy take to protect the land and environment?

As part of the independent regulatory process, an Environmental Protection Plan will be developed to mitigate any potential environmental effects that may exist. TC Energy is responsible for reclamation and the costs associated with this program.

What happens to land after abandonment?

Following physical abandonment activities, NGTL will reclaim disturbed areas and the pipeline right-of-way to equivalent land capability. At this time, NGTL intends to retain easements for the abandoned pipelines and land rights for the abandoned facilities.

What abandonment activities are expected at the program sites?

We are committed to minimizing disruptions during the program and will work with stakeholders and rightsholders to address any issues or concerns.

During the physical abandonment activities for this program, there will be equipment on site for use in preparing the facilities for abandonment and for transporting materials and personnel. Physical abandonment activities typically generate a certain amount of noise, however all noise from abandonment activities will meet applicable limits set by the applicable regulator.

How does TC Energy engage with stakeholders?

Engaging with stakeholders means listening, providing accurate information and responding to stakeholder interests in a prompt and consistent manner. We are proud of the relationships we have built with our neighbours for the last 70+ years. Our core values of integrity, collaboration, responsibility, safety and innovation are at the heart of our commitment to stakeholder engagement. These values guide us in our interactions with our stakeholders.

What is TC Energy's Dispute Resolution process?

Our approach to consultation and engagement with stakeholders, including landowners and Indigenous groups, is designed to inform and to address issues or disputes to reach a mutual resolution or mitigate effects. We work hard to address questions and resolve issues raised by those who are potentially impacted by our projects. We consult early and often, invite feedback, and continue to provide updates and mitigate concerns throughout the regulatory process and the lifecycle of the project.

TC Energy's preferred method for addressing the concerns of stakeholders, including landowners and Indigenous groups, is direct and respectful discussion. Issues received or identified during these discussions are systematically tracked and followed up on to promote mutual resolution and positive interest-based outcomes. In the event that mutual resolution through this approach is not achievable, the parties may consider use of the CER's collaborative Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Process.

How does TC Energy engage with Indigenous groups?

Building and maintaining relationships with Indigenous groups near our proposed projects and existing facilities has long been an integral part of our business. We work with communities to identify potential effects of company activities on each community to find mutually satisfactory solutions and benefits.

How does TC Energy prepare for and respond to an emergency?

The program will be carried out in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. In the unlikely event of an emergency, our comprehensive Emergency Response Program would be activated. We train our staff to know what to do in the event of an emergency. We also collaborate with area emergency responders to ensure a coordinated response in the event of an incident.

In the event of an emergency, please contact TC Energy's 24-hour emergency line at 1-888-982-7222.

How can I contact TC Energy about this program?

There are several ways for you to contact us about this program. Here's our contact information:

Community Relations:

Email: public_affairs_ca@tcenergy.com
Phone: 1-855-895-8754

Indigenous Relations:

Email: indigenous_relations@tcenergy.com

Write to TC Energy at:

TC Energy
450 – 1st Street S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 5H1
www.tcenergy.com

Or reach out to the Canada Energy Regulator directly at:

Canada Energy Regulator
Suite 210, 517 10th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0A8
Phone: 1-800-899-1265
Email: info@cer-rec.gc.ca
Canada Energy Regulator (cer-rec.gc.ca)

If you would like further information regarding the CER's approval process, we would be pleased to provide you with information, or you can contact the regulator directly using the above contact information. TC Energy periodically provides information beginning at the early stages of project development, including prospecting, continuing throughout the life of assets. The information provided is intended to give people the opportunity for meaningful input and inform stakeholders of our proposed activities. Please be aware that as planning progresses, new information becomes available and details may change from the time of this printing.