



# Thunder Butte Pipeline, LLC

Thunder Butte Pipeline Project, Mountrail and Ward  
County, North Dakota

Case No. PU-24-86

Construction Inspection Report



Building a Better World  
for All of Us®

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

71 PU-24-86 Filed 11/20/2025 Pages: 29  
Construction Inspection Report  
SEH - Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc.  
Loretta A. Marshik, PE



Building a Better World  
for All of Us®

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

RE: Case No. PU-24-86  
Thunder Butte Pipeline, LLC  
Thunder Butte Pipeline Project  
Mountrail and Ward County, ND  
Construction Inspection Report

Mr. Adam Renfandt  
Project Manager  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Renfandt:

Attached is the Construction Inspection Report for the above referenced project. This report includes the following:

1. Executive Summary
2. Inspection Report
3. Appendix A – Photo Location Map
4. Appendix B - Photographs

Sincerely,

Loretta A. Marshik, PE  
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.  
905 Tacoma Ave., Suite 2  
Bismarck, ND 58504

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc., 4719 Shelburne Street, Suite 6, Bismarck, ND 58503  
SEH is 100% employee-owned | [sehinc.com](http://sehinc.com) | 701.354.7121 | 888.908.8166 fax



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Page 1 of 1

Date: 11/19/2025

Project: Thunder Butte Pipeline Project

Inspector visited the construction site to document construction activities for PU-24-86 Thunder Butte, LLC's Crude Oil Pipeline Project. Inspector documented construction activities and equipment, existing conditions, topsoil storage methods and segregation practices, means and methods of pipeline construction. Inspector also verified all work remained inside of authorized ROW and within work easements.

Inspector oversaw pipeline assembly activities, and verified that sparks from weld grinding was not at risk of starting fires. Inspector documented protections of wetland avoidance areas and installation and condition of erosion control measures, including silt fence and fiber rolls. Inspector did not get to see any pipe being laid, nor any trenching activities. Work for day consisted of welding pipe sections together, and testing welds by radiological means.

### ISSUES REQUIRING RESOLUTION:

-In one spot, planking was stored outside of project ROW, with no indication on the GIS map of being a storage area. This planking was placed on the old access road for NDPSC Project Case No. PU-24-361 (LOS to Tande Substation 345 kV Line). See Photos P16.

### PROPOSED RESOLUTION(S):

-Move planking to approved laydown/staging area or within ROW.

Upon Inspection, the site appears to follow the means and methods discussed with the inspector and meets the construction and Commission siting rules, laws, and applicable Orders except those listed above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. M. R. C.", is written over a horizontal line.

Inspector's Signature





## Daily Construction Observation Report

Job No./file  
NDPSC 185555

Date  
11/07/2025

**Project:** Thunder Butte Crude Transmission Line

**Location:** South of Fork Shell Creek

**RPR Name:** Dalton Jorgenson

**Start Time:** 8:43 AM

**End Time:** 4:30 PM

**Morning Weather:** Cloudy

**Afternoon Weather:** Cloudy

**Temp. (F):** High 35      Low 25

**Rainfall (in):**

**Utility Conflicts:** No

**Overall Comments:** Inspector arrived at shop around 7:40. Met with contractor before documenting active work, equipment in use, ROW conditions, avoidance area conditions, and materials in use.

**Prime Contractor:** Baker Energy

**Foreman Name:** Ralph Anaya

**# of Crews:** 13

### Equipment Onsite:

**Contractor Notes:** Met with Ralph at shop and he led me around site to show me where access routes were. We discussed crew on site, and work planned for day. Work will consist of welding and coating line sections, as well as surveying and X-raying. Ralph said there might be some pipe installation today but he wasn't sure.

### Observations

**Time:** 9:31 AM

**Description:** Means and methods

**Comments:** Crew is using an excavator with a hook to hold pipe up, one crew member uses a propane powered, low heat torch to heat the pipe, another then welds it with an acetylene torch, then a final crew member uses a grinder to clean up the weld.

