

Subject Pipeline Abandonment

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Overview

House File 4360, as amended by the H4360A1 amendment, requires owners to develop a pipeline abandonment plan that receives approval from the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety before a pipeline is abandoned in the state. A pipeline owner is responsible for the costs of removal and for restoration of the land after removal, unless a landowner relieves the pipeline owner from those responsibilities.

Summary

| Section | Description |
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| 1 | <p>[216G.02] Routing of certain pipelines.</p> <p>Subd. 1a. Commissioner. Defines “commissioner” as the commissioner of public safety.</p> |
| 2 | <p>[216G.02] Routing of certain pipelines.</p> <p>Subd. 3a. Pipeline abandonment. Defines “pipeline abandonment” as the permanent cessation of service along a portion or the entirety of a pipeline route.</p> |
| 3 | <p>[216G.095] Pipeline abandonment; responsibilities.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Notice. Requires a pipeline owner to provide notice of abandonment to all landowners on whose land the pipeline is located at least 60 days before operations cease.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Removal of abandoned pipeline. Provides that a pipeline owner is financially responsible for removing a pipeline and any ancillary equipment from a landowner’s property and is liable for any cleanup and remediation costs. A landowner who wants the pipeline removed must file a written request with the pipeline owner. The pipeline must be purged of all materials within 60 days of</p> |

Section **Description**

receiving the request, and removal must begin within 90 days of the pipeline's owner's notice of certification that purging has been completed.

Subd. 3. Land restoration. Defines the scope of land restoration for which the pipeline owner is responsible, including restoring the land's contour, replacing topsoil, and planting permanent vegetation.

Subd. 4. Abandoned pipeline left in place. A landowner may relieve a pipeline owner from the requirement to remove a pipeline and ancillary equipment by filing a written request to the owner and providing copies to certain state and county agencies. Such notice does not relieve a pipeline owner from complying with all federal requirements governing an abandoned pipeline. A landowner requesting a pipeline be left in place assumes all future liabilities associated with the abandoned pipeline, including paying the costs of future monitoring and inspection.

4 **[216G.13] Abandonment plan.**

Subd. 1. Approval required. Prohibits pipeline abandonment unless the commissioner has approved a pipeline abandonment plan under this section. The commissioner may apply conditions to the abandonment process and the abandoned pipeline while it is still in the ground.

Subd. 2. Consultation; public hearing required. Requires a pipeline owner, in developing an abandonment plan, to consult with landowners, Tribal governments having jurisdiction on land on which an abandoned pipeline is located, state and local government agencies responsible for land development and water quality, and environmental organizations, and to hold at least one public hearing.

Subd. 3. Plan content. Specifies the content of an abandonment plan, including a schedule, description of the pipeline and ancillary facilities, natural features of the land, identification of nearby water bodies and wetlands, mitigation measures to reduce environmental and safety risks, estimates of those risks, and additional information.



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