

# Supporting Exposed Natural Gas Pipelines

## General

- Anytime an Enbridge Gas (or associated affiliates within Ontario or Quebec) pipeline is exposed as part of ground disturbance activity, pipeline support requirements should be considered.
- The party conducting the ground disturbance activity is responsible for the adequate support of the Enbridge Gas pipeline being exposed.
- The minimum support requirements will vary based on the diameter, material and length of the Enbridge Gas pipeline.
  - The party responsible for the support system must not depart from these support requirements unless a professional engineer working for or on behalf of them has designed, documented and approved an alternative method that has received Enbridge Gas approval.
- Supports for Enbridge Gas pipelines must be in place prior to or at the time of excavation to protect the pipeline.
- Supports must consist of continuous length beams and be placed above the Enbridge Gas pipeline without bearing directly on the pipeline.
- The pipeline support system must remain in place until the backfill material underneath the pipeline is compacted adequately to restore support of the pipeline.
- The Enbridge Gas Third Party Requirements in the Vicinity of Natural Gas Facilities Standard outlines pipeline support requirements, technical specifications and examples. Failure to follow these instructions can result in significant harm to persons, property or the environment.

For more detailed information on the above, please review the Enbridge Gas [Third-Party Requirements in the Vicinity of Natural Gas Facilities Standard](#) which is also available from the [Enbridge Gas “Before you dig” webpage](#).

Table 7-1: Maximum span without support beam

Pipe Size (NPS)	Steel m (ft)	PE (polyethylene) m (ft)
1/2	2 m (6.6 ft)	1 m (3.3 ft)
3/4 to 1-1/4	2.5 m (8.2 ft)	1.25 m (4.1 ft)
2	3 m (10 ft)	1.5 m (5 ft)
3 to 4	4.5 m (15 ft)	1.75 m (6 ft)
6	6 m (20 ft)	2 m (7 ft)
8	7 m (23 ft)	2 m (7 ft)
10	8.5 m (28 ft)	-
12	10 m (33 ft)	-
16	11.5 m (38 ft)	-

Table 7-2: Support beam sizes and maximum span between beam supports

Pipe Size (NPS)	Steel ≤ 4.5 m	Plastic ≤ 2 m	≤ 4.5 m
1/2 to 2	4 x 6	4 x 6	6 x 8
3 to 6	-	6 x 6	8 x 8

### Note:

In all cases where the support beam size requirements cannot be met, GDS must be contacted to review support beam requirements.

For pipelines larger than NPS 16, GDS must be contacted for detailed pipeline support requirements. Contact information can be found in the [Third-Party Requirements in the Vicinity of Natural Gas Facilities Standard](#).