

TC Energy Peace River Mainline Abandonment Project

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Between 2018 and 2020, TC Energy, alongside Trace Associates Inc.(Trace) and multiple subcontractors, completed the decommissioning and abandonment of 266 kilometres of 20-inch outside diameter gas pipeline and a supporting compressor station in northwestern Alberta. The project was regulated by the National Energy Board, predecessor to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER), and was the first-ever federally regulated, large diameter pipeline abandonment order completed in Canada. Representatives from TC Energy and Trace will share our experience and learnings which led to the success of the project, including:

- Years of planning and engagement with various stakeholders required prior to project execution, including the Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation (SLCN), as 9 kilometres of the pipeline were located within the SLCN.
- Designation of various contractors whose integral communication would be imperative throughout the life cycle of the project, including an environmental inspector, environmental consultant (Trace), and physical abandonment and waste management contractors.
- A high-level overview of the project processes, from facility decommissioning and abandonment, soil and material sampling and tracking, extensive data interpretation, management and collaboration, materials classification, from tracking and storage to disposal and recycling.
- The overarching, final success of the project was the ability to address abandoned asset salvage and soil management activities as part of abandonment work completed. This included abandonment salvage and soils management activities at 68 separate sites along the pipeline right-of-way which were confirmed to meet applicable guidelines.
- Due to the first-time nature of the program, there was no precedent or process to interpret, manage, and document pipeline abandonment activities. TC Energy and Trace worked together to develop a comprehensive management system which resulted in a final report to document all aspects of the project for submission to the CER.
- This presentation will provide lessons learned and will focus on a discussion regarding the key elements that led to the success of the project: safety protocols, extensive planning, innovation, and sustainability.

Darcy Bye

Darcy Bye is a Professional Agrologist with over 20 years of experience supporting remedial activities within the oil and gas production and pipeline sectors. As an Environmental Specialist with TC Energy, his role supports federal and provincial permitting and activity compliance for asset locations within Alberta and British Columbia. Mr. Bye provides technical expertise on risk management, technical support to expansion, legacy, and abandonment programs and stakeholder engagement. He is enthusiastic about mentorship opportunities, training and supporting team members and discussions related to pioneering innovative, sustainable remedial strategies.

Jenna Rode

Jenna Rode (nee Felske), B.Sc., G.I.T., is an Environmental Scientist with Trace and has six years of experience in managing and conducting environmental site assessments, remediation, groundwater monitoring, soil vapour extraction, data evaluation, and technical report preparation related to the midstream, and oil and gas industries, and other industrial facilities. Much of Jenna's experience relates to project management and the decommissioning and abandonment of pipelines regulated by the CER. Jenna was the field lead for Trace on the Peace River Mainline Abandonment Project abandonment project.