

professional engineer: An engineer registered and licensed with the provincial professional engineering association in the jurisdiction in which the engineer is practicing.

rural: All areas outside urban areas.

temporary support: The support of gas pipelines before or during an excavation to protect the pipeline from its own weight and to minimize deflection stresses.

third party: An individual or organization that is not employed by or performing work under contract to GDS (e.g., homeowners, other utility companies, contractor, excavators, constructors, etc.).

urban: An area with a population of at least 1,000 and a density of 400 or more people per square kilometer.

vital pipeline: A subset of pipelines that are critical to the safe and reliable operation of the natural gas system. Damages to vital mains could result in significant negative impact to public and worker safety or significant customer outages. This subset of mains consists of CER-regulated (Canada Energy Regulator) pipelines, transmission pipelines, and select distribution pipelines.

3 General Requirements

3.1 CER-Regulated Pipelines and Vital Pipelines

The CER regulates natural gas, oil, and commodity pipelines that extend beyond provincial, territorial, or national boundaries. All work in the prescribed area (within 30 m [100 ft] from each side of the CER-regulated pipeline) must be reviewed by the applicable CER-regulated operating company prior to commencing. This review is a regulatory requirement of the CER.

Mains are designated as vital pipelines by GDS. These include, but are not limited to, any pipeline NPS 16 or larger, transmission pipelines, CER-regulated pipelines, all pipelines operated by Storage and Transmission Operations (STO), and select distribution pipelines. The designation of a vital pipeline may change at the discretion of GDS. Vital Pipelines will be identified through locates. In these requirements, special considerations for CER-regulated pipelines and vital pipelines will be highlighted.

All work within 5 m (16 ft) from either side of lines operated by STO must be approved by GDS prior to commencing. For all other vital pipelines, all ground disturbance work within 3 m (10 ft) from either side of the vital pipeline must be approved by GDS prior to commencing. Approval by GDS may include specific conditions that third parties must follow. GDS may require representation on site for any ground disturbance work within the vicinity of vital pipelines and CER-regulated pipelines.

cross bore sewer safety inspection. An EGI employee or contractor will attempt to attend the site within two hours to complete the inspection.

4 Minimum Clearance from Other Structures

The following clearances must be maintained between the circumference of the gas pipeline and other underground structures:

Table 4-1: Minimum Clearance Between Gas Pipelines (Less than NPS 16) and Other Underground Structures

Direction	Minimum Clearance m (ft)
Horizontal	0.6 m (2 ft)
Vertical	0.3 m (1 ft)

Table 4-2: Minimum Clearance Between CER-regulated Pipelines and Vital Pipelines and Other Underground Structures

Direction	Minimum Clearance m (ft)
Horizontal	1 m (3.3 ft)
Vertical	0.6 m (2 ft)

Additional clearance or mitigation may be required for installations (such as transit systems or power transformers) that will introduce DC stray current interference or AC fault hazards.

Note



For all pipelines (including vital pipelines), when drilling parallel to the pipeline, a minimum horizontal clearance measured from the edge of the pipeline to the edge of the final bore hole of 1 m (3.3 ft) is required.

5 Pipeline Location Verification

5.1 Surface Road Work

Surface road work applies to ground disturbance on travelled roadways related to the removal of hard-surfaces only. For any ground disturbance work, locates must be obtained prior to commencing and the excavator must ensure accuracy of the locate by reviewing the locate paperwork with the physical locate markings. Surface road work can be completed without the requirement to positively identify EGI pipelines, provided no mechanical equipment will be used within 1 m (3.3 ft) horizontally of the located pipelines. If mechanical excavation is required within 1 m (3.3 ft) of the locate during any surface road work or work that will take place deeper than removal of the hard surface, the excavator must follow rules outlined in [5.2 Subgrade Road Work on page 11](#) for positive identification requirements.

5.2 Subgrade Road Work

Subgrade road work is any road work exceeding the depth required for removal of the hard surface that enters the sub-surface. The boundary area for the pipeline is the distance that is identified off the locate marks of the pipeline and applicable boundary areas are highlighted in [Table 5-1: Boundary Areas on page 11](#).

Table 5-1: Boundary Areas

Pipeline	Boundary Area
Vital pipelines (\geq NPS 24)	3 m (10 ft)
Vital pipelines ($<$ NPS 24)	2 m (6 ft)
Non-vital pipelines (all sizes)	1 m (3 ft)

Note



Work within the boundary areas must comply with the positive identification requirements set in [Table 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for Vital Pipelines on page 22](#) and [Table 8-3: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for All Other Pipelines on page 22](#).

If these guidelines cannot be complied with, the excavator must submit a variance request work package. No variance will be provided for work within 1 m (3.3 ft) of any pipeline. The variance work package must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- Pre-Engineering design.
- Location of EGI facilities with respect to proposed excavation area (vertical and horizontal offsets).
- Location of proposed excavation area (vertical and horizontal offsets off permanent landmarks).
- Pipeline protection plan.

If a variance is requested, the excavator must also provide a physical barrier (e.g., silt fence), which would denote the boundary of the pipeline, where possible.

[8.2 Drilling Parallel to Pipelines on page 21](#) and [Table 8-3: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for All Other Pipelines on page 22](#) indicate GDS's minimum requirements for the verification of the pipeline location based on the nature of the work. The frequency and location of test holes may change at the

- Vibratory compaction equipment must not operate within 1.2 m (4 ft) of a pipeline.

Note



When crossing perpendicular to a pipeline that is smaller than NPS 16 (excluding vital pipelines), the vertical clearance outlined in [Table 4-1: Minimum Clearance Between Gas Pipelines \(Less than NPS 16\) and Other Underground Structures on page 10](#) may be used as long as all positive identification requirements are also followed.

Note



When crossing perpendicular to a pipeline that is NPS 16 or larger, or crossing any CER-regulated pipelines or vital pipelines, a minimum vertical clearance of 1 m (3.3 ft) is required; [8 Horizontal Directional Drilling on page 20](#).

7 Support of Gas Pipelines

7.1 General

The support requirements specified in this section are the minimum requirements. GDS must be notified regarding the support of any gas main. GDS has complete discretion in the approval of any support system. Additionally, if a pipeline is to be exposed for longer than one month, approval must be sought from GDS and work must follow the requirements outlined in [3 General Requirements on page 6](#). Third parties must not depart from these support requirements unless a professional engineer working for or on behalf of the third party has designed an alternative method. Any alternative method must be comparable to these specifications and be, in the opinion of the professional engineer, consistent with good engineering practices. The alternative specification must be documented, approved by a professional engineer and provided to GDS for review prior to the commencement of work. The third party is responsible for the adequate support of the buried gas pipelines exposed during excavation according to this section.

Prior to any crossing, the location of the gas main must first be staked out by a GDS representative.