**Time:** 11:18 AM

**Description:** Site conditions

**Comments:** Pipe is bored under facility road, not able to check depth due to safety fence. By visual estimate, looks to be 6-7' below ground level.

**Time:** 12:52 AM

**Description:** Misc.

**Comments:** Crew was on lunch from 11:50-12:50

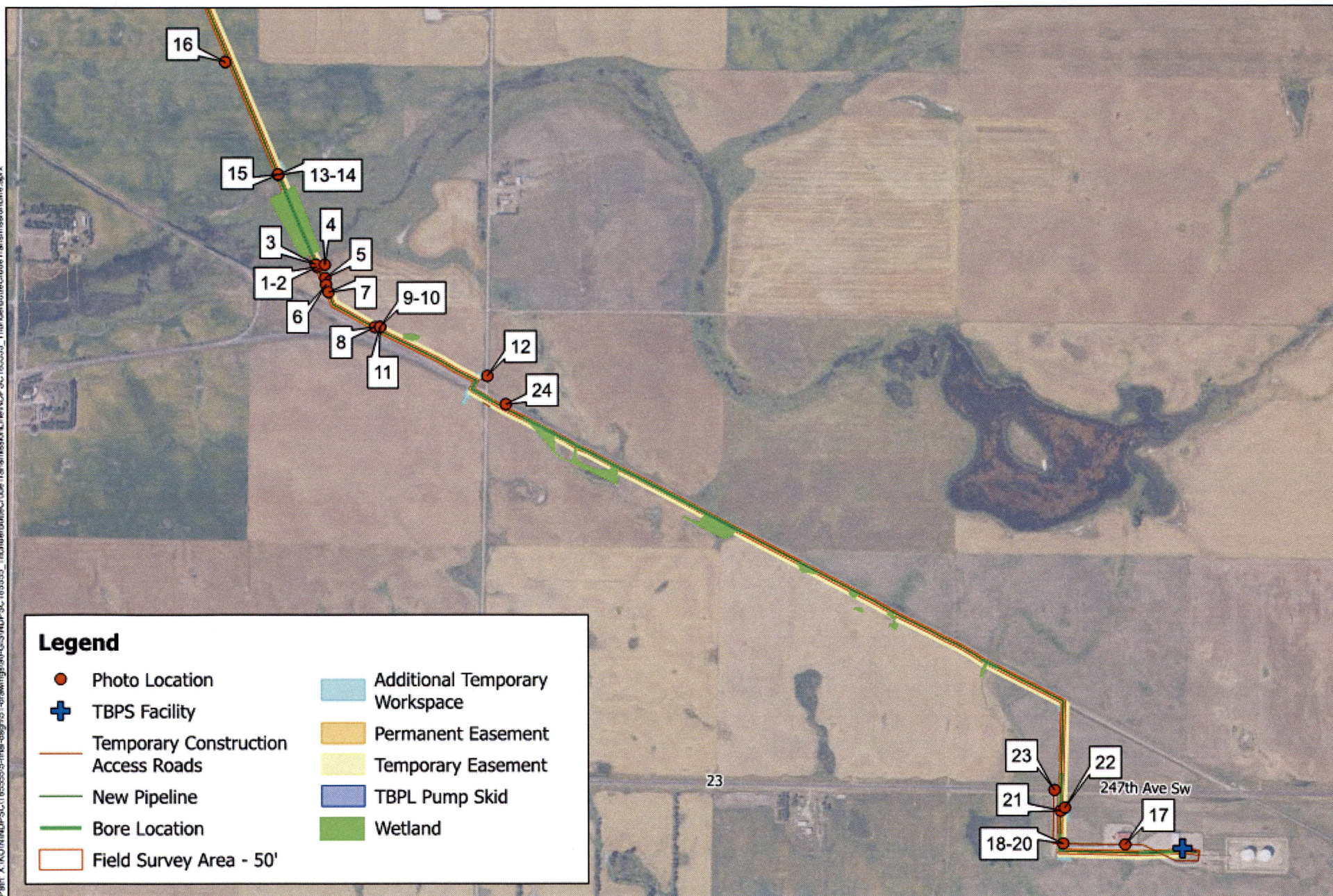




# Appendix A

Photo Location Map



Path: X:\KON\NDPSC\18555\05-final-dwg\18555\_ThunderButteCrudeTransmissionLine\NDPSC18555\_ThunderButteCrudeTransmissionLine.aprx



