

Conservation and Reclamation INFORMATION LETTER

Pipeline Reclamation Certificate Applications

BACKGROUND

Under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* and the *Conservation and Reclamation Regulation* pipeline operators must obtain a reclamation certificate following abandonment of a pipeline, unless exempted under the Regulation.

PRIOR TO APPLICATION

Reclamation certification is based on the following pre-requisites:

- the pipeline has been properly abandoned according to the appropriate regulatory body's requirements; and,
- all contamination related to the pipeline has been remediated to Alberta Environment standards.

A Phase I environmental site assessment must be conducted prior to carrying out the reclamation assessment. For more information on the Phase I assessment requirements please refer to *Guidance for the Use of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Guideline for Upstream Oil and Gas Sites* (D&R/IL/01-1 found on the website at www.gov.ab.ca/env/protenf/soilgrndwater/index.html).

The removal of a section of pipeline exceeding the 2690 index (length in km times outside pipe diameter in mm) will require an approval for reclamation under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.

The removal of a section of pipeline from a water body with defined bed and banks is regulated by the *Water Act Code of Practice for Pipelines and Telecommunication Lines Crossing a Water*

Body. Therefore there is a requirement to follow the Code standards including giving Notice to the Director and any activity related to the removal of the pipeline must meet Code requirements/standards. The Notice must include a sketch plan showing the location of the pipeline relative to boundaries of the quarter section of land. There is also a requirement under the Code that where the pipeline has been removed there must be certification by the pipeline owner or his agent that the removal was done in accordance with Code standards. There is no requirement to send this certification to the Director, but the Director can, through a compliance check, ask for a copy of this certification and any other information.

The regulators encourage operators to discuss the criteria and the certification process prior to initiating any field work.

LANDOWNER CONTACT

The operator should have informed each landowner that the pipeline has been abandoned and, if applicable, that the pipe is being left in the ground, prior to sending in the application.

Each landowner/occupant must be consulted to collect their comments on the reclaimed condition of the pipeline. The draft criteria provide an **optional** tool that can be used by the operator if they wish to obtain landowner feedback.

Each landowner must receive a copy of the certificate application, though only the detailed assessments for their land have to be given to each landowner.

APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION

Pipeline operators are welcome to submit applications for reclamation certificates using either the *Reclamation Assessment Criteria for Pipelines – 2001 Draft* (C&R/IL/01-X) or the access road portion of the *Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities – 1995 Update* (C&R/IL/95-3). **The regulators will accept either method.**

Operators must use the attached *Pipeline Reclamation Certificate Application Form* to apply for a reclamation certificate. Applications must contain all the required information before they can be processed. The \$300 application fee must also be attached.

Operators should only apply for complete pipelines - not for short sections of pipeline. For pipelines regulated by the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, a complete pipeline means the length of pipeline covered by a pipeline license or a pipeline line number. For other pipelines it means the full length of the pipeline. Exceptions may be granted in special cases, such as when a landowner or Municipality wishes to subdivide a piece of land.

As a general rule, certificates will only be issued for complete pipelines. Where circumstances warrant, a certificate may be issued for a portion of a pipeline provided there is a logical access point to the uncertified areas so they can be properly reclaimed at a later date.

For details on the application review, inquiry process and the inspector's decision options please refer to C&R/IL/99-4 (available at the website shown below).

Pipeline operators or their representatives must attend the inquiry and be prepared to identify the location of the pipeline right-of-way in each quarter section.

PIPELINE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The *Reclamation Assessment Criteria for Pipelines – 2001 Draft* and the *Pipeline Reclamation Certificate Application Form* are available on the website shown below. The criteria are being tested for a two-year period to evaluate their utility as a measure of reclamation success.

The criteria document contains data forms that must be filled in for each quarter section of land and attached to the reclamation certificate application. The forms are also on the website.

The criteria require considerable professional judgement by soil and vegetation specialists. Operators should use appropriately trained specialists to carry out the assessments.

The criteria apply to all pipelines in the province. Operators are encouraged to discuss the need for Phase 2 pipeline criteria assessments with the reclamation inspector in the Green Area before carrying them out.

COMMENTS

Comments on the criteria and certification process are welcome throughout this trial period, and may be directed to the contacts listed below.

CONTACTS

The following can be reached toll free by calling 310-0000 and then dialing the number shown below.

For Green Area public lands:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Public Lands Division,
3rd Floor, 9915 - 108 Street,
EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2G8.