7.2 Support of Gas Pipelines Perpendicular to Excavation

Temporary support refers to the support of gas pipelines prior to or at the time of excavation to protect the pipeline from deflection due to its own weight while it is exposed. Temporary support must remain in place until the backfill material underneath the pipeline is compacted adequately to restore support of the pipeline.

Before trenching beneath a main or service, temporary support must be erected for pipelines if the unsupported span of pipe in the trench exceeds the length indicated in [Table 7-1: Maximum Span without Support Beam on page 15](#).

Note



For pipelines larger than NPS 16, GDS must be contacted. Contact information can be found in the [12 Contact Information on page 31](#).

When temporary support is required, [Table 7-2: Support Beam Sizes and Maximum Span Between Beam Supports on page 15](#) indicates the required beam for a given span. The beam must be a continuous length grade No. 1 Spruce-Pine-Fir (S-P-F) or equivalent. For spans exceeding 4.5 m (15 ft), a continuous length timber beam may not be available. In that case, steel I-beams (or equivalents) can be used as the support beam. Steel beam selection must be certified by a professional engineer and submitted to GDS for review.

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 (7ft)
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	Plastic	
	≤ 4.5 m	≤ 2 m	≤ 4.5 m
1/2 to 2	4 × 6	4 × 6	6 × 8
3 to 6	-	6 × 6	8 × 8

Note



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

The beam must be placed above the pipe with the ends of the beam resting on firm undisturbed soil. The beam must not bear directly on the gas pipeline. The pipe must be supported from the beam with rope, canvas sling, or equivalent in a manner that will prevent damage to the pipe and coating and eliminate sag. The spacing between the ropes must not exceed 1 m (3.3 ft); see [Figure 7-1: Support of Gas Pipelines Crossing Excavations on page 18](#).

Backfill material underneath the exposed pipeline must be compacted to a minimum of 95% compaction. Sand padding must be placed to a level 150 mm (6 in) below and above the main. For additional details, see [10 Backfilling on page 25](#).

Perform compaction with the loose lift height not exceeding 200 mm (8 in) or one-quarter of the trench width, whichever is less. Injecting water into the backfill beneath the pipe is not an acceptable method of compaction.

All temporary support on pipelines must be removed before backfilling. Adequate support must remain in place until the backfill material has restored support.

7.3 Support of Pipelines Parallel to Excavation

Two cases exist for pipelines parallel to an excavation:

- Trench < 1.2 m deep
- Trench > 1.2 m deep

In either instance, the pipeline must not be exposed unless it is necessary to provide direct support.

Trench wall support may not be required for excavations provided the pipeline meets all of the following criteria:

- Depth is less than 1.2 m (4 ft).
- the pipeline is at least 0.6 m (2 ft) from the edge of the excavation or outside the 45° line projected upward from the trench bottom; see [Figure 7-3: Influence Lines for Gas Pipelines Adjacent to Excavations on page 20](#).
- Soil is stable (type 1 or 2, see [Table 15-1: Soil Types on page 33](#))

If the pipe does not meet these requirements and the soil is soft clay or sand (soil types 3 and 4), then the excavation must be suitably shored to prevent movement of the pipe. The shoring must remain in place until the backfill material has restored support.

Trench wall support is required for excavations if any one of the following conditions exist:

- Depth is \geq 1.2 m (4 ft).
- The pipeline is closer to the edge of the excavation than the minimum allowed distance indicated [Table 7-3: Minimum Allowed Distance from Main to Excavation on page 17](#).
- Depth is < 1.2 m (4 ft) and the soil is unstable (type 3 or 4, see [Table 15-1: Soil Types on page 33](#)).

Note

Adequate support must remain in place until the backfill material has restored support.

Minimum distances from the edge of the trench to the pipeline in which the excavation influences pipelines are shown in [Table 7-3: Minimum Allowed Distance from Main to Excavation on page 17](#). The pipeline must be supported if these minimum distances cannot be met.

Table 7-3: Minimum Allowed Distance from Main to Excavation

Trench Depth (m)	Soil ^a Type 1 and 2	Soil ^a Type 3 and 4
1.2 m (3.9 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)
1.5 m (4.9 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)
1.8 m (5.9 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)
2.1 m (6.9 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)
2.4 m (7.9 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)
2.7 m (8.9 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	1 m (3.3 ft)
3 m (9.8 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	1.5 m (4.9 ft)
3.3 m (10.8 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	1.8 m (5.9 ft)
3.6 m (11.8 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	2.2 m (7.2 ft)
3.9 m (12.8 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	2.5 m (8.2 ft)
4.2 m (13.8 ft)	0.9 m (3 ft)	3 m (9.8 ft)
4.5 m (14.8 ft)	1 m (3.3 ft)	3.4 m (11.2 ft)
4.8 m (15.7 ft)	1.5 m (4.9 ft)	3.8 m (12.5 ft)
5.1 m (16.7 ft)	2 m (6.6 ft)	4.1 m (13.5 ft)
5.4 m (17.7 ft)	2.5 m (8.2 ft)	4.6 m (15.1 ft)
5.7 m (18.7 ft)	3 m (9.8 ft)	5 m (16.4 ft)
6 m (19.7 ft)	3.4 m (11.2 ft)	5.5 m (18 ft)

a. As defined in the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

For pipelines where the trench bottom is below the water table, the trench must be suitably shored as per the trench wall support requirements.

Any pipeline that is exposed for a length greater than indicated in [Table 7-1: Maximum Span without Support Beam on page 15](#) requires a field assessment.

For steel and polyethylene pipelines within the minimum distances given in [Table 7-3: Minimum Allowed Distance from Main to Excavation on page 17](#), support must remain in place until backfill material restores support.