	 0000 Feet	Project: NDPSC 18555 Print Date: 11/10/2025	<b>Photo Location Map</b> Thunder Butte Crude Transmission Line Ward-Mountrail County	<b>Figure 1</b>
		Map by: Ischwarz Projection: NAD 1983 (2011) State Plane North Dakota N (Feet) Source: USDA, State of North Dakota, & SEH Inc.		

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey map and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information, and data gathered from various sources listed on this map and is to be used for reference purposes only. SEH does not warrant that the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data used to prepare this map are error free, and SEH does not represent that the GIS Data can be used for navigational, tracking, or any other purpose requiring exacting measurement of distance or direction or precision in the depiction of geographic features. The user of this map acknowledges that SEH shall not be liable for any damages which arise out of the user's access or use of data provided.



## Appendix B

Photos





## INSPECTOR'S DIARY

Page 1 of 1

Date: 11/19/2025

Project: Thunder Butte Pipeline Project	Contractor or Sub: Baker Energy Services																																																		
<p>Photo Description:</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Photo Name:</th><th>Description:</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>P1 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P2 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P3 - Wetland Conditions</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P4 - Topsoil Storage</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P5 - Construction Progress</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P6 - Construction Materials: Pipe Diameter</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P7 - Means and Methods: Weld Thickness</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P8 - Means and Methods: Pipe Weld Collars</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P9 - Means and Methods: Welding</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P10 - Means and Methods: Grinding</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P11 - Equipment: CAT 320 Track Excavator</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P12 - Site Safety: Overhead Clearance</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P13 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence/Wetland Conditions</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P14 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P15 - Construction Progress: Pipe welding</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P16 - Area of concern: Planking stored outside ROW</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P17 - Erosion Control: Fiber Roll</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P18 - Erosion Control: Fiber Roll</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P19 - Site Protection: Planking</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P20 - Erosion Control: Fiber Rolls</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P21 - Pipe Progress, Pipe Boring Progress</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P22 - Site Conditions: Topsoil Segregation</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P23 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>P24 - Equipment: Deere 210 Track Excavator</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table> <p>*See attached Photo Layout Maps with location of each photo (P1-P24), and attached pages of photos</p>		Photo Name:	Description:	P1 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence		P2 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence		P3 - Wetland Conditions		P4 - Topsoil Storage		P5 - Construction Progress		P6 - Construction Materials: Pipe Diameter		P7 - Means and Methods: Weld Thickness		P8 - Means and Methods: Pipe Weld Collars		P9 - Means and Methods: Welding		P10 - Means and Methods: Grinding		P11 - Equipment: CAT 320 Track Excavator		P12 - Site Safety: Overhead Clearance		P13 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence/Wetland Conditions		P14 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence		P15 - Construction Progress: Pipe welding		P16 - Area of concern: Planking stored outside ROW		P17 - Erosion Control: Fiber Roll		P18 - Erosion Control: Fiber Roll		P19 - Site Protection: Planking		P20 - Erosion Control: Fiber Rolls		P21 - Pipe Progress, Pipe Boring Progress		P22 - Site Conditions: Topsoil Segregation		P23 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence		P24 - Equipment: Deere 210 Track Excavator	
Photo Name:	Description:																																																		
P1 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence																																																			
P2 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence																																																			
P3 - Wetland Conditions																																																			
P4 - Topsoil Storage																																																			
P5 - Construction Progress																																																			
P6 - Construction Materials: Pipe Diameter																																																			
P7 - Means and Methods: Weld Thickness																																																			
P8 - Means and Methods: Pipe Weld Collars																																																			
P9 - Means and Methods: Welding																																																			
P10 - Means and Methods: Grinding																																																			
P11 - Equipment: CAT 320 Track Excavator																																																			
P12 - Site Safety: Overhead Clearance																																																			
P13 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence/Wetland Conditions																																																			
P14 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence																																																			
P15 - Construction Progress: Pipe welding																																																			
P16 - Area of concern: Planking stored outside ROW																																																			
P17 - Erosion Control: Fiber Roll																																																			
P18 - Erosion Control: Fiber Roll																																																			
P19 - Site Protection: Planking																																																			
P20 - Erosion Control: Fiber Rolls																																																			
P21 - Pipe Progress, Pipe Boring Progress																																																			
P22 - Site Conditions: Topsoil Segregation																																																			
P23 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence																																																			
P24 - Equipment: Deere 210 Track Excavator																																																			

