

# Pipeline Safety and Landowner Awareness



## About Manitoba Hydro's transmission and high pressure natural gas pipelines

Manitoba Hydro has a 2,338 km (1,453 mile) transmission and high pressure pipeline system across the southern half of Manitoba and into Saskatchewan.

The pressure in the pipeline varies from 700 to 7,320 kilopascals (100 to 800 pounds per square inch) maximum operating pressure. The size of the pipeline ranges from 101.6 to 406.4 mm (4 to 16 inches) in diameter.

Pipelines are regulated provincially in accordance with *The Gas Pipeline Act* and federally in accordance with the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*.

### Minell pipeline

The Minell pipeline is a transmission pressure pipeline wholly owned by Manitoba Hydro. The pipeline runs south from Russell Manitoba to approximately 20 km southwest of St. Lazare, where it crosses into Saskatchewan (near Moosomin).

This federally regulated pipeline is required to observe a 30-metre prescribed area outside of the right-of-way (ROW) that restricts activities that could damage pipelines, possibly causing a leak or rupture that could endanger the public, or harm the environment.

### Manitoba Hydro is committed to safety

Manitoba Hydro works diligently to ensure the integrity of our pipelines and facilities.

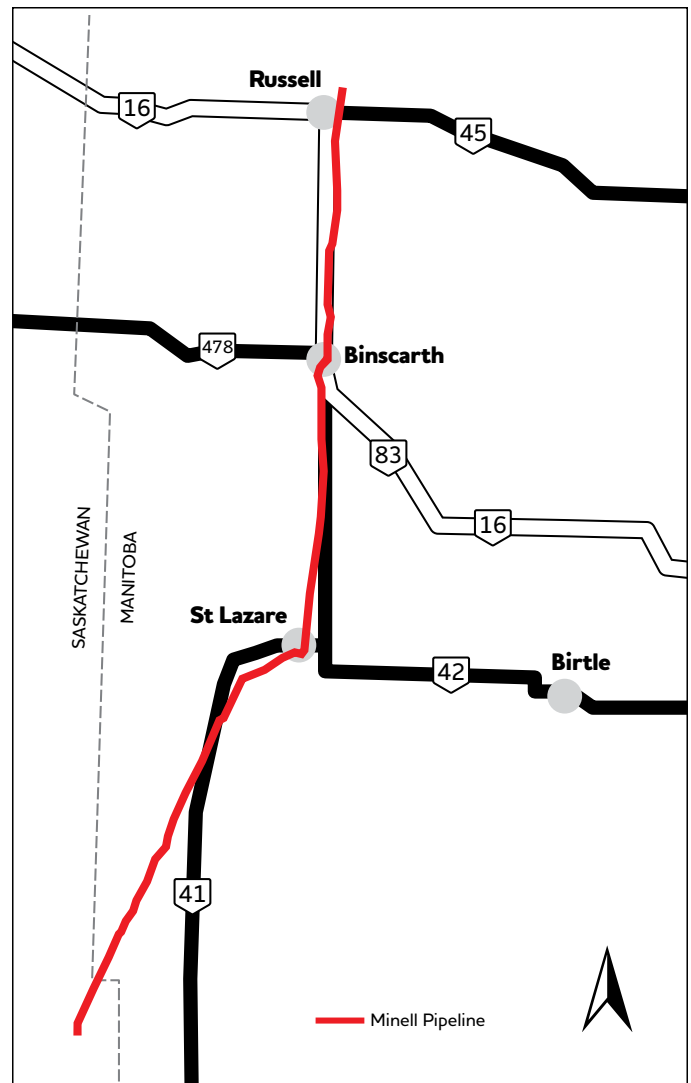
We do preventative maintenance on all of our transmission and high pressure pipelines.

As a part of our pipeline integrity program we do routine patrols for:

- monitoring the ROW;
- leak surveys;
- cathodic protection.

As part of our Damage Prevention and Public Awareness programs, we work with first responders across our franchise area to ensure they are familiar with our system and know the appropriate response to an emergency situation.

While pipelines are the safest way to transport natural gas, in the unlikely event of a natural gas release, Manitoba Hydro has trained personnel ready to respond 24 hours a day/seven days a week.



## Contact with a natural gas pipeline

Any contact with a pipeline must be reported to Manitoba Hydro immediately even if there is no apparent damage to the pipe or its coating. Keep people and equipment away from the contact site and call Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376.



Manitoba Hydro is ready to respond 24/7.



Manitoba Hydro employee locating underground facilities.

### About natural gas

- Highly flammable.
- Lighter than air, it will rise and disperse into the atmosphere.
- If there is a large underground leak, the escaping gas may distort the light waves making the vapour cloud look like a light shimmer.
- It may cause bubbles in water or create distinct patches of dead or discoloured vegetation.
- High concentrations of natural gas can become an asphyxiant and displace oxygen from the air.
- Natural gas is odourless and colorless. An odorant is added to the gas creating what is described as a rotten egg or nasty sulphurous smell.
- This odorant may be leached out in certain soil conditions and is not present in a 19-km section of pipeline that feeds gas to the Koch Fertilizer chemical plant and Manitoba Hydro's generating station in Brandon.



### If you detect a pipeline leak

Your personal safety is the number one priority.

Leave the suspected leak area immediately. You may have to leave on foot as starting a vehicle may be a source of ignition.

- Alert others who are nearby.
- Stay upwind.
- Shut down equipment if it is safe to do so.