Figure 7-1: Support of Gas Pipelines Crossing Excavations

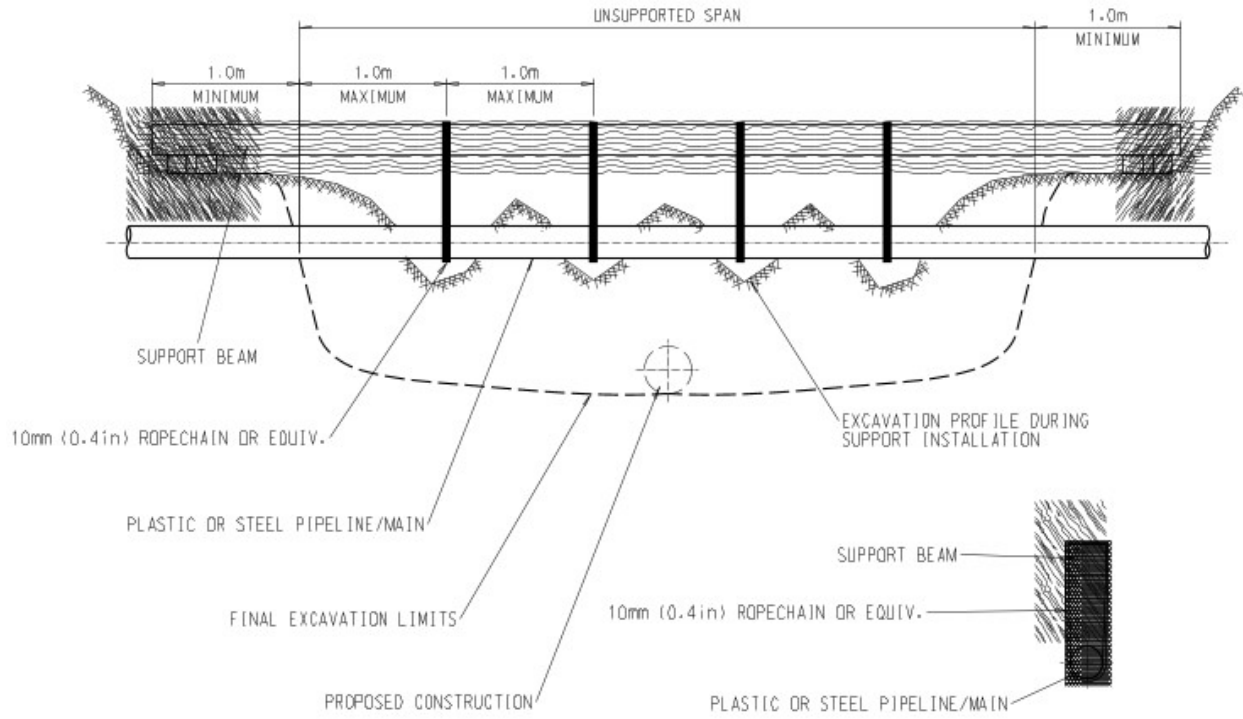
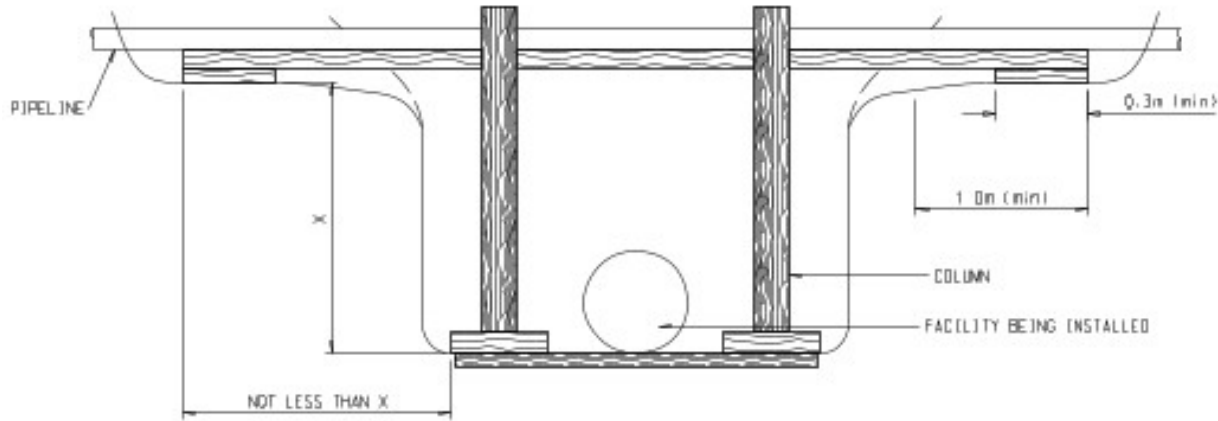


Figure 7-2: Typical Temporary Supports for Pipelines Crossing the Trench – Span Exceeds 4.5 m



NOTES:

1. LAMINATED 4X6 TIMBER BEAM REQUIRED BENEATH ALL NPS 1/2 - NPS 2.
2. LAMINATED 6X6 TIMBER BEAM REQUIRED BENEATH ALL NPS 3 - NPS 6.
3. LAMINATED 8X8 TIMBER BEAM REQUIRED BENEATH ALL NPS 8 - NPS 12.
4. COLUMN SIZE SHALL MATCH LAMINATED TIMBER BEAM REQUIREMENT.
5. COLUMN TO BE SPACED AS SPECIFIED BY PIPELINES AND STATIONS OPERATIONS ENGINEERING.
6. PLASTIC PIPE AND COATING ON STEEL PIPE TO BE PROTECTED FROM SUPPORTS AND STRAPPINGS WITH A PIECE OF RUBBER TIRE OR EQUIVALENT.
7. PLASTIC PIPE MUST BE SUITABLY STRAPPED TO PREVENT MOVEMENT OFF THE BEAM.
8. ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS WILL BE REQUIRED AT MECHANICAL COUPLINGS OR VALVES.

