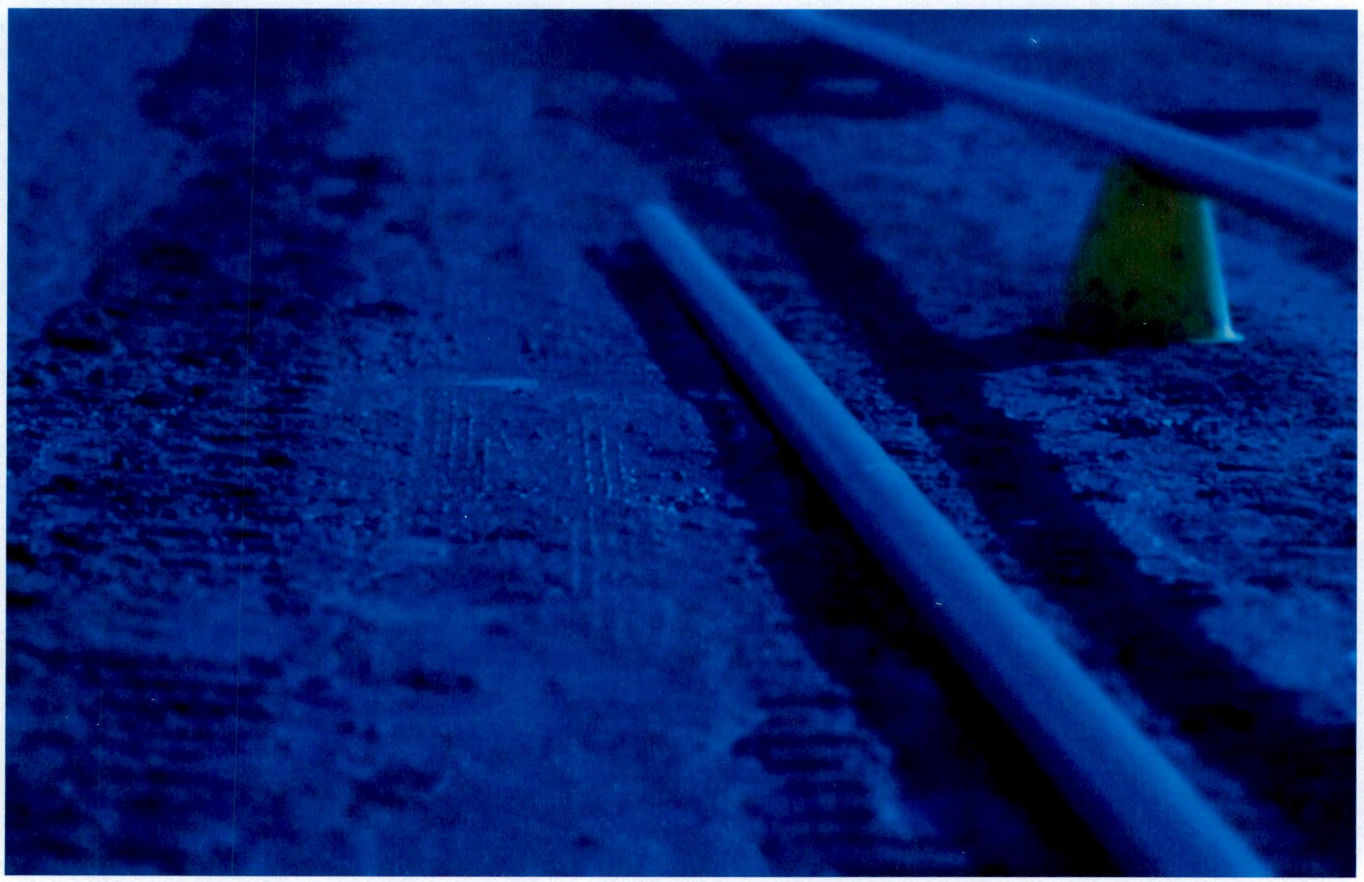
LIUNA North Dakota Investigation of Loenbro Pipeline Construction – 3/31/15

LIUNA's independent investigation of recent work by contractor Loenbro, Inc. uncovered multiple instances of poor-quality work including failure to properly implement several basic environmental, safety, and pipeline integrity measures. Our staff has documented such apparent problems as failure to install or maintain proper erosion controls; maintenance of unsafe bore pits; collapsed skids; and pipe left lying on the ground. We are concerned that these practices may not only increase the risk of spill and injury, but also damage the reputation of pipeline owners and our industry among local residents and regulators.