Phone: (780) 427-3570
Fax: (780) 422-4251
e-mail reclaim@env.gov.ab.ca

For White Area public lands:

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Public Lands Division,
Room 200, J. G. O'Donoghue Building,
7000 - 113 Street,
EDMONTON, Alberta T6H 5T6.

Phone: (780) 427-6597
Fax: (780) 422-4244
Website: www.gov.ab.ca/navigation/sustain/publiclands/index.html

For all other lands:

Alberta Environment,
Science and Standards Division,
4th Floor, 9820-106 Street,
EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2J6

Phone: (780) 427-5883
Fax: (780) 422-4192
e-mail: land.management@gov.ab.ca

PIPELINE RECLAMATION CERTIFICATE APPLICATION FORM – 2001

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Applicant (Operator): _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail: _____

Agent/Consultant: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ e-mail: _____

Person(s) who Conducted the Assessment: _____ Date(s) Assessment Conducted: _____

Company: _____ Phone Number: _____

Public Land Crown Disposition No. _____

Upon issuance of the Reclamation Certificate, do you want your public land disposition cancelled? Yes No

If No, provide a complete explanation of why you still require the disposition. _____

Private Land County/MD/ID/SA _____ Company File No: _____

Pipeline Name: _____

Applicant is EUB Licensee? Yes No N/A If No, explain _____

EUB License No(s): _____ EUB Line No(s): _____

Pipeline Length (km): _____ Pipeline Diameter (mm and inches): _____ Pipeline Depth (to top of pipe - m): _____

EUB Regulated Pipeline NEB Regulated Pipeline Sewer Pipeline Water Pipeline

Other Pipeline (specify) _____

Product(s) Conveyed in Pipeline: _____

Associated Facilities (must be certified)

Compressor Meter Station Pigging Station Riser Laydown Area

Other (Specify) _____

II. OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED

1. **Private Land:** Have you performed a final inspection in consultation with each landowner/occupant: Yes No

If No, state reason. _____

2. **Public Land:** Have you performed a final inspection in consultation with each occupant: Yes No

If No, state reason. _____

Have all disposition conditions been met? Yes No If No, state reason: _____

3. Date of final inspection: _____ **Attach landowner/occupant comments to the data provided for each quarter section.**

4. Have you provided the landowners/occupants a copy of this application? Yes No If No, state reason: _____

5. Indicate the assessment criteria used to assess the pipeline:

Reclamation Assessment Criteria for Pipelines – 2001 Draft

Access road portion of the Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities – 1995 Update

6. Indicate the company representative we should contact for information to complete the application; notify of the reclamation inquiry; and give any documentation to. **NOTE: A company representative must attend the inquiry.**

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Address, if different than Applicant above: _____

e-mail address: _____

NOTE: Material hand delivered by the Reclamation Inspector to any operator representative in the field will be deemed to have been delivered to the operator on that date.

Provide a current Certificate of Title (private land only); if located in Special Areas, provide a search from the Special Areas Board indicating the lessee's name and address.

Provide 5 (five) copies of a survey plan or alignment sheet, with the area to be certified outlined in yellow. The survey plan or alignment sheet must cover one quarter section. Details on the plan must be sufficient to show the relationship of the site to the immediately surrounding area, in particular the following (where applicable): surface drainage and direction; slope direction; distance from waterbodies, streams, and sensitive areas; land use; bush; roads; trails; buildings; and fence lines. Survey plans or alignment sheets must be readable, especially right-of-way or site dimensions, distances and bearings.

Note: A duplicate copy of the application and supporting documentation is required (however, only 5 copies of survey plan are required).

III. SITE HISTORY - GENERAL

Attach supporting information to this form when available. **Please indicate whether N/A means Not Available or Not Applicable.** Older pipelines may not have all the required information. The more information you are able to provide the less time will be needed at the inquiry to identify potential problems.

1. Construction Date: _____
2. Abandonment Date: _____
3. Were there any spills, leaks or ruptures? Yes No
4. Did this pipeline ever have an approval issued pursuant to the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* (or preceding legislation)?
 Yes No
 If Yes, Approval No.: _____ Did you comply with all conditions of the approval? Yes No
5. (a) Has there been a previous reclamation inquiry on this pipeline? Yes No
 (b) If Yes, has any work been done on the pipeline since the last inquiry? Yes No If Yes, provide details.
 If No, explain why. _____
6. (a) Has a Phase 1 site assessment been conducted as per the *Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Guideline for Upstream Oil and Gas Sites*?
 Yes No. If No, why not? _____
- (b) Was contaminant remediation work done? Yes No N/A

SITE HISTORY – SPECIFIC

For each quarter section, provide the following information where applicable on attached data sheets. Please indicate whether N/A means Not Available or Not Applicable. Older pipelines may not have all the required information. The more information you are able to provide the less time will be needed at the inquiry to identify potential problems. Answers should reflect the work carried out by the operator as part of their pipeline reclamation activities (i.e., no need to report fertilizer, herbicide or manure application by landowner as part of ongoing field management).