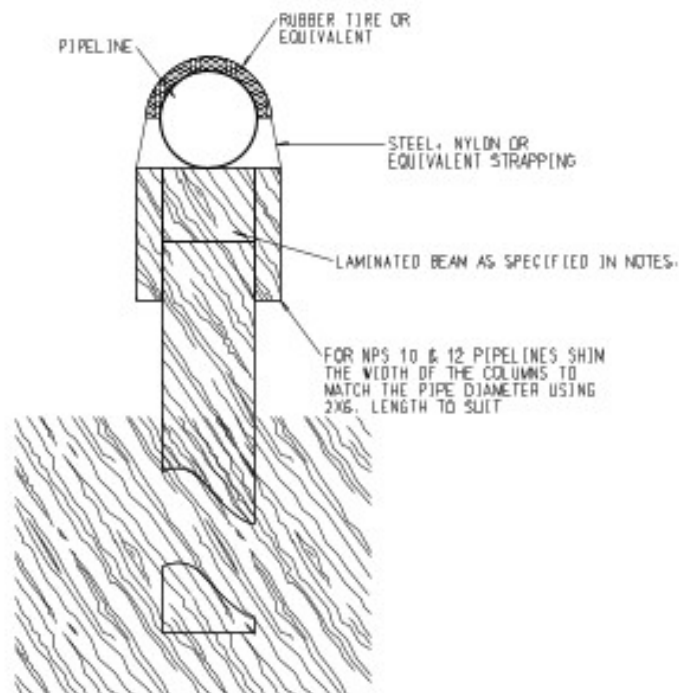
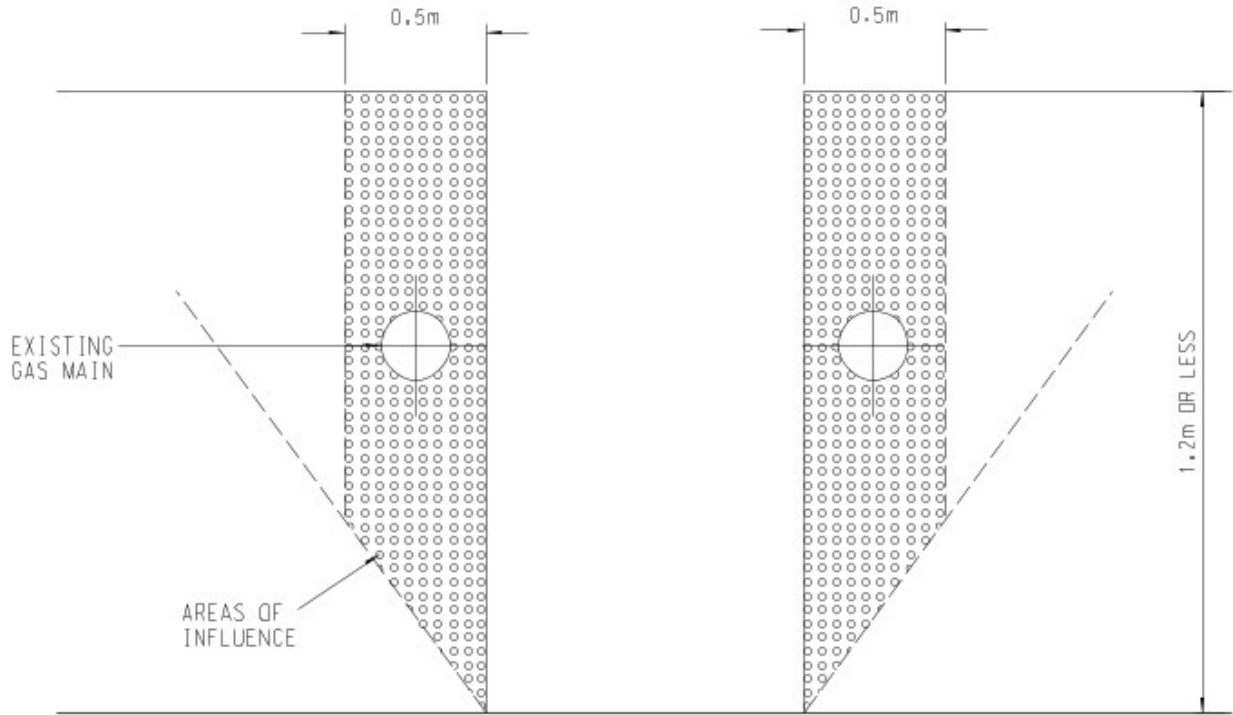


Figure 7-3: Influence Lines for Gas Pipelines Adjacent to Excavations



NOTE:
IF PIPE IS IN SHADED AREA AND SOIL IS TYPE 3 OR 4, THE TRENCH IS REQUIRED TO BE SHORED.

8 Horizontal Directional Drilling

8.1 General

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) or directional boring is a steerable trenchless method of installing underground facilities. Trenchless technology is used where utilities being crossed are positively identified to confirm location.

For installations using any other type of drilling or augering equipment in the vicinity of gas facilities, GDS must be contacted.

In all cases, positive identification holes are required to visually verify the drill head's location (including depth) relative to the measurement of the tracking equipment. For positive identification hole requirements, see [Figure 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification and Clearance Requirements for HDD for crossing all pipelines \(including Vital Pipelines\) on page 24](#). For pipeline location verification and clearance requirements for all horizontal directional drilling see [Table 8-1: Pipeline Location Verification and Clearance Requirements for HDD for all Pipelines \(including Vital Pipelines\) on page 21](#).

If these guidelines cannot be complied with, a variance request work package must be submitted. No variance will be provided for work within 1 m (3.3 ft) of any pipeline. The variance work package must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- Pre-Engineering design.
- Location of EGI facilities with respect to proposed installation area (vertical and horizontal offsets).
- Location of proposed installation area (vertical and horizontal offsets off permanent landmarks).
- Pipeline protection plan.

If a variance is requested, a physical barrier (e.g., silt fence) must also be provided, which would denote the boundary of the pipeline, where possible.

Table 8-1: Pipeline Location Verification and Clearance Requirements for HDD for all Pipelines (including Vital Pipelines)

Location of Work Relative to Pipeline ^a	Required Verification of Pipe Location by Hand Digging or Hydro-Excavation
Crossing below pipeline (HDD)	<p>All sides of pipeline (including below pipeline) exposed to 1.0 m (3.3 ft) from the pipeline's sidewalls.</p> <p>Additional positive identification hole at 2.0 m to 4.0 m (6.6 ft to 13.1 ft) prior to the daylight hole at the crossing, to verify depth and trajectory of drill head and backreamer.</p>
Crossing above pipeline (HDD)	<p>Top of pipeline and all sides exposed to 1.0 m (3.3 ft) or 1.0 m (3.3 ft) below the proposed installation.</p> <p>Additional positive identification hole at 2.0 m to 4.0 m (6.6 ft to 13.1 ft) prior to the positive identification hole at the crossing, to verify depth and trajectory of drill head and backreamer.</p>

a. See [Figure 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification and Clearance Requirements for HDD for crossing all pipelines \(including Vital Pipelines\) on page 24](#).

8.2 Drilling Parallel to Pipelines

When the proposed route is parallel to a natural gas pipeline at a perpendicular distance of 3 m (10 ft) or less, positive identification must be performed at intervals

of no more than 10 m (33 ft) along the drilling path so that the precise location of the drilling head and backreamers (if any) can be verified visually. These excavations must be sufficiently wide to see the entire width of the drilling head, backreamers, and structures from entry point to exit point.



Note

The location of the pipeline must be visually confirmed as per the requirements set out in [Table 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for Vital Pipelines on page 22](#) and [Table 8-3: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for All Other Pipelines on page 22](#).



Note

For all pipelines (including vital pipelines), when drilling parallel to the pipeline, a minimum horizontal clearance of 1 m (3.3 ft) is required.

Table 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for Vital Pipelines

Location of Work Relative to Pipeline ^a	Required Verification of Pipe Location by Hand Digging or Hydro-excavation
Work parallel to pipe, within 1 m (3.3 ft)	Spacing of test holes must not exceed 4.5 m (15 ft)
Work parallel to pipe, between 1 m (3.3 ft) and boundary area of pipeline based on size	Spacing of test holes must not exceed 4.5 m (15 ft) ^b
Crossing below pipeline (open excavation)	Top and sides of pipeline, and 0.6 m (2 ft) below the pipeline
Crossing above pipeline (open excavation)	Top and sides of pipeline, or 0.6 m (2 ft) below the proposed installation

a. Test holes must expose top and sides of pipeline

b. For work parallel to pipe, between 1 m (3.3 ft) and boundary area of pipeline based on size, for rural applications, test holes must be completed for any change in direction of the pipeline every 23 m (75 ft).