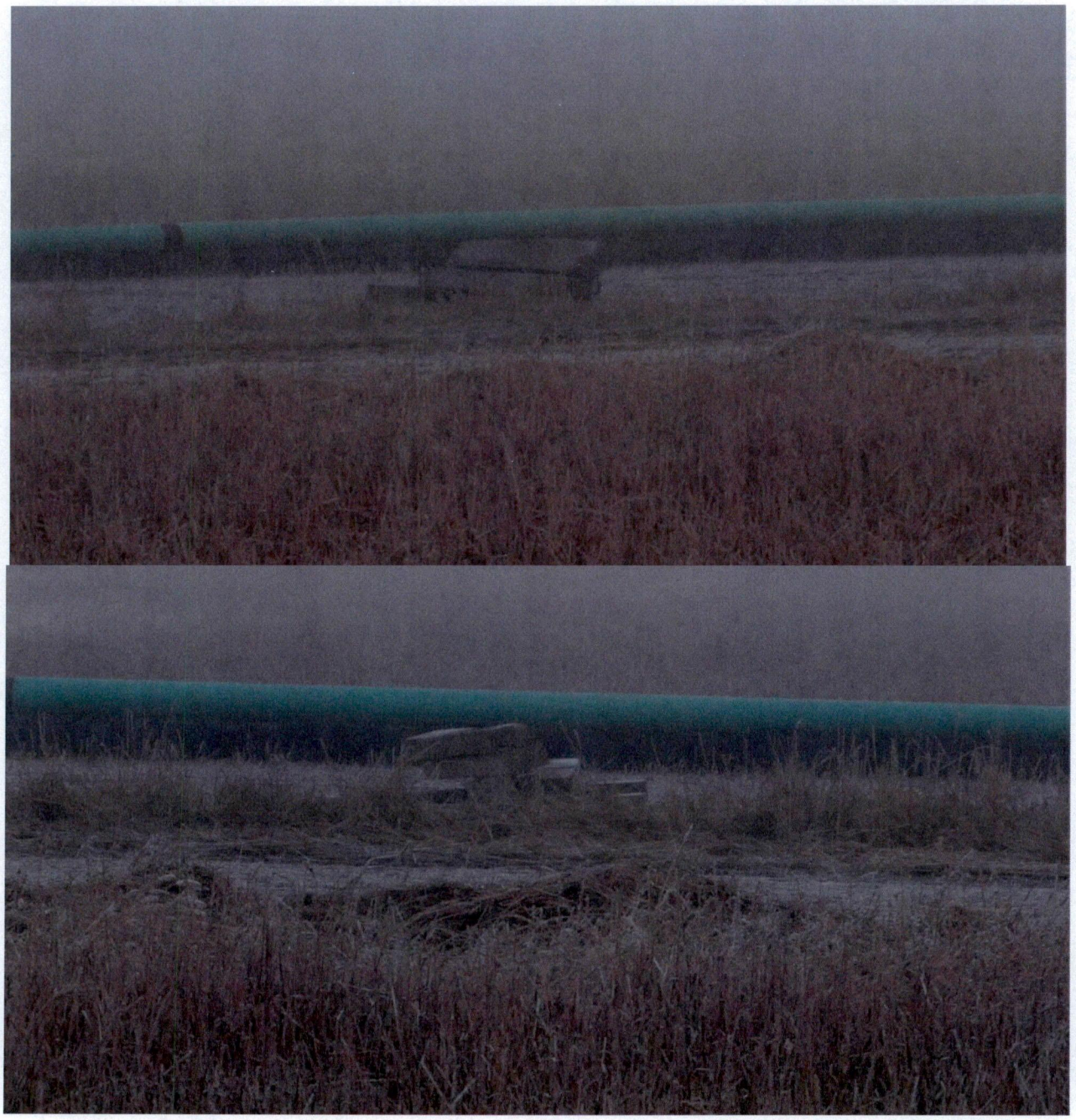
Improper handling of pipe can threaten pipeline integrity

Pipe should never be placed on the ground where rocks and dirt can scratch the factory coating, potentially causing corrosion and integrity problems down the line.



Collapsed skids are a hazard to workers, pipe integrity

Staff witnessed many collapsed skids on the project. Poorly-built and maintained skids can be dangerous to the ground crews handling even working around the pipe. Daily and weather-related temperature changes cause the pipe to expand and contract, which in turn causes the pipe to shift on the skids. A coating crew will soon be working on this pipe, and if the pipe falls during the process the results could be fatal. A fall off collapsed skids can also damage the factory coating, potentially causing corrosion and integrity problems.



Unsafe bore pit

The following three photos depict is a bore pit from a road bore on an apparent Loenbro project. There is no safety fence around the open excavation, and the fact that it's next to the road is a danger to the public. The walls of the excavation are not sloped properly, which could result in a fatal accident for any worker enters the excavation.

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Lack of environmental controls threatens wetland, agricultural productivity

In the following photos, both top soil and sub soil are washing out into a wetland that drains into a farm field. The soil that washes through the wetland can kill wetland vegetation, while the soil washing through to the farmer's field can cause problems with crop growth and weed control. Environmental controls should have been installed to prevent soil erosion and uncontrolled runoff.