1. Is this pipeline part of a common corridor? How many other pipelines are there in the corridor and whom are they licensed to?
2. Date and method of pipe removal.
3. Date and reason for last surface disturbance (e.g., line maintenance, facility construction, facility removal, remediation).
4. Details of any off-right-of-way disturbances.
5. Seeding date and species mix list.
6. Details of fertilizer types, rates and date last used.
7. Details of soil handling practices used (e.g., full right-of-way, ditch and spoil, blade-width, trench, no-strip, three-lift).
8. Details of herbicides/sterilants used, dates, rates of applications, and remedial action.
9. If the answer to Part III, question 3 above was Yes, provide dates, locations, amounts, types, and remediation dates.
10. Types, amounts, rates, date(s) of application and method of incorporation for any amendments used. Confirm acceptance by landowner.
11. Identify any non-oilfield waste (e.g., concrete, gravel or debris) buried on-site (note, this does not include the pipe itself) and the depth of burial.
Attach written acceptance from all registered landowners.
12. Details of any watercourse crossings (e.g., crossing method and reclamation work done).

V. DATA

Data collected in Part IV and as part of the criteria used to assess reclamation are required for the pipeline and for each associated facility that is being applied for. Collate all information by quarter section and clearly label each piece of attached paper with the legal land location.

For pipelines assessed using the Reclamation Assessment Criteria for Pipelines – 2001 Draft, attach all data forms for each quarter section. Provide detailed justifications where a quarter section fails but you believe the quarter section should still be certified.

For pipelines assessed using the access road portion of the Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities - 1995 Update, provide information on the landuse type, number and location of assessment points and the landscape, soil and vegetation data for the control, trench, and one other right-of-way position for each quarter section. Where the trench cannot be identified, sample two locations on the right-of-way.

In either case, fill out the applicable parts of the attached *Pipeline Reclamation Certificate Application Summary Information Form*.

VI. DECLARATION

The Declaration must be signed by the operator or his consultant/agent (the Inspector has the right to request written proof that the person signing the application is an agent of the operator).

I, _____ of _____ certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all the above

(print name)

(operator)

information is accurate and that all other conditions described in the criteria document have been met, and that there are no other soil chemical or physical conditions that resulted from the licensed operator's use of this land that may adversely affect soil or vegetation or groundwater on or near the site described above.

NAME (SIGNATURE)	POSITION	DATE

Please assemble the application in this order:

Original – Clip together with a binder clip

- Cheque for \$300.00 payable to the Minister of Finance
- Cover letter
- Application
- Signed releases if applicable
- Data forms
- Pictures if applicable
- Copy of current titles/or Special Areas Searches (private land)
- Survey plans or alignment sheets (one copy) outlined in yellow

Copy – clip together with a binder clip

- same order
- Survey plans or alignment sheets (4 copies) outlined in yellow

Clip original application and duplicate copy together with a larger clip thus ensuring that they do not get separated.

Do not staple information together or put into a bound cover of any kind.

Return this application and the supporting documentation in duplicate to:

For all lands in the Green Area administered under the Public Lands Act

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Public Lands Division,
3rd Floor, 9915 - 108 Street, EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2G8;
e-mail reclaim@env.gov.ab.ca

For all lands in the White Area administered under the Public Lands Act

Alberta Sustainable Resource Development, Public Lands Division, Room 200,
7000 - 113 Street, EDMONTON, Alberta T6H 5T6.

For all other lands

Alberta Environment, Regulatory Approvals Centre, Main Floor, 9820 - 106 Street, EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2J6

Pipeline Name: _____ License Number: _____

Pipeline Reclamation Certificate Summary Information Form

Legal Location	Landowner Name, Address and Phone Number	Occupant Name, Address and Phone Number	Pass/Fail (P/F)	Phase 2 Re-quired (Y/N) *	Justification Re-quired (Y/N)	Pipeline Trench Found (Y/N)	Pipe Left in Ground (Y/N)

* For pipelines assessed using the *Reclamation Assessment Criteria for Pipelines – 2001 Draft*

Rescinded