

Buckeye XPress Project

Environmental Review

TransCanada's Columbia Gas Transmission pipeline projects are designed and constructed to minimize land use and impact to natural resources. Before launching a project, we conduct extensive environmental surveys of the landscape to ensure that we avoid sensitive areas.

For the proposed Buckeye XPress pipeline project, we are conducting various environmental field surveys to collect data for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) — the primary regulatory body overseeing the pipeline project.

FERC will prepare an Environmental Assessment for the project in order to assess the potential impact of the Buckeye XPress on natural resources. This document will utilize the environmental data collected in the field, which will also be used to obtain the applicable federal, state and local environmental permits.

Environmental Permits and Clearances

FERC is responsible for ensuring that the Buckeye XPress project complies with all necessary federal regulations, including the following:

Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Clean Air Act of 1970

In compliance with the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA), all jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the United States (as defined by the federal and state permitting agencies) in the project area will be identified during preconstruction surveys.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the regulating federal agency of section 404 of the CWA and Section 10 of the RHA, which involve infrastructure projects and waterways. CWA water quality certifications and national pollutant discharge elimination system permits, as applicable, will be obtained from state agencies.

Endangered Species Act of 1973

Enforced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 protects plant and animal species listed by the federal government as threatened or endangered. Under Section 7 of the ESA, federal agencies are required to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a listed species or result in the destruction or modification of designated critical habitat.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to consider the impact of a project on historic properties. The act established a process for identifying all cultural resources that may be effected by a project and evaluating the eligibility of these resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. We will consult with the Historic Preservation Office in Ohio to ensure compliance.

Frequently Asked Questions

What should landowners expect when environmental field survey crews arrive?

Both the biological and cultural resource survey crews will be wearing personal protective equipment, including reflective vests, hard hats, steel-toe boots and safety glasses.

All survey personnel will have an identification badge listing their name, contractor company name, project name and contact information on their person at all times.

Additionally, the crews will be carrying GPS units and shovels to conduct required soil tests.

All environmental and cultural resource crews conduct field surveys by walking the survey area.

When will these surveys be taking place?

Buckeye XPress field surveys are planned to be conducted from March through October 2017 before being suspended for the winter. Surveys are anticipated to begin again in spring 2018.

What size of area will the environmental survey crew assess?

Generally, the survey area consists of a 300-footwide corridor centered on the proposed pipeline route. If the pipeline is to be co-located alongside an existing pipeline, the 300-foot survey corridor may be adjusted to include 100 feet on the co-located side (pipeline side) of the proposed pipeline and 300 feet on the opposite side. The survey corridor is not an indication of the width of the project's proposed impacts, but is significantly larger so that data can be obtained outside and adjacent to proposed workspaces and to allow for minor design changes without the need to return to the field.



Environmental Field Surveys

Columbia conducts two types of environmental surveys — biological and cultural.

Biological Surveys

Crews consist of biologists who evaluate a variety of environmental resources within the vicinity of a project, including wetlands, bodies of water, endangered species and land use.

Wetlands are identified through characteristics associated with vegetation, soils and indicators of hydrology. To examine soils during wetland delineations, small, one-foot-deep holes are dug with a “sharpshooter” type shovel. Once the soil conditions are documented, the holes are filled. The boundaries of each wetland, as well as bodies of water, are delineated and entered into a GPS system.

Bodies of water are typically identified by the presence of an ordinary highwater mark, which is defined by physical characteristics, such as a clean, natural line impressed in the bank.

Man-made ponds, lakes and other bodies of open water that exhibit highwater marks are also delineated.

Field surveys are also completed to determine if federally listed threatened or endangered species could potentially inhabit or traverse the project area. For example, trees with exfoliating bark, dead trees with cavities, snags, caves, etc., would be identified by biologists as potential suitable habitats for the federally listed endangered Indiana bat and the threatened northern long-eared bat and entered into a GPS.

During surveys, biologists will also characterize the way in which the land is currently being used and designate appropriate land-use types, i.e., agricultural, forest, residential, industrial, commercial, open land, etc.

Cultural Surveys

Crews consist of archaeologists who evaluate the presence or absence of historic and prehistoric objects, structures or sites. If necessary, archaeologists may dig small holes up to a foot wide and three-feet deep, which is designated as a “shovel test”, these holes are backfilled immediately.

The soil from the shovel test is closely examined for artifacts, which if found, would be collected and taken off site for analysis, in accordance with the applicable federal and state regulations. After all artifacts are examined and categorized they will be returned to the landowner whose property they were discovered on.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

What does the survey work involve?

Field surveys involve crews walking along the survey area to identify cultural resources and habitats for endangered species using the methods described above. Crews will be digging small holes to evaluate soil hydrology and the potential presence of cultural resources. Any holes dug during the survey will be completely filled and packed down to minimize disturbance. Both the environmental and cultural resource survey crews may have to revisit properties to address minor changes in engineering of the proposed pipelines.

About TransCanada

With decades of experience, TransCanada is a [leader in the responsible development](#) and reliable operation of North American energy infrastructure. It operates a network of natural gas pipelines that extends more than 56,900 miles, tapping into virtually all major natural gas basins in North America and supplying more than 25 percent of North American demand. Visit TransCanada.com to learn more, or [connect with us on social media](#).

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