

GENERAL PERMIT CATEGORIES IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

S. Pipeline Safety Program Designated Time Sensitive Inspections and Repairs

Category applies to:

- Part 301, Inland Lakes and Streams
- Part 303, Wetlands Protection
- Part 325, Great Lakes Submerged Lands

Maintenance and repair of oil and gas pipelines that cross inland lakes, streams, and wetlands, in particular, as required by the provisions of the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, that meet all of the following:

- The repair and replacement using the best available construction technologies that are necessary to avoid and minimize impact when considering the wetlands and waters involved. Additional precautions and construction techniques may be necessary in areas of high quality resources.
- Stream crossing shall use dry ditch open trenching, and shall be limited to 50 feet per crossing (bank to bank) and a cumulative total of 200 feet per application.
- Wetland crossings using open trenching shall be limited to total cumulative crossing length of 500 feet per application.
- All pipeline repair and maintenance projects shall follow the relevant and appropriate procedures and best management practices (BMPs) outlined in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's "Wetland and Waterbody Construction and Mitigation Procedures," dated May 2013, or an equivalent manual of procedures and BMPs approved in advance by the WRD. Site access and preparation, pipeline repair or installation, and site restoration must be sequenced and carried out in accordance with these procedures and BMPs in order to minimize soil erosion and siltation, the introduction of nonnative and invasive species, drainage of wetlands via the pipeline conduit, and other adverse impacts to aquatic resources. The specific repair procedure that will be used once a pipeline is exposed at a given crossing does not have to be identified in advance of authorization under this GP category as long as such procedures are included in the approved BMP manual. This GP category does not mandate the presence of environmental inspectors at all times, but an inspector must be available to ensure compliance with BMPs.
- Damaged pipeline must be replaced in the same location where it is feasible and prudent to do so, unless it can be demonstrated that relocation of the pipeline will result in an overall reduction of adverse impacts to aquatic resources. Where damaged pipeline must be replaced in a new location, that location must be selected to minimize overall environmental impact of the project.
- Where drilling mud is being used, 2 properly installed rows of silt fencing must be installed around entry/exit points of the bore. A plan for preventing and controlling the loss of drilling mud into any waters of the state must be submitted. The plan should include steps that will be taken to minimize any impacts to any waters of the state caused by an accidental release of drilling mud. Any unintended release of drilling mud shall be immediately reported to WRD staff, and additional drilling shall be discontinued while the material that was released is controlled. Cleanup of drilling mud that impacts water resources, including wetlands, shall be initiated and completed in an expeditious manner.
- When a plowing-in method is used in wetlands (greater than 6 inches in size), the area must be immediately restored to grade after installation.
- All revegetation of wetland sites must be with plant species that are native to Michigan according to the Floristic Quality Assessment for the State of Michigan.

- The construction of new permanent access roads is not included under this GP category. Where needed, timber construction mats may be authorized under this category.

This GP category does not alter or replace current exemptions, but provides a mechanism for authorization of repairs for pipelines that do not meet the criteria for exempt activities and, in particular, coordinates authorization of pipeline repairs that impact both wetlands and other waterbodies.

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