Pipeline Development

Yallourn Gas Pipeline |
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EnergyAustralia
LIGHT THE WAY

EnergyAustralia Pty Ltd ABN 99 086 014 968 (EA) is proposing to construct a new high-pressure gas pipeline to transport natural gas from the Longford to Dandenong Pipeline (LDP) to the Yallourn Power Station site. The pipeline would supply gas to a proposed gas-fired power station that EA is assessing at the site, as part of the Yallourn Energy Security Precinct.

The following information is intended to inform you of the processes associated with the development of the proposed Yallourn Gas Pipeline.

Introduction

You will be provided with an indicative timeline for each stage of construction of the pipeline, from survey through to commissioning and operation. Timelines for each property are variable due to the production-line nature of pipeline projects. Generally, separate specialised crews are allocated to each activity, which must be carried out in sequence. Each crew starts at one end at the appropriate time and continues to the end of the pipeline route. Some crews then return to the start to form the next specialist crew required to continue the sequence. It is not feasible to locate all crews on one property to complete all activities at once.

Pipeline activities occur in the following sequence, with an indicative timeframe shown in brackets. The activities marked below are described in more detail later in this brochure.

- Survey (40 days)
- Fencing (14 days)
- Installation of access tracks and construction yards (14 days)
- Proving of existing underground services (5 days)
- Clearing of vegetation from the construction right of way (10 days)
- Grading of topsoil and stockpiling for preservation and re-use during reinstatement (16 days)
- Trenching (17 days)
- Pipe stringing (10 days)
- Pipe bending (8 days)
- Welding (12 days)
- X-ray of welds (12 days)
- Coating of joints (12 days)
- Installation ("lowering in") (13 days)
- Backfilling of trench (14 days)
- Bored crossings (20 days)
- HDD crossing under the Latrobe River (20 days)
- Reinstatement (17 days)
- Hydrostatic pressure testing (7 days)
- Cleaning and drying (3 days)
- Rehabilitation (45 days)
- Commissioning (5 days)
- Operation
- Decommissioning

Where possible, EA will identify temporary and potential impacts on the land and advise how these will be managed (refer to Appendix B). It should be noted that this will be an iterative process, and issues and impacts will emerge as the development proceeds. EA will continually update you through individual meetings.

EA will conform to the standards outlined in the APGA/VFF Pipeline Easement Guidelines.

Survey

Survey may be carried out by one or more parties and may require numerous visits before initial survey work is complete. Activities include establishing title boundaries, route refinement and pipeline centreline survey for licence application purposes. Further survey work for construction purposes will be carried out upon issue of a pipeline licence administered by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA).

Protocols for entry onto land and to conduct pipeline development activities will be discussed and agreed with you prior to commencing work. The following items will be included in discussions:

- **Forms of permission:** from a specific person, or a general ongoing agreement that allows entry onto the right of way by survey personnel at any time.
- **Access routes:** should access be required at locations other than along the right of way, such locations will be agreed with you.
- **Survey markers and equipment:** details of items to be left on site, including pegs, stakes and plastic tape.

- **Traffic management:** including speed restrictions on the property and any site-specific requirements. Speed limits are typically 40 km/h when conditions suit, and walking pace when in the vicinity of pipeline crews.
- **Control of noise, erosion and dust:** noise emissions will be restricted to normal working hours and will comply with EPA Victoria requirements. The potential for erosion will be minimised. Berms, spoon drains and sediment fences or straw bales will be installed to control and filter surface water flow as appropriate for all drainage lines, including natural depressions, farm dams and receiving waterways. Dust generation will be minimised by restricting traffic speed on the right of way and by the use of water sprays as appropriate. Refer to Appendix B.

Hours of operation

All pipeline activities will be planned and managed in accordance with the general environmental duty and the unreasonable noise duty under the Environment Protection Act 2017, and the noise management framework in EPA Victoria Publication 1834.2 Civil construction, building and demolition guide. So far as reasonably practicable, works that may affect nearby sensitive receivers will be confined to normal working hours of 7:00am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday and 7:00am – 1:00pm Saturday, with no works on Sundays or public holidays.

- **Early works contractors** (site establishment, fencing, access tracks and similar): will generally work within daylight hours inside the normal-hours window above.
- **Pipeline construction works** (clearing, trenching, stringing, welding, lowering-in, backfill and reinstatement): will be undertaken within normal working hours, subject to site-specific conditions imposed under the Latrobe Planning Scheme and any Latrobe City Council permits.
- **Horizontal directional drilling (HDD):** at major crossings (e.g. the Latrobe River, roads and rail), HDD requires continuous 24-hour operation once a bore is commenced, as suspending an active bore risks hole instability and loss of the crossing. These works will be managed as out-of-normal-hours works under Table 4.3 of EPA Publication 1834.2, supported by community notification, a noise and vibration management plan and additional mitigation if needed, and undertaken in consultation with EPA Victoria and Latrobe City Council.
- **Remediation / reinstatement crews:** will generally work within daylight hours inside the normal-hours window above.

