

June 2023 : Right of way in McKenzie Co. prior to seeding and straw mulch.

June 2024 : Right of way in McKenzie Co. with 1 year of growth.



June 2023 : Right of way in McKenzie Co. prior to seeding and hydro mulch.

June 2024 : Right of way in McKenzie Co. with 1 year of growth.





## **Lifecycle of a Hess Oil and Gas Project: Commitment to Landowner Satisfaction and Regulatory Compliance**

### **1. Initial Planning and Environmental**

The lifecycle of a Hess oil and gas project— well pad, compressor station, or pipeline—begins with a thorough Environmental and Cultural Review. During this essential phase, Hess conducts a detailed assessment of the proposed project site and its surrounding area. This review examines various environmental factors, including wetlands, aquifers, streams, cultural artifacts, areas beyond territorial boundaries, ND Plots land, and endangered species. By carefully evaluating these elements, we aim to minimize ecological impacts and ensure our operations comply with local, state, and federal regulations. In cases where it is not possible to avoid certain areas, we take precautions by flagging or boring to mitigate potential effects.

### **2. Landowner Engagement and Agreements**

Once the initial reviews are complete, we prioritize discussions with landowners. Securing a Surface Use Agreement and subsurface easements is essential for establishing a positive working relationship. These discussions focus on the proposed site location, potential environmental impacts, and the placement of necessary infrastructure, such as stormwater gate valves and topsoil stockpiles.

We are committed to accommodating landowner requests, ensuring that any adjustments made are both reasonable and respectful of their needs. This includes discussions about access, even outside of the construction timeframe. Multiple meetings are conducted with landowners and their representatives, whether in the field or, for those out of state, via phone or electronic communications. Negotiating a good faith agreement can take weeks or even months.

### **3. Pre-Construction Preparation**

During the design phase, a geotechnical evaluation is performed to determine the suitability of on-site material for re-use during earthwork activities, estimating moisture conditioning requirements for earthwork, evaluating the suitability of the site for supporting facilities using shallow foundations, and supporting pump jacks using driven piles. Topsoil depth at the location of bore holes is also recorded to determine the amount of topsoil to be stockpiled on site for final reclamation. Prior to construction, pre-construction staking is completed and a detailed survey meeting is held with all relevant stakeholders. This collaborative effort allows us to review the construction details and finalize preparations to ensure a smooth transition into the construction phase.

### **4. Construction Phase**

During the construction phase, the site is developed according to approved design specifications that have been agreed upon and signed off on by the landowner. All topsoil within the site disturbance boundary is stripped and stockpiled prior to building the well pad to

necessary. Seeding and straw mulch application may be omitted if the land is being returned to agricultural production and the landowner has indicated that they do not want the site seeded. This meticulous approach ensures a successful transition back to usable land.

### 8. Post-Reclamation Monitoring and Compliance

Once reclamation is complete, Hess submits a Notice of Work Done to the NDIC, along with a review of the reclamation work completed and photographic documentation of the completed work. The site enters our reclamation monitoring program, involving biannual inspections by an independent contractor to evaluate vegetation growth, control weed populations, and address any concerns, such as settling or erosion. We actively engage with our surface land program to promptly address landowner concerns between inspections. Additionally, we compile documentation, including Approach Affidavits and Transfer of Access Road agreements, which are recorded and submitted to the NDIC alongside requests for bond release.

### Conclusion

Hess is dedicated to ensuring that each stage of the oil and gas location lifecycle meets landowner expectations while maintaining strict adherence to regulatory requirements. Our proactive approach promotes a respectful partnership with landowners and prioritizes environmental responsibility.

Initial Planning and Environmental



Operational Compliance and Maintenance



Construction Execution and Monitoring



Construction Execution and Monitoring



Reclamation Execution



Post-Reclamation Monitoring and Compliance