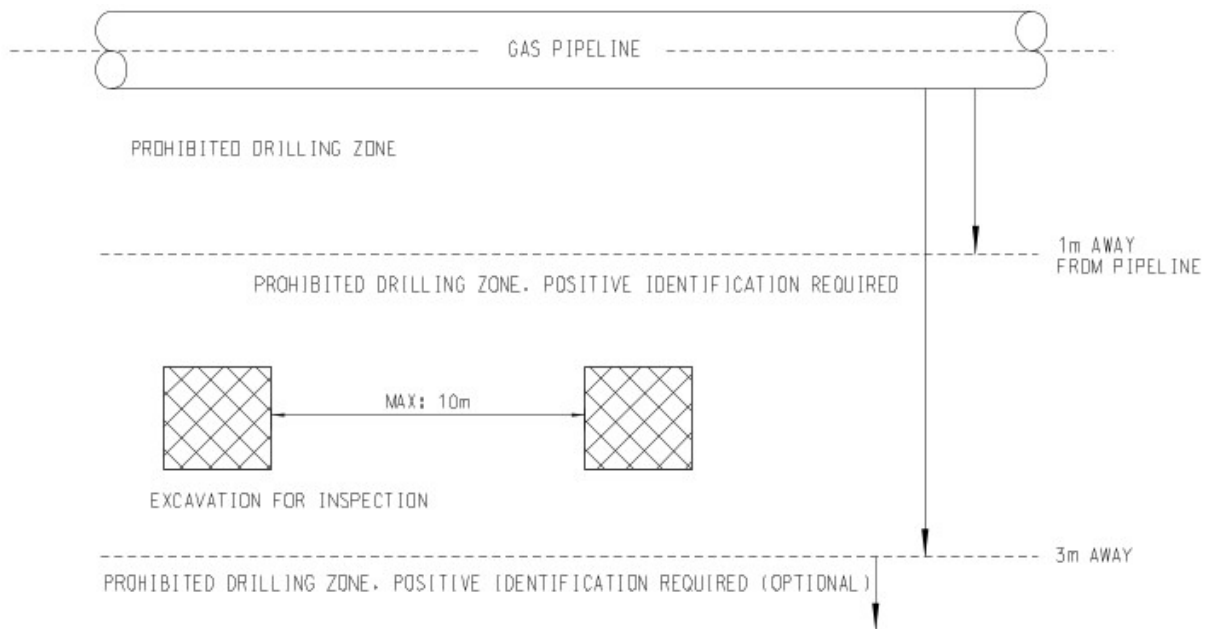
Table 8-3: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for All Other Pipelines

Location of Work Relative to Pipeline	Required Verification of Pipe location by hand digging or hydro-excavation
Work parallel to pipe, inside of boundary area (1 m [3.3 ft])	Spacing of test holes must not exceed 4.5 m (15 ft)
Crossing below pipeline (open excavation)	For less than NPS 12: Top of pipeline and all sides of the pipeline, or 0.3 m (1 ft) below the pipeline For NPS 12 and larger: Top of pipeline and all sides of the pipeline, or 0.6 m (2 ft) below the pipeline
Crossing above pipeline (open excavation)	For less than NPS 12: Top of pipeline and all sides of the pipeline, or 0.3 m (1 ft) below the proposed installation For NPS 12 and larger: Top of pipeline and all sides of the pipeline, or 0.6 m (2 ft) below the proposed installation

No drilling installation may be performed within a distance of 1 m (3.3 ft) or less from either side of the pipeline. This buffer zone must be clearly designated and

marked off around the work area. This prohibited zone may be widened in some cases.

Figure 8-1: Drilling Parallel to Pipelines



8.3 Drilling Across Pipelines

When the proposed drill path crosses a GDS pipeline, the pipeline must be exposed to the desired depth of the crossing to ensure that the natural gas pipeline is not affected and that the required clearance is maintained during all drilling operations. All minimum clearances must be measured from the outer edge of the drill, including backreamers (if any), to the outer circumference of the pipeline.

To ensure that the directional drilling operation will not result in damage to the pipeline, the following positive identification hole requirements must be followed:

- A positive identification hole must be created that is sufficiently wide enough to see the drill head and backreamer entering the excavation at a minimum of 1 m (3.3 ft) before crossing the pipeline. See [Figure 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification and Clearance Requirements for HDD for crossing all pipelines \(including Vital Pipelines\) on page 24](#) positive identification hole 1.
- A second positive identification hole must be created prior to reaching the pipeline such that the precise location of the drill head and backreamer (if any) can be verified visually. The positive identification hole must be sufficiently wide to measure the depth and trajectory of the drill head and backreamer. See [Figure 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification and Clearance Requirements for HDD for crossing all pipelines \(including Vital Pipelines\) on page 24](#) positive identification hole 2.

When drilling across pipelines that are smaller than NPS 16 (excluding vital pipelines), the vertical clearance, measured from the edge of the pipeline to the edge of the final bore hole, may follow the vertical clearance outlined in [Table 4-1: Minimum Clearance Between Gas Pipelines \(Less than NPS 16\) and Other](#)

[Underground Structures on page 10](#) as long as all positive identification requirements are also followed.