Fencing and Gates

In order for pipeline construction to be carried out, it will be necessary to install flexible construction fencing and wide gates across the construction right of way in place of existing fencing. This may involve relocation and/or modification of existing fencing.

All fencing work will be discussed with you to ensure that the outcome accounts for land management practices, minimises inconvenience, minimises impacts to the wellbeing and quality of livestock, and is satisfactory to all parties. During all phases of the project, all gates will be left in the "as found" orientation.

Clearing and Grading of the Right of Way

Clearing

Clearing of vegetation in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan will be carried out prior to the vegetation strip, which involves grading of the right of way to a depth of approximately 50mm. The graded material is stockpiled along the right of way for preservation and re-use.

Grading

After clearing, the right of way is graded to a depth of 100mm, or the depth of topsoil, whichever is less, and the material is placed adjacent to the stockpiled vegetation. Trench spoil will be stored separately from the stockpiled topsoil and vegetation.

Right of way width

Right of way width requirements vary according to the diameter of the pipeline and environmental considerations. For example, a width of approximately 20 metres is required for a pipeline of 500mm diameter. The right of way is delineated by the graded area plus any stockpiled material, and includes additional work space for vehicle parking, storage and lay-down areas, and special construction activities such as horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

Special Environmental Features

Significant features to be managed during clear and grade, and subsequent construction phases, include the following:

- **Watercourses:** the Latrobe River crossing will be via HDD; other minor watercourses will be clear and grade to the top edge of the riparian zone only, resuming only on the day of open-cut crossing works.

- **Protected vegetation:** delineation and protection will be provided using barriers such as plastic webbing and warning tape. Relocation of the easement may be required. Protected vegetation will be preserved in accordance with the approved environmental management plan.
- **Areas of cultural heritage significance:** cultural heritage surveys will be carried out. Should areas of significance be detected, an approved management plan will be adopted. Monitors may be employed to observe excavation work in areas that may yield significant deposits of artefacts.
- **Protected fauna:** any endangered fauna will be protected in accordance with the approved environmental management plan. Specialists may be employed as required to monitor construction works and to relocate any creature that may be in the vicinity of the right of way. Temporary barriers may be installed until construction works have been completed.
- **Bio-security:** before delivery to the project site, all mud and vegetable matter will be removed from construction equipment to minimise the risk of disease and seed transfer.

Should the existence of pests and diseases be detected during environmental studies and discussions with you, management plans will be developed by EA and approved by the relevant regulator for use prior to entering or exiting any affected properties. Methods typically used include water wash-down, disinfection and installation of barrier material over infected land to facilitate vehicle movements. Discussions will be held with owners of special farms or businesses that are sensitive to bio-security issues for their input into environmental management plans.

Trenching

Farm management requirements will be taken into account during trenching operations. To enable essential passage of livestock over the trench line, trench plugs or equivalent will be provided at stock crossings. These will be removed at the time of pipeline installation.

When trenching across land with significant side slope, the horizontal bench excavated to enable the trenching machine to dig a vertical trench will reduce the area available for other construction activities. In this instance, additional working width beyond that of the standard right of way may be required; this will be indicated as temporary construction easement.

Horizontal Directional Drilling

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is a pipeline construction technology that allows a constructor to traverse difficult terrain or watercourse crossings with minimal ground disturbance. It is intended that the crossing of the Latrobe River will be done via HDD on EnergyAustralia land. Drilling will be a continuous 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week activity until the hole is completed satisfactorily. The site will be artificially lit at night during the HDD operation. The drilling site will be located in the Western carpark adjacent to the power station. There are no sensitive receivers close to the power station that will be affected by drilling noise. Smaller features such as roads and native vegetation may also be crossed using the HDD technique on a smaller scale during normal working hours of 7:00am – 6:00pm Monday to Friday and 7:00am – 1:00pm Saturday, with no works on Sundays or public holidays.

HDD sites may require additional working width to accommodate the HDD rig, temporary site offices, storage containers for drilling consumables and spare parts, water storage tanks, the drill fluid sump, the cuttings settling pond, and a general works area.

Bentonite, a naturally occurring, non-toxic clay, is mixed with locally supplied fresh water and used as a drilling fluid. Drill cuttings will be separated from the drilling fluid at the surface using vibrating screens and directed to a settling tank, while the drilling fluid is recirculated to the drill hole with additional bentonite added as required. Drill cuttings and excess liquids will be removed by tanker to an approved disposal site.

Reinstatement

The pipeline trench will be backfilled with previously excavated material (spoil) and compacted in layers to minimise subsidence. Soil will be placed in the original horizon order to maintain fertility. A slight crown may be provided directly above the trench to repel water from this location and to compensate for minor subsidence.

