



ONEOK Construction and Reclamation Process

ONEOK takes great pride in our construction and reclamation process and in being good stewards to the lands on which we work. In addition to the process below, we work with third party firms to ensure we are avoiding environmentally and culturally sensitive areas for every project and adjusting as needed.

- Once a pipeline route is identified, Right of Way negotiations begin with potential landowners
 - Many landowners specify in these agreements:
 - Topsoil segregation methods,
 - Construction timing stipulations, and;
 - Reclamation stipulations and seed mix selections.
- Construction contractors are given ONEOK standard specifications related to how pipelines are to be installed as well as topsoil and subsoil management and reclamation seeding. These specifications were written with guidance from North Dakota State University.
- Construction Specifications detail:
 - Topsoil segregation and management,
 - Topsoil is ALWAYS stored separately from subsoil,
 - Topsoil is stripped until color change,
 - Topsoil is protected from wind and water erosion.
 - Backfilling,
 - Subsoil will be placed back in 12 inch lifts and compacted in the trench,
 - Frozen soil will be mechanically processed to 2-3 inch pieces, and;
 - Topsoil will not be put back until backfilling and decompaction are completed.
 - ROW decompaction
 - Right of Way be de-compacted prior to topsoil placement.
 - Seedbed preparation,
 - The entire width of the Right of Way will be disked to level ground and break any clods of soil, and;
 - Seedbed should be firm enough that adult footprints are not more than ½ inch deep.
 - Seeding methods,
 - Crosshatch drill seeding,
 - Rangeland grasses should only be plants at ¼ to 1 inch depth
 - Hydro mulch,
 - Broadcast seeding,
 - Cover Crops
 - Grain cover crops will be broadcast and lightly drug in.
 - Straw mulching and crimping rates
 - 1.5 to 2 tons per acre as per NDSU research,
- Every ROW is inspected twice a year for subsidence and vegetation establishment by a third party hired by ONEOK. Repairs and re-seeding are completed as needed.
- Inspections continue for 3 years or until ROW matches background vegetation.