Inspector's Signature

## Item Records

**Location:** Just south of wetland avoidance area

**Point Number:** 1

**Photo Number:** 1-2

**Time:** 9:06 AM

**Direction Facing:** NW

**Notes:** Wetland buffer zone and silt fence in place. No evidence of buildup.





**Location:** 130+60 CL

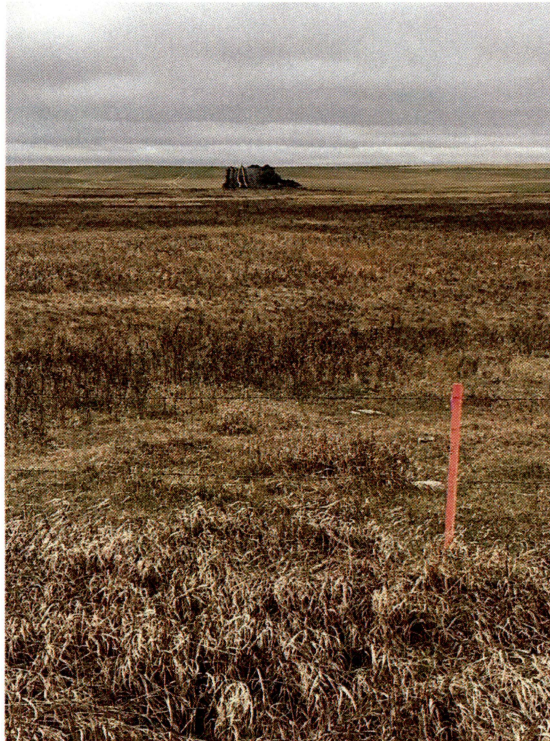
**Point Number:** 2

**Photo Number:** 3

**Time:** 9:08 AM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Wetland undisturbed save for lath denoting pipeline center line. Can see across the way where operations resume.





**Location:** 130+60 ~50 ft off CL RT

**Point Number:** 3

**Photo Number:** 4

**Time:** 9:10 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Topsoil windrow



**Location:** 120+60, 25 'RT

**Point Number:** 4

**Photo Number:** 5

**Time:** 9:12 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Current progress of pipe run heading south.



**Location:** 128+00 10' RT

**Point Number:** 5

**Photo Number:** 6

**Time:** 9:16 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** 6.5" diameter pipe on pedestals and wood chocks to keep pipe clean and off the ground and level for welding.





