How We Restore Agricultural Areas

Some of NEXUS Gas Transmission's pipelines are located in the heart of rural communities and agricultural land. We appreciate the need for our facilities to compatibly co-exist with agricultural uses like pastures and cultivated crops, and we restore transmission rights-of-way as quickly and thoroughly as possible so that normal agricultural use can resume.

Topsoil Segregation

- Topsoil is segregated from the construction work areas in cultivated or rotated croplands and managed pastures, hayfields and other areas at the landowner's request.
- To prevent the mixing of topsoil with subsoil, topsoil is stripped from either the full work area or from the trench and subsoil storage area (ditch plus spoilside method).
- Where the topsoil layer is less than 12 inches, every effort is made to segregate the entire topsoil layer; and where the topsoil layer is more than 12 inches deep, at least 12 inches of topsoil will be segregated.
- Gaps are left in the topsoil piles to allow water to be diverted from the construction work areas.
- No topsoil is used for padding the pipe, to backfill the trench or for slope breakers or trench plugs across the trench.
- Stabilize topsoil piles and minimize loss due to wind and water erosion with use of sediment barriers, mulch, temporary seeding, tackifiers or functional equivalents where necessary.

Livestock Crossings

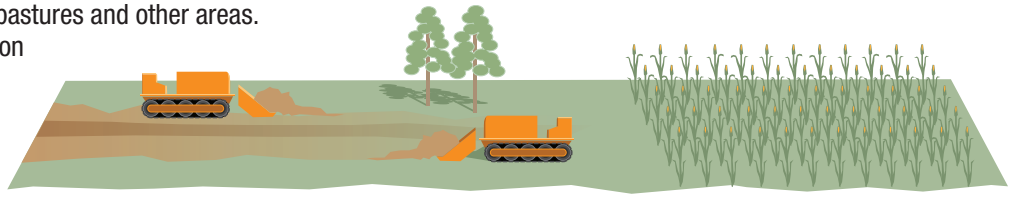
- If livestock crossing of the open trench is required, fencing will be provided over portions of the trench line that are not excavated. The livestock crossings are located as negotiated with the landowner.

Restoration

- Excess rock is removed from at least the top 12 inches of soil to the extent practical in all cultivated or rotated cropland, hayfields, managed pastures and other areas. The size, density and distribution of rock on the construction work area should be similar to adjacent areas not disturbed by construction.
- Every effort is made to remove stones greater than four inches if the areas near the right-of-way do not contain stones greater than four inches. The landowner may approve other rock size provisions in writing.
- Topsoil and subsoil is regularly tested for compaction in agricultural areas disturbed by construction activities. Tests are conducted on the same soil type under similar moisture conditions in undisturbed areas to identify approximate preconstruction conditions.
- Severely compacted areas are plowed with a paraplow or other deep tillage implement. In areas where topsoil is segregated, the subsoil will be plowed before replacing the segregated topsoil. If subsequent construction and cleanup activities result in further compaction, additional tilling is conducted.
- Segregated topsoil is spread back over the construction work area and restored to its original profile.
- The disturbed areas are then limed, fertilized, seeded and mulched.

Monitoring after Construction

- As necessary, follow-up inspections of all disturbed areas are conducted, at a minimum, after the first and second growing seasons to determine the success of revegetation, and address landowner concerns.
- In agricultural areas, revegetation is considered successful when, upon visual survey, crop growth and vigor are similar to adjacent undisturbed portions of the same field.
- Problems with drainage and irrigation systems resulting from pipeline construction in active agricultural areas are monitored and corrected.
- Erosion and subsidence will be continually monitored throughout the operational life of the pipeline.



For more information, visit www.nexusgastransmission.com.