

## LIUNA North Dakota Investigation of Loenbro Pipeline Construction – Part 2 (6/26/15)

In March 2015, LIUNA produced a report based on an investigation into pipeline work then being performed by contractor Loenbro, Inc. The March report documented multiple instances of apparent poor-quality work including evident failure to properly implement several basic environmental, safety, and pipeline integrity measures. The report documented what appeared to be failure to maintain proper erosion controls, unsafe bore pits, collapsed skids, and pipe left lying on the ground.

Two months later, our staff conducted a follow-up investigation to the Loenbro projects to determine whether our concerns had been addressed. Unfortunately, rather than improving, our findings suggest that the quality of the company's work may have deteriorated since March. Once again, we found collapsed skids, and in several places pipe was left lying in the dirt, which can increase the risk of a leak or spill. Sections of right-of-way appeared to have been poorly or incompletely restored, and in multiple instances the company apparently failed to implement the appropriate environmental controls including controls designed to protect wetlands. The problems documented in May appeared to be more extensive and more serious than those uncovered in March.

We remain concerned that Loenbro's practices may not only increase the risk of spill, injury, and irreparable damage to the environment, but may also harm the reputation of pipeline owners and our industry among local residents and regulators. The enclosed photos were all taken on projects that are apparently being built by Loenbro.

### 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 but there was ample pipe on the ground at an apparent Loenbro project eight miles north of Ray, ND.



**EXHIBIT**

Whiteford

Ex 2

21

PU-15-97  
Exhibit W2

Filed: 7/9/2015

Pages: 6

Evan Whiteford



## **Collapsed skids are a hazard to workers, pipe integrity**

Once again, LIUNA staff witnessed collapsed skids on the project. Poorly-built and maintained skids can be dangerous to the ground crews handling and working around the pipe. Daily 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 typically work on this pipe, and if the pipe falls during the process, the result could be fatal. A fall off collapsed skids can also damage the factory coating, potentially causing corrosion and integrity problems. The third picture also shows a piece of heavy equipment apparently stuck in the ditch, which is hardly a ringing endorsement of Loenbro's competence.





### **Damage to wetlands**

The following photos show an area about a mile south of the intersection between Highway 50 and 121<sup>st</sup> Ave NW in Alamo, ND, where heavy equipment was apparently driven straight through a wetland without using a mat bridge to minimize compaction of sensitive soil. The wetland area is not apparently part of the right-of-way and ideally the contractor would have avoided taking heavy equipment across it at all, much less crossing without a mat bridge. Obviously, the area has not been restored to anything approximating its original condition.





### **Poor-quality restoration threatens agricultural productivity**

The last set of photos shows a sunken ditch in an agricultural field along a company right-of-way located about a mile south of Highway 50 and 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW in Alamo. A sunken ditch often results from the failure of a contractor to properly compact the soil when the trench is filled. Sunken ditches tend to flood, rendering them unproductive, and many North Dakota landowners complain of farm equipment getting stuck in sunken ditch on pipeline right-of-way.



