Topsoil Conservation
Pipeline Construction

In the process of constructing a pipeline, TransCanada implements careful topsoil conservation procedures to maintain the productive capability of all lands. This activity supports reclamation and helps to protect the land.

As part of the process of developing a soil conservation plan, TransCanada collects data identifying soil type, physical characteristics, depth of topsoil, and land-use. This information is used to establish the depth of topsoil stripping and the appropriate soil handling procedure for each parcel of land traversed by the pipeline.

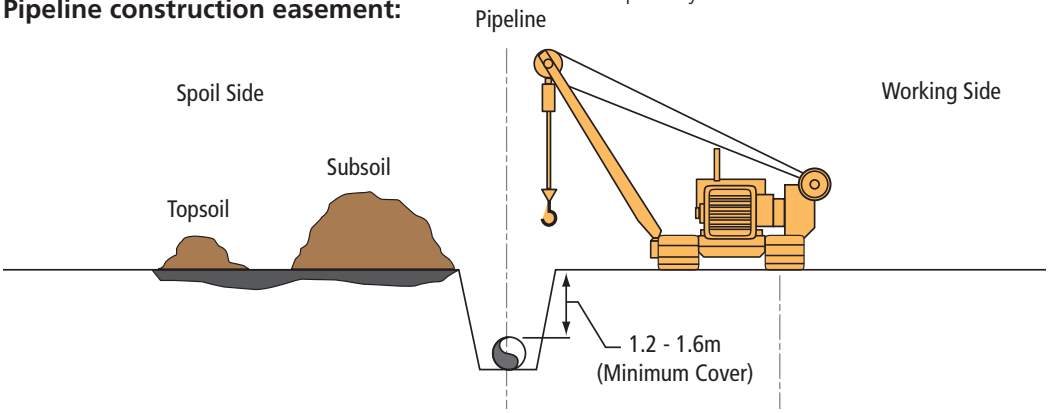
The objective is to establish procedures that will maintain the agricultural capability of the soil and avoid the potential for degradation of topsoil from mixing, compaction, rutting, or loss of organic matter.

To avoid soil mixing, topsoil is salvaged and stored separately from subsoil and other construction related activities. After pipeline installation is complete, subsoil is replaced within the trench and disturbed right-of-way to reestablish the land's natural contours. Following this, the topsoil is then placed on top of the subsoil on the disturbed right-of-way, completing the process.

Topsoil Conservation Components

- Topsoil is usually stripped and stored in a windrow at the far edge of the right-of-way. In rare cases, it can be stored in other locations.
- If grading the right-of-way is necessary for construction, topsoil is stripped from the entire area to be graded in order to avoid mixing.
- In some landscape types such as in sensitive native prairie or pasturelands, topsoil stripping and disturbance of the natural sod is greatly reduced to minimize impact and disturbance to the sensitive vegetation.
- Generally, limiting the topsoil stripping to the area where excavation will occur helps minimize overall impact.
- Soil resources are monitored during construction to avoid compaction and rutting. If required, soils may be stabilized to prevent or minimize wind and water erosion. The stabilization method utilized would be determined based on site conditions and in consultation with the landowner. The construction ROW width will vary in size from 32 m (106 feet) to 45 m (150 feet) construction easement.
- Additional temporary workspace for stream, road and railroad crossings, hilly terrain and other areas that require additional work space for safety.
- TransCanada personnel and land agents are available to outline the soil conservation procedures being implemented on their lands to ensure the lands agricultural capability is maintained.

Pipeline construction easement:



Energy East Pipeline

Contact us

We encourage your input and invite interested stakeholders to contact us.

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