



An MDU Resources Group company

Civil & Environmental Surveys

An informational guide for
property owners

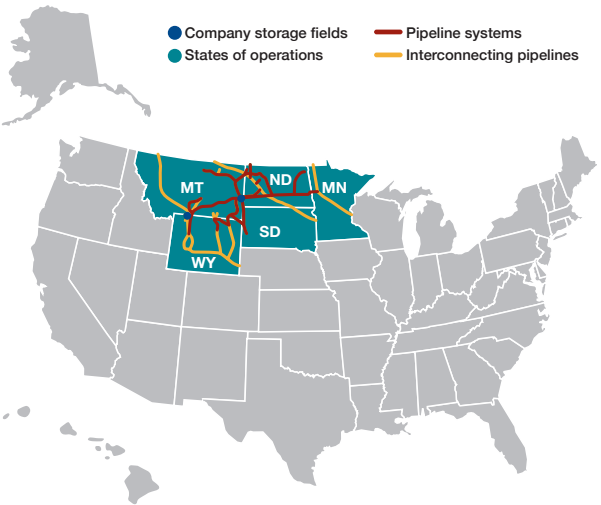
Introduction

WBI Energy currently owns and operates over 3,800 miles of natural gas transmission and gathering pipeline spanning major portions of North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. These operations deliver much-needed natural gas to the city gates of the cities and towns in the region as well as to a number of large-scale industrial operations.

WBI Energy has headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota, with an operations center in Glendive, Montana.

WBI Energy, Inc. is part of the MDU Resources Group family of companies. MDU Resources is a member of the S&P MidCap 400 index and provides value-added natural resource products and related services that are essential to energy and transportation infrastructure, including regulated utilities and pipelines, and construction materials and services, and exploration and development. For more information about MDU Resources, see the company's website at www.mdu.com.

WBI Energy pipeline system map





Why are surveys necessary?

Having accurate, current information on the proposed pipeline route is necessary for regulatory permitting processes and to identify appropriate construction and restoration techniques. Some information is found in maps, aerial photos, and public records, but certain types of data must be collected on site.

What do you look for in the field?

This varies depending on the scope of the project, the types of properties crossed, and regulatory requirements. We typically conduct civil, archaeological and wetland delineation surveys.

Other studies, such as surveys for vegetation types, stream crossings, habitat, sensitive species, or soil types, also may be necessary.

How will the surveys affect my property?

Civil and environmental field studies cause little or no disruption to landowners. Field crews will walk the study area across your property. In some cases the crews may need to excavate small holes, which are filled back in, or leave small stakes or flagging tape behind until all surveys are complete. Disturbance to your property is minimal and short term. We will ask your permission and notify you prior to conducting a field survey on your property.

What is a civil survey?

Civil survey crews (teams of two to three people) will survey the proposed pipeline route, often placing stakes and lath at defined intervals along the proposed pipeline centerline. These stakes are typically embedded about a half-foot into the ground and extend about three feet above the ground. They are marked with bright orange paint to make them clearly visible and serve as a guide to other specialists who need to acquire field information in the same area. Survey crews will use all-terrain vehicles during the civil survey.

What does an archaeological survey entail?

Archaeological surveys document the presence of prehistoric and historic artifacts and structural remnants within the study area. Professional archaeologists (teams of three to six people) walk across the study area and look for artifacts on the surface. Small shovel tests or auger tests are excavated by hand if visibility of the ground surface is obscured by vegetation or if there is a likelihood of buried artifacts (including in agricultural lands). Shovel tests are typically about 14 inches in diameter by 2 to 3 feet in depth. Auger tests are typically about 4 inches in diameter by up to 6 feet in depth. Soils from shovel and auger tests are screened and artifacts are collected. The holes are then filled and sod, if present, is replaced.

What if an archaeological site is found on my property?

In most cases, the archaeological sites found in the study area will have been disturbed by previous activity (such as plowing). Sometimes a site is found that can yield important information about the past. In this case, WBI Energy's archaeologists may need to return to your property to conduct additional work. Our land agent will contact you if this is necessary, and explain the type of work that will need to be completed.

Artifacts found on your property belong to you. Once the artifacts have been studied, they will be returned at your request. Because some artifacts may have educational value, WBI Energy supports the donation of rare or significant artifacts to a state repository (such as a museum). If you choose to donate, WBI Energy will make arrangements to curate your artifacts. On rare occasions, human remains and associated artifacts may be found. In these instances, state law protects these unmarked cemeteries. WBI Energy will treat any discoveries of human remains in accordance with state law.

What is wetland delineation?

Delineation, or mapping of wetlands, helps identify where permits are needed and what types of construction and restoration methods will be necessary. Typically, teams of two to three people walk the route to perform a visual check and conduct limited soil probes. Teams will sometimes leave flagging tape or small stakes behind, marking areas that may require further survey. These temporary markers will be removed shortly after completion of the survey work.

What happens if a wetland is delineated on my property?

If a wetland is delineated on your property, WBI Energy will need to use special construction and restoration methods on that section of the right-of-way. The delineation of wetlands does not affect or alter your use of the land, and future uses will remain your prerogative, subject to existing regulations.

What other kinds of work may be necessary?

WBI Energy may need to conduct surveys for vegetation types, stream crossing, habitat, sensitive species, or soil types, or conduct other field work depending on site-specific needs. To the extent feasible, multiple surveys will be coordinated to limit visits to your property (e.g., vegetation and stream crossings may be documented during the wetland delineation survey). Information collected during the surveys will be used to identify appropriate construction and restoration methods. Regardless of the type of fieldwork, you will receive advance notice from a land agent. In all cases, WBI Energy's survey methods will be low-impact and cause minimal disruption.

Why survey for endangered species?

If it appears that protected species (or habitat for these species) may be present on your property, regulatory agencies may require WBI Energy to field-verify the presence of those species or habitat. If endangered species or habitat are identified on your property, the agencies will be notified and WBI Energy will be required to work with the agencies to determine the best method of construction in these areas.

What if a survey results in damage to my property?

WBI Energy's environmental surveyors have extensive experience in completing work on private property and are careful not to disturb crops or livestock, or damage properties. Surveyors carry liability insurance, and WBI Energy will fairly compensate you for damages if any should occur.

For more information:

Please call WBI Energy at 1-800-437-4630
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