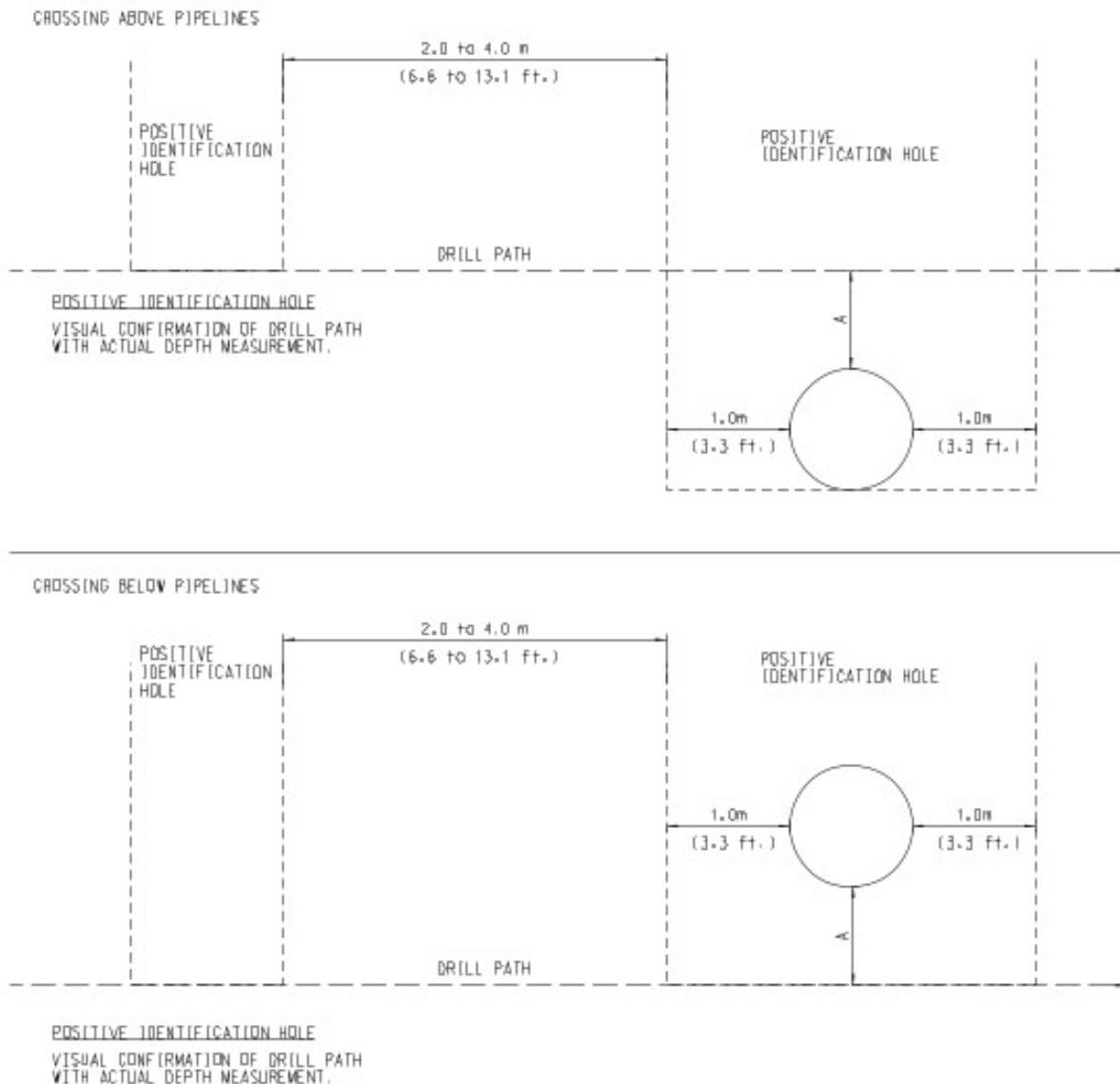
When drilling across pipelines that are NPS 16 or larger, or crossing any CER-regulated pipelines or vital pipelines, a minimum vertical clearance, measured from the edge of the pipeline to the edge of the final bore hole, of 1 m (3.3 ft.) is required.

Note



The location of the pipeline must be visually confirmed as per the requirements set out in [Table 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for Vital Pipelines on page 22](#) and [Table 8-3: Pipeline Location Verification Requirements for All Other Pipelines on page 22](#). For specified minimum clearances, see [4 Minimum Clearance from Other Structures on page 10](#).

Figure 8-2: Pipeline Location Verification and Clearance Requirements for HDD for crossing all pipelines (including Vital Pipelines)



9 Hydro-Excavation

9.1 General

Hydro-excavation, also known as hydrovac, is the non-destructive process in which pressurized water is utilized as a method of excavation through loosening and suction of soil, rocks, and other earth materials. Hydro-excavation machines are an alternative to hand digging to locate and expose pipelines.

9.2 Hydro-Excavation Requirements

The following requirements must be met at all times when excavating with hydro-excavation technology:

- Spinning tip nozzles must be used for hydrovac excavations with water pressures that must not exceed the maximum water pressure of 17,236 kPa (2,500 psi) during excavation. Pressure measures must be permanently monitored using a calibrated device mounted on either the hydro-excavation machine (truck and pump), or the wand when using a spinning tip nozzle.
- The wand must never remain motionless during excavation. The wand must never point to the plant at any time.
- A distance of 20 cm (8 in) between the end of the pressure wand nozzle and the plant or subsoil must be maintained. The nozzle must never be inserted into the subsoil while excavating above the plant.
- Hydro-excavation equipment and nozzles must have been specifically designed for use above buried gas lines or other reasonably expected underground gas plants.
- A device capable of stopping the excavation on demand must be installed, such as an approved automatic electronic shut-off or valve on the wand.
- If heated water is used during excavation, the temperature and pressure of the water must not exceed 100 °F (38 °C) and 17,250 kPa (2,500 psi), respectively.
- The excavator must contact the gas utility if any damage to a gas plant occurs while using hydro-excavation technology or any other method of excavation.

10 Backfilling

The gas pipeline must be inspected by GDS for damages before backfilling the excavation. It is the third party's responsibility to ensure that the gas pipeline is not undermined or endangered in any way. If any damage occurs, GDS must be contacted immediately.

The following principles must be followed:

- The backfill does not harm the pipe or coating throughout the installation process and while in service.

- The use of native material (especially with respect to anode installation) and minimize haul out must be maximized.
- A reliable and stable installation must be created and the use of dams included when appropriate.

The Company permits the use of any compacting device that:

- Will compact backfill sufficiently to eliminate any settlement of the pipe or ground surface.
- Will not cause any deformation or damage to the pipe or coating.
- Will not cause any damage to any adjacent building, structure or utility.
- Will not cause any damage to any tree, shrub, tended lawn, or ground cover.

When backfilling where the finished grade has not been established, sufficient soil must be placed over the trench to allow for settlement.

Backfilling must be done in such a manner as to prevent any rocks from being placed at or near the surface of the pipe. Native excavated material must be used as backfill unless otherwise directed by GDS. Where native material is unsuitable, 150 mm (6 in) of approved earth or sand padding must be placed over the pipe for protection, to a minimum depth of 300 mm (12 in). Each layer must be compacted thoroughly by manual tamping. Topsoil must not be used for backfilling.

Aggregate backfill must be replaced in 200 mm (8 in) layers. Each layer must be thoroughly compacted by pneumatic tampers or an equivalent method acceptable to GDS to ensure no settlement. The final layer must be smoothed down with a grader (or a rake for small scale projects) and must be tamped flush or slightly higher than the surrounding ground surface in order to prevent ponding of water and accommodate any future soil subsidence over the trench line.

Backfilling a flooded trench is not allowed. The third party is responsible for the removal of water from the trench, before backfilling. If backfilling on a slope, the backfill must first be placed from the bottom of the slope, then the filling should continue by building upwards. This prevents large voids in the backfill that can occur when the backfill is dumped from the top of a slope.

Backfill and compaction within road allowances must be completed in accordance with the local governing authority.

Unshrinkable fill or other engineered backfill material must be installed only when requested by the municipalities, local governing authority, or as directed by GDS. The approved unshrinkable fill must be batched at a ready-mix plant with a specified maximum compressive strength of 0.7 MPa at 28 days and minimum slump of 150 mm (6 in). After curing, it must be excavatable using hand tools and must meet any governing agency requirements. The pipe and valve assemblies must be sand padded before placement of unshrinkable fill. The third party must ensure that placement of the unshrinkable fill does not displace sand padding or directly contact the pipeline.

