



CONSTRUCTION FACT SHEET

CONSTRUCTION PROCESS

During the construction phase of the Atlantic Sunrise pipeline project, approximately 8,000 jobs will be created, adding \$870 million in economic value to the commonwealth.

Once operational, Atlantic Sunrise pipeline will help millions of American homes and businesses gain access to affordable, reliable, environmentally responsible and domestically produced natural gas.

A pipeline construction project looks much like a moving assembly line. A large project typically is broken into manageable lengths called “spreads,” and it uses highly specialized and qualified work groups. Each spread is composed of various crews, each with its own responsibilities. As one crew completes its work, the next crew moves into position to complete its piece of the construction process.

THE CONSTRUCTION PROCESS IS BROKEN DOWN INTO TASKS, WHICH INCLUDE:

Preconstruction survey

Before construction begins, crews survey environmental features along proposed pipeline segments. Utility lines and agricultural drainages are located and marked to prevent accidental damage during pipeline construction. Last, the pipeline's right of way (ROW) boundaries are staked.

Clearing and grading

The pipeline right of way is cleared of vegetation. Temporary erosion control measures are installed before any earth-moving activities.

Trenching

Topsoil is removed from the work area and stockpiled separately in agricultural areas. Crews will use backhoes or trenching machines to excavate a pipeline trench. Soil is segregated and stockpiled away from the trench, pipe assembly areas and traffic zones.

Pipe stringing

Individual joints of pipe are strung along the right of way adjacent to the excavated ditch and arranged so they are accessible to construction personnel. A mechanical pipe-bending machine bends individual joints of pipe to the desired angle

at locations where there are significant changes in the natural ground contours or where the pipeline route changes direction.

Welding and coating pipe

After the stringing and bending are complete, the pipe sections are aligned, welded together and placed on temporary supports along the edge of the trench. All welds are then visually and radiographically inspected. Line pipe, normally mill-coated or yard-coated before stringing, requires a coating at the welded joints. The entire pipeline is then electronically inspected to locate and repair any coating faults or voids.

Lowering pipe in, backfilling and testing

The pipe assembly is lowered into the trench by side-boom tractors, and the trench is then backfilled. Once in place, the pipeline is hydrostatically tested following strict federal regulations.

Restoration

As soon as backfill operations are complete, crews will commence cleanup and restoration activities, including completion of final grading and topsoil replacement. The construction right of way will be graded to restore preconstruction contours. The environmental inspector will see that the contours and topsoil are returned to their original condition.