To minimise subsidence caused by the flow of ground water in the trench, trench breakers will be installed around the pipe as required. Stormwater will be managed by the reinstatement and maintenance of berms and sediment fences. Should wildlife be known to frequent the right of way location, inspections and removals will be carried out as required on a daily basis by suitably qualified personnel.

The condition of the reinstated right of way will be monitored on a regular basis throughout the construction contractor's two-year maintenance period.

Hydrostatic Testing

Upon completion of the majority of reinstatement, hydrostatic testing will commence. Initially, the pipeline will be pre-cleaned by passing foam pigs from one end to the other using compressed air.

Upon completion of pre-cleaning, the pipeline will be filled with water, allowed to settle, and pressurised to a level that tests the strength of the welds and pipe steel. While the pipeline is designed to withstand pressures higher than the test pressure, it is always prudent to conduct farming activities away from the right of way during the strength test. A leak test at a pressure lower than the strength test pressure is then carried out.

Upon successful completion of testing, the pipeline is de-watered in accordance with EPA Victoria requirements via a straw bale filter bed, then cleaned and dried. Cleaning and drying is carried out by propelling pigs through the pipeline using compressed dry air. Dust emitted from the pipeline as drying progresses is directed into a bell hole at the end of the trench.

Rehabilitation

Prior to initial excavation, a photographic record of the proposed working area and any associated tracks is taken to ensure that all land is rehabilitated as close as practicable to its original condition. Rehabilitation includes:

- Reinstatement of farm fencing and gates.
- Confirmation that any relocated dams are holding water.
- Installation of permanent pipeline marker plates on steel poles. Markers are located on fence lines, at pipeline bends, in the vicinity of buried services, and along straight sections of the pipeline, such that a marker can be seen in both directions when standing over the pipe.
- Installation of soil stabilisation materials in areas of high erosion potential, such as riparian banks.
- Re-seeding of pasture. Arrangements can be made for you to carry out re-seeding should this be requested. Animals should be excluded from the right of way until the new pasture is mature.
- Management of weeds by the use of holding crops if climatic conditions are not suitable for re-seeding at the time. Suitable weed sprays will be used as required.

Success of rehabilitation

Rehabilitation will be considered successful when the following conditions are satisfied:

- No repairs due to erosion of treated erosion sites (e.g. riparian banks) over a two-year period, or over one year subsequent to any repairs.
- No visible subsidence over a two-year period, or over one year subsequent to any repairs.
- Regrowth of pasture over a full growing season to at least the same extent of cover as that existing prior to clear and grade. This period will be extended if weather is not conducive to successful growth.
- No more weed infestation after a two-year period than that existing prior to clear and grade.

Sign-offs

- **Final sign-off (between owner/occupier and EA as licensee):** all rehabilitation meets performance measures.

Operation of the Pipeline

Access

During pipeline operation, both EA and Energy Safe Victoria will require unfettered access to the pipeline easement for activities such as patrol, inspection, remedial works and testing. Established land access protocols will be observed.

Land use restrictions

- Structures shall not be located on the pipeline easement.
- Excavation on the pipeline easement shall not exceed 300mm. If excavation to a greater depth is required, prior approval shall be sought from EA, and an EA inspector must be present during the works.
- Trees shall not be planted within 3 metres of the pipeline centreline.
- Pipeline marker posts shall not be removed.

Emergency issues and contacts

You should contact EA if your safety is at risk, or if the integrity of the easement or of the pipeline is threatened. In the event of such an emergency, you should first contact the relevant emergency service on 000. Fire and rescue services in the region are provided by Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA). You should then contact EA using the emergency number located on all pipeline marker plates.

Decommissioning of the Pipeline

The pipeline has a nominal design life of 30 years. It is therefore not possible for EA to specify at this time what standards will apply to decommissioning or how it will occur. Decommissioning methods will be determined in accordance with environmental requirements, legislative requirements, licence conditions and the best available technology at the time.

Complaints Management

Should you wish to discuss an issue with EA or its contractors, the first point of contact during pipeline development is the EA Yallourn Gas Pipeline project team, using the details below. Enquiries may be made at any time (ideally during normal working hours), and all complaints will be recorded and closed out upon satisfactory resolution.

During the period between first contact regarding the project and pipeline operation, the relevant government regulator is the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). During pipeline operation, the relevant safety regulator is Energy Safe Victoria (ESV).

Further Information

If there is any information you would like clarified, please contact the EnergyAustralia Yallourn Gas Pipeline project team using the details below.

Contact us

	EnergyAustralia — Yallourn Gas Pipeline
Phone	1800 574 947
Email	community.yallourn@energyaustralia.com.au
Website	www.transformingyallourn.com.au
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