If the bulk backfill material contains rocks, stones, or frozen material, pipelines must be padded with padding material to a minimum depth of 150 mm (6 in) over the pipe and fittings. If the location requires the backfill material to be tamped, the padding material must also be tamped.

The final covering of gas pipelines must adhere to municipal requirements.

11 Blasting and Pile Driving

11.1 General

Blasting and pile driving activities in the vicinity of GDS facilities require prior approval by GDS. The [Blasting and Pile Driving Form](#), provided by GDS, must be submitted by the owner of the proposed work for all blasting and pile-driving operations. The request must be submitted a minimum of four weeks prior to the beginning work to allow sufficient time for review.

11.2 Blasting

Before any blasting operation in the vicinity of a gas pipeline can occur, the hazards to the GDS facility must be evaluated. Responsibility for the design of the blast and any resultant damage is borne entirely by the party using the explosives.

A recognized independent blasting consultant must be retained at the applicant's expense to perform an evaluation of the blast design. The independent blasting consultant must be an independent engineering consultant specialized in blasting. A copy of the stamped consultant's validation report must be submitted to GDS for review if blasting is to occur within 30 m (100 ft) of GDS facilities.

If in the opinion of GDS or an independent blasting consultant, blasting cannot be carried out without affecting the facility's integrity, alternatives must be considered, including the replacement or relocation of the affected facility at the applicant's expense. In these situations, additional time must be allowed to obtain the necessary permits and to complete the necessary construction work. In the event a third party is affected as a result of the blasting operations, all expenses associated therewith incurred by GDS must also be at the applicant's expense.

Ontario: The third party must comply with the Ontario Provincial Standard Specification (OPSS 120 – General Specification for the Use of Explosives) in addition to GDS's blasting requirements.

Quebec: The third party must comply with Quebec's Acts regarding explosives (CQLR c E-22 and CQLR c E-22, r 1) and Safety Code (CQLR c S-2.1, r 4), in addition to GDS's blasting requirements.

11.2.1 Surface and Tunnel Blasting Application Process

For subsurface blasting application requirements, refer to the Surface Blasting section of the [Blasting and Pile Driving Form](#).

For tunnel blasting application requirements, refer to the Surface Blasting section of the [Blasting and Pile Driving Form](#) in addition to the Tunnel Blasting section.

To assist with the preparation of the form, locates must be requested to determine the location of the facilities.

11.2.2 Guidelines for Blasting

The information provided in this section is not to be construed as an exhaustive list of performance specifications, but rather a guide for conducting blasting in the vicinity of GDS's facilities. The third party is responsible for ensuring that all blasting work is performed in a good and workmanlike manner in accordance with all applicable laws, codes, by-laws, and regulations.

The third party will be held liable for and indemnify GDS in relation to any and all damage directly or indirectly caused or arising as a result of blasting operations carried out by the applicant, its employees, contractors, or those for whom the applicant is responsible by law. Prior to blasting operations, a site meeting must be arranged with an authorized representative of the applicant and a GDS representative to confirm the location of GDS's facilities and details of the proposed blast.

GDS's pipelines must not be excavated prior to blasting. If excavation is unavoidable, then the pipeline must be properly supported according to GDS's requirements as stated in [7 Support of Gas Pipelines on page 14](#).

The third party must take suitable precautions to protect the exposed pipeline from fly-rock .

Explosives must be of a type that cannot propagate between holes or be desensitized due to compression pressures. Explosives must not be left in the drill hole overnight.

If a surface blast is located less than 10 m (33 ft) from pipeline; creates its first blast hole at a depth equal to the top of the pipeline; and the depth of subsequent blast holes exceeds one half of the horizontal distance to the closest portion of the pipeline, then the required independent blasting consultant's report must specifically address the impact of these conditions. This is not applicable for tunnel blasting operations. The blasting consultant is responsible for the monitoring of blasting vibrations with a portable seismograph capable of transmitting data instantaneously (e.g., via email or cellular) to the required reviewer in the vicinity of GDS's facilities is mandatory to confirm that predicted vibration levels are respected. On a daily basis, a copy of the seismographic report must be provided to GDS.

Peak particle velocity (PPV) must be limited to 50 mm/s (2 in/s) and maximum amplitude must be limited to 0.15 mm (0.006 in).

11.2.3 Post Blasting

A leak survey must be completed at the end of each day of blasting. Upon completion of daily blasting operations and within 30 days after the final blasting, GDS will conduct a leak survey of the pipeline at the third party's expense. Leak surveys will also be completed at the end of each day of blasting. Damage that has resulted from the blasting will be repaired at the third party's expense. A summary of all blasting operations including blasting logs, vibration control, seismograph reports, and other pertinent information must be provided to GDS by the third party daily and at the completion of blasting operations.

11.3 Pile Driving

General pile installation or compaction activities in the vicinity of GDS's facilities must be evaluated by GDS prior to beginning. Any resultant damage as a result of these activities will be borne entirely by the third party undertaking the proposed work.

If in the opinion of GDS, the particular pile installation or compaction operation cannot be carried out without affecting the pipeline or facility integrity, the following must be considered:

- Risk analysis or mitigation program for the proposed operation.
- Alternative construction methods.
- Relocation or replacement of the facility.

All costs incurred will be covered by the third party undertaking the proposed work and final approval for the work will be granted by GDS.

Piles installed using an auger must satisfy the locating and clearance requirements listed in [5 Pipeline Location Verification on page 10](#) and [4 Minimum Clearance from Other Structures on page 10](#), respectively. GDS must provide approval for the installation of piles within 3 m (10 ft) of a vital pipeline.

The third party is responsible for all costs related to customer interruption as well as costs incurred because of work delays. In the event a third party is affected as a result of the pile installation or compaction operations, all expenses associated therewith incurred by GDS will be passed to the third party.

11.3.1 Pile Driving Application Process

The application to pile drive or do compaction work must be sent to GDS via the [Blasting and Pile Driving Form](#).

This work must be completed under the supervisor of qualified personnel. Vibration results must be provided to GDS on a daily basis.

11.3.2 Pile Installation and Compaction Work

The information provided in this section is not to be construed as an exhaustive list of performance specifications, but rather a guide for conducting pile installation and compaction work in the vicinity of GDS's facilities. The third party is responsible for ensuring that all pile installation and compaction work is performed in accordance with all applicable laws, codes, by-laws, and regulations.

Operations must not be permitted within a standoff distance of 3.0 m (10 ft) from the pipeline or other natural gas facility, unless approved by GDS.

Prior to pile installation or compaction work, a site meeting with an authorized representative of the third party and a GDS representative (for the Damage Prevention contact, see [12 Contact Information on page 31](#)) must be arranged by the third party, to confirm the location of GDS's facilities and the details of the proposed work.