Once you reach safety, call Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376 and Emergency Services at 911. Be ready to identify the location and describe what you have seen. Then, stay off the phone in case we need to contact you.

- **Do not** touch or approach leaking gas or suspected leak area.
- **Do not** drive into a vapour cloud.
- **Do not** light a match and avoid making sparks.
- **Do not** use a telephone until you are away from the leak.
- Extinguish all smoking material.
- Avoid making heat sources that could ignite the leaking gas as you leave the area.

Any contact with the pipeline or its coating must be reported to Manitoba Hydro immediately regardless of whether there is any apparent damage. Call 1-888-624-9376.

### Pipeline safety – Click Before You Dig

The single largest threat to the integrity of our pipeline is third-party damages.

Third parties digging, ditching, drilling, trenching, or blasting in the area of the pipeline ROW without understanding the potential danger of their actions are the most likely to damage the pipeline.

If you or a contractor plan to excavate in the vicinity of our pipeline, remember to Click Before You Dig in Manitoba, or contact Sask 1st Call in Saskatchewan.

We will mark the location of the pipeline prior to any excavation, free of charge.

The *Manitoba Workplace Safety & Health Regulation 217/2006*, the *Manitoba Gas Pipe Line Excavation Regulation 140/92* and the *National Energy Board Pipeline Damage Prevention Regulations – Authorizations (SOR/2016-124)* require anyone disturbing the soil to call for utility clearances **prior to any construction activity**.

**Submit your line location request online at:**

**Manitoba**  
[www.clickbeforeyoudigmb.com](http://www.clickbeforeyoudigmb.com)  
 or call 1-800-940-3447.

**Saskatchewan**  
[www.sask1stcall.com](http://www.sask1stcall.com)  
 or call 1-866-828-4888.

## Pipeline safety watch

Once a line locate request has been completed; depending on the vicinity of the excavation in relation to our pipeline, a Manitoba Hydro safety watcher will be assigned to the site **free of charge**.

This preventative measure is focused on ensuring all safe excavation practices are followed; protecting the integrity of the pipeline, excavating community and general public.



Directional boring new services.

## Understanding the ROW

The ROW is a strip of land generally between 18 metres (60 feet) and 36 metres (120 feet) wide containing the pipeline. The Minell pipeline is required to observe a 30-metre prescribed area outside of the ROW.



The ROW:

- Allows our workers access for inspection, maintenance, testing or emergencies.
- Identifies an area that restricts certain activities to protect public safety.

While there are permanent pipeline markers located on the roads, railways and other intervals along the ROW, these only show the approximate location of the buried pipelines. The depth and location of the pipelines vary within the ROW.

The ROW has no distinct appearance indicating that it is a ROW because they run across the province through varied ecosystems such as cultivated fields, river crossings, and urban areas.

Any proposed construction or ground disturbance within the ROW and prescribed area require Manitoba Hydro authorization. Please contact [GasDesign@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:GasDesign@hydro.mb.ca) or 204-360-7707.



Installation of new natural gas transmission lines.

## Operating vehicles or mobilized equipment across the Minell pipeline ROW

The natural gas pipeline is designed and installed at a depth that prevents damage due to normal farming activities. The following guidelines identify what is permitted and not permitted in crossing the Minell pipeline, requirements for other areas will vary due to differences in pipe size, material characteristics, and operating pressures.



### Crossing of the Minell pipeline ROW is permitted where:

- ploughing or tilling does not disturb more than 30 cm (12 inches);
- vehicles where the ground pressure from the wheel load is less than 100 Kpa (15 psi); and
- vehicles with maximum axle weight of loaded equipment is less than 14,500 kg (32,000 lbs).



### Crossing of the Minell pipeline ROW is NOT permitted where:

- the soil is rutting more than 15 cm (6 inches) from the equipment (ground conditions vary due to weather and soil moisture content); or
- activities are undertaken that will result in the removal of cover over the pipeline.

If the installation of field drainage is necessary, please contact Manitoba Hydro for assistance in determining what work is acceptable.

Information on the maximum axle load or ground pressure of equipment is available from the manufacturer.

- The maximum single axle loading of standard trucks that comply with the requirements for Manitoba Infrastructure is 9,100 kg (20,000 lbs).

**Contact Manitoba Hydro at [GasDesign@hydro.mb.ca](mailto:GasDesign@hydro.mb.ca) or 204-360-7707 for more information or to review vehicles or equipment that fall outside of the example limitations shown.**

## Easement agreements

Good working relationships between Manitoba Hydro, property owners and tenants along the ROW are essential to the safety and reliability of our pipeline system.



For decades we have been developing and maintaining relationships with thousands of landowners.

Recognizing their important contribution, Manitoba Hydro is committed to dealing fairly and consistently with everyone who lives and works along the pipeline route.

This relationship begins when we negotiate the original easement agreement with the landowner. The year the original agreement was negotiated varies across the pipeline system and is dependent on the year of initial pipeline construction.

In return for compensation, the landowner granted Manitoba Hydro the right to use the ROW for constructing, operating, and maintaining its pipelines.

Landowners, in turn, help ensure the safety of the line by abiding by the agreement and all government regulations with respect to excavation, construction or other activities over or near the pipeline.



**1-800-940-3447**

**[www.clickbeforeyoudigmb.com](http://www.clickbeforeyoudigmb.com)**

**1-866-828-4888**

**[www.sask1stcall.com](http://www.sask1stcall.com)**

For all other inquiries including emergencies,  
call Manitoba Hydro at 1-888-624-9376.