**Location:** 127+40' 10' RT

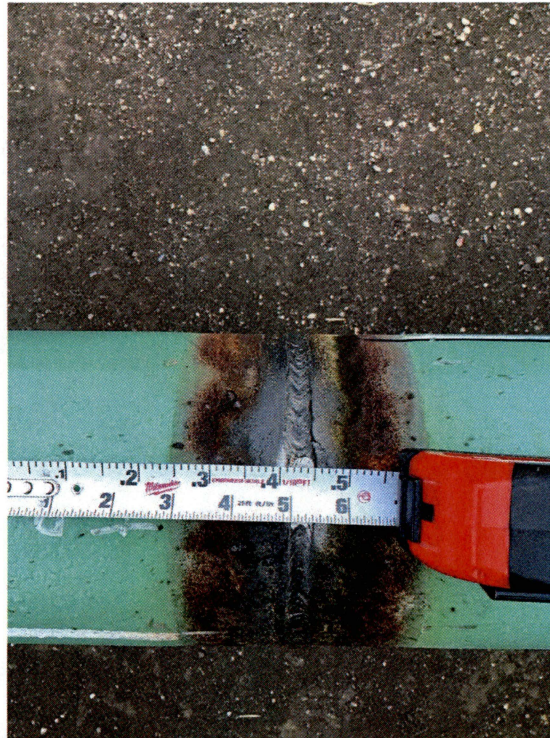
**Point Number:** 6

**Photo Number:** 7

**Time:** 9:19 AM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Pipe weld, 0.5" width



**Location:** 120+30'

**Point Number:** 7

**Photo Number:** 8

**Time:** 9:24 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Crew is using pipe wraps to hold sections of pipe together while waiting to be welded.



**Location:** 120+00 30' RT

**Point Number:** 8

**Photo Number:** 9-10

**Time:** 9:26 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** 1. Crew welding a pipe section together. 2. Crew using a grinder to clean up the welds.





**Location:** 120+00 30' RT

**Point Number:** 9

**Photo Number:** 11

**Time:** 9:28 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** CAT 320 track excavator. Currently has a hook attachment on it to hold the pipe in its elevated state so that crew can weld it to the next section.



**Location:** 66th St. NW pipeline access point

**Point Number:** 10

**Photo Number:** 12

**Time:** 9:40 AM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Site safety: crew has poles and signage up warning about overhead power lines with streamers denoting maximum vertical height of vehicles and equipment.





**Location:** 141+48 CL

**Point Number:** 11

**Photo Number:** 13-14

**Time:** 9:56 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** South view of wetland avoidance area. Silt fence in place with no sign of sediment buildup.





**Location:** 144+48

**Point Number:** 12

**Photo Number:** 15

**Time:** 9:58 AM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Pipe run heading north. All these sections have already been welded.



**Location:** 155+80 outside ROW LT

**Point Number:** 13

**Photo Number:** 16

**Time:** 10:03 AM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Area of concern: planking being stored outside of ROW.



**Location:** Access road to oil facility

**Point Number:** 14

**Photo Number:** 17

**Time:** 10:43 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Fiber roll in place.



**Location:** Curve of access road to facility

**Point Number:** 15

**Photo Number:** 18-20

**Time:** 10:45 AM

**Direction Facing:**

**Notes:** Fiber roll installed north and south of road. Planning to not tear up ditch on north side of road.









**Location:** 19+85 CL

**Point Number:** 16

**Photo Number:** 21

**Time:** 11:14 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Line bored south under access road. Does not appear crew has bored pipe under highway yet. Safety fence is up.



**Location:** 20+10 25' RT

**Point Number:** 17

**Photo Number:** 22

**Time:** 11:16 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Clear segregation between excavated subsoil (right) and stripped topsoil (left)





**Location:** Hwy 23 access

**Point Number:** 18

**Photo Number:** 23

**Time:** 11:20 AM

**Direction Facing:** NE

**Notes:** Silt fence in place for pipe exit point.



**Location:** 102+38

**Point Number:** 19

**Photo Number:** 24

**Time:** 11:35 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Deere 210 track excavator with hook attachment is moving pipe sections into place south of railroad.







## Building a Better World for All of Us<sup>®</sup>

Sustainable buildings, sound infrastructure, safe transportation systems, clean water, renewable energy and a balanced environment. Building a Better World for All of Us communicates a companywide commitment to act in the best interests of our clients and the world around us.

We're confident in our ability to balance these requirements.