It is recommended that during the design phase, pile installation or compaction work drawings be sent to Markups for review (see [12 Contact Information on page 31](#)).

The pipeline should not be excavated prior to the piling or compaction operation. If excavation of the pipeline is necessary, then it must be properly supported in accordance with [7 Support of Gas Pipelines on page 14](#).

The following situations require the opinion of an independent professional engineer:

- Compaction of soils or backfill rated at 10,000 ft-lbs (13,600 Nm) or higher at a stand-off distance of 6 m (20 ft) or less from the pipeline.
- Pile driving at a stand-off distance of 10 m (33 ft) or less from the pipeline facility.
- High-energy dynamic compaction for the rehabilitation of soils at a stand-off distance of 30 m (100 ft) or less from the pipeline.
- Type 4 soil as defined in Article 226 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations for Construction Projects (see [Table 15-1: Soil Types on page 33](#)).

For these situations, the appropriate number of seismographs to monitor vibrations is mandatory. The seismographs must be portable with the capability of transmitting data instantaneously (e.g., via email or cellular). This control will confirm the intensity of the vibrations generated by the pile installation or compaction work as projected. Furthermore, reports of recorded intensities must be provided on a regular basis or at the request of GDS.

The peak particle velocity (PPV) measured on the pipeline, or at the closest point of the related structure with respect to the work, must not exceed 50 mm/s (2 in/s). Furthermore, the maximum displacement for the vertical or horizontal component corresponding to the above stated vibration intensity must not exceed 50 mm (2 in) at any given length of the pipeline in question.

If the PPV or displacement limit is surpassed, all operations must stop notwithstanding any delays or costs incurred by the third party or owner of the proposed work. GDS requires that the cause of these higher vibrations or displacements be investigated. GDS may arrange for a leak survey to be conducted. GDS Engineering must approve resumption of operations. Should a situation with low energy compaction operations with a soil cover of less than 1.5 m (5 ft) above the pipeline at a stand-off distance of 3 m (10 ft) or less from a pipeline be encountered, GDS may require the opinion of an independent engineering consultant.

In addition, if a Type 3 soil (see [Table 15-1: Soil Types on page 33](#)) is present on site, GDS may require the opinion of an independent engineering consultant.

The use of an auger may be required in order to avoid the use of piles.

All operations must comply with the Provincial Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations for Construction Projects, other applicable laws and regulations, as well as all applicable GDS specifications, standards, and guidelines.

11.3.3 Post Pile Driving Process

The third party must send GDS the items that follow within five business days of the completion of the pile installation via pile driving or compaction operations:

- A summary of all operations.
- Pile driving and compaction logs.
- Vibration control records.
- Seismograph records.


On completion of each day's work, and approximately 30 days after all work is completed, GDS will arrange to conduct a leak survey of the facility. If damage to GDS's facilities is found, it will be repaired by the third party. An invoice will be sent to the third party responsible for the work.

12 Contact Information

Location	Contact
Enbridge Gas Inc 500 Consumers Road North York, ON M2J 1P8	Markups: Mark-Ups@enbridge.com Ontario One Call Locates: 1-800-400-2255 Damage Prevention: 1-866-922-3622 Emergency: 1-866-763-5427 and 1-877-969-0999
Enbridge Gas Inc Storage and Transmission Operations Locates (Dawn) 3332 Bentpath Line P.O. Box 1180 Dresden, ON N0P 1M0	Ontario One Call Locates: 1 (800) 400-2255 Locates: 1-800-265-5260 ext 5102236 Stacey.Smith@enbridge.com Locates: 1-800-265-5260 ext 5102184 Janice.Langstaff@enbridge.com
Enbridge Gas Inc Storage and Transmission Operations Locates (Tecumseh) 3501 Tecumseh Road, Mooretown, Ontario N0N 1M0	Field Operations: 519-312-0176 jay.moore@enbridge.com Field Operations: 519-862- 6004 jason.japp@enbridge.com Tecumseh Control Room: 519-862-6012 Emergency: 1-800-255-1431

Location	Contact
Gazifère 706 Boulevard Greber Gatineau, QC J8V 3P8	Locates: 1-800-663-9228 Planning Dept.: 1-819-776-8804 Emergency: 1-819-771- 8321, press 1

Note



The website www.clickbeforeyoudig.com gives access to the damage prevention centres in Canada, and allows locate requests to be made for each province.

13 References

- [IS_F_172 Blasting and Pile Driving Form](#)

14 Document Governance

For document control and maintenance purposes, the following tables capture important information related to this document.

Control and Maintenance

Category	Value
Owned By	Pipeline Engineering
Review Interval	Every three years
MOC-Related	No

Revision History

Table 14-1: September 29, 2021 Release

Release Date	Version	Project Number	RFC Number	Prepared By	Approved By
2021-09-29	1.1.1	n/a	4983	Hooman Zahedi, Supervisor, Pipeline Engineering	Todd Piercey, Manager, Pipeline Engineering
Doc ID	Scope	Document & Section		Summary of Changes	
ST-1E-30A8-8E30	GDS	Third-Party Requirements in the Vicinity of Natural Gas Facilities Standard		Corrected typo in 11.2 Blasting	

Table 14-2: June 30, 2021 Release

2021-06-30	1.1	n/a	4922	Hooman Zahedi, Supervisor, Pipeline Engineering	Todd Piercey, Manager, Pipeline Engineering
ST-1E-30A8-8E30		GDS	Third-Party Requirements in the Vicinity of Natural Gas Facilities Standard		Revise tree clearance restrictions in section 3.8.

Table 14-3: April 28, 2021 Release

April 28, 2021	1.0	6513-20	None	Emily Varga, EIT I, Pipeline Engineering	Todd Piercey, Manager Pipeline Engineering
ST-1E-30A8-8E30		GDS	Third-Party Requirements in the Vicinity of Natural Gas Facilities Standard		Initial version.

15 Soil Types

Table 15-1: Soil Types

Type	Definition
Type 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard, very dense, and only able to be penetrated with difficulty by a small sharp object. • Low natural moisture content and a high degree of internal strength. • No signs of water seepage. • Can be excavated only by mechanical equipment.
Type 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very stiff, dense, and can be penetrated with moderate difficulty by a small sharp object. • Low to medium natural moisture content and a medium degree of internal strength. • Damp appearance after it is excavated.
Type 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stiff-to-firm and compact-to-loose in consistency or is previously-excavated soil. • Exhibits signs of surface cracking. • Exhibits signs of water seepage. • If dry, may run easily into a well-defined conical pile. • Low degree of internal strength.

Type	Definition
Type 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Soft to very soft and very loose in consistency, very sensitive, and upon disturbance is significantly reduced in natural strength.• Runs easily or flows, unless it is completely supported before excavating procedures.• Almost no internal strength.• Wet or muddy.• Exerts substantial fluid pressure on its supporting system.