

# Mid-Michigan Pipeline

Modernizing the natural gas system in Ingham, Shiawassee and Clinton counties



## CONSUMERS ENERGY TEAMS WITH MICHIGAN DNR TO PROTECT PARKS DURING SAFE PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Consumers Energy and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) are working closely to minimize impact on the environment and recreational activity as the energy company modernizes its natural gas infrastructure.

Construction started in 2023 with completion of the first phase of the Mid-Michigan Pipeline project, which will replace 55 miles of pipeline in Washtenaw, Livingston, Ingham, Shiawassee and Clinton counties to improve safety and reliability.

The planned construction route for the second phase covers about 25 miles from Williamston to Ovid, passing through the 2,600-acre Sleepy Hollow State Park, about 20 miles north of Lansing.

Consumers Energy is planning jointly with the MDNR to protect the public and the environment while minimizing inconvenience to park and trail users during this important project.

Here are answers to some key questions you may have:

### **Q: What is the construction project and why is it needed?**

**A:** The Mid-Michigan Pipeline is a two-phase, \$550 million effort to improve energy affordability, safety and reliability for customers by replacing 55 miles of natural gas transmission pipeline in Washtenaw, Livingston, Ingham, Shiawassee and Clinton counties. Consumers Energy is replacing vintage 20-inch pipeline dating back to the 1940s with new 36-inch steel pipeline to help move more natural gas quickly, safely and efficiently.

- **Phase 1:** Chelsea to Williamston, 30 miles (Completed 2023)
- **Phase 2:** Williamston to Ovid, 25 miles (2024)

Learn more about the project [here](#).

### **Q: Who must grant Consumers Energy permission to construct this pipeline?**

**A:** The project has been approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Consumers Energy owns the property easement rights that legally provide the space to safely construct, replace and support a natural gas pipeline. In some cases, we'll need to secure additional workspace through easement rights from neighboring property owners to ensure we can complete the project safely.

### **Q: I am a frequent visitor to Sleepy Hollow State Park. Will the park still be open for use?**

**A:** Yes, the park and most amenities will remain open and safe for recreational use. Please watch for, and obey, signs and avoid going too close to construction zones.

**Q: What kind of work will be done in the park? What will I see?**

**A:** Consumers Energy plans a 1.7-mile re-route project to move existing pipeline away from the park's beach area and install replacement pipeline east of State Park Drive. We'll disconnect and cap the existing pipes, which will remain safely buried. Crews of skilled workers from Consumers Energy and the main construction contractor will install the new, larger lines. All employees and contractors will be clearly identified and wearing personal protective equipment, including reflective vests to ensure visibility. You'll also see a variety of heavy equipment and vehicles needed for the work. Please stay alert for both workers and machines during construction.

**Q: How long will construction last?**

**A:** Construction is expected to run from June to September. Each phase of construction must be complete in time for the full pipeline to deliver natural gas for the next winter heating season.

**Q: Will there be any road, trail or campground closures?**

**A:** Yes. To ensure the safety of park and trail users and our employees, we'll need intermittent, temporary closures where the re-routed pipeline crosses Campground Road, primarily for work and equipment crossings. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we work to complete this important project safely. Here are the expected closures:

**Q: How are you working to protect the environment and local wildlife?**

**A:** Nothing is more important to Consumers Energy than protecting the public, its employees and the environment. The company has a long, proud history of environmental stewardship in Michigan.

- With support from the MDNR and local officials, the company has completed a detailed environmental inventory of the project area – including all wetlands, and stream crossings – and is working with applicable federal, state and local agencies to consider all environmental concerns.
- With the help of Eastern Michigan University and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we conducted a study to ensure endangered and protected species of bats won't be present during construction.
- Environmental inspectors will work onsite daily during construction to find and protect any threatened or endangered species and their habitats. They also will help ensure all conservation measures are met to reduce potential impacts on other wildlife.

- A herpetologist plans to help reptiles such as snakes, frogs and turtles that may be affected. During past pipeline construction projects, we've rescued rare adult turtles and turtle eggs from the right-of-way. The eggs were incubated under the care of a herpetologist, and we released the hatched turtles back into their habitat. Learn more [here](#).

**Q: Will any trees have to be removed?**

**A:** Yes. We'll have to remove trees to ensure our crews can perform their work safely and to protect bats and prevent the spread of oak wilt disease. We'll mitigate the environmental impact by working with the MDNR team to carefully select the trees that must be removed. We plan to begin removing trees this winter to remove habitat that may attract endangered species of bats and to prevent the spread of oak wilt, an aggressive fungus that impairs the flow of water to the tree's canopy and leaves. This disease kills thousands of oak trees each year in forests and communities throughout Michigan. Infected trees need to be disposed of in a manner that prevents further infections.

**Q: How will you restore the parks and trails so they're "back to normal" afterward?**

**A:** Consumers Energy will work closely with the MDNR and local officials to decide mitigation and restoration techniques specific to Sleepy Hollow State Park to protect the current species existing in the area and to ensure it is restored to help them in the future.

We plan to work with the MDNR to decide how many acres of habitat to restore with native plants. We plan to use a special pollinator mix to restore construction areas where new pipeline was buried to create new habitat for butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Learn more about those efforts [here](#). Consumers Energy will continue to maintain the easement after the project with periodic mowing to allow continued access to the pipeline area for monitoring and maintenance.

**Q: How will you evaluate the newly installed pipeline to make sure it's operating safely and properly?**

**A:** We'll follow industry best practices by conducting a hydrostatic test to verify the pipeline will operate as expected at a safe pressure. The test involves filling the pipeline with water and slowly pressurizing it. No natural gas will be in the pipeline, and no digging or excavation is usually needed. The testing should not affect neighboring landowners or park users, though we do ask you to stay off the project right-of-way during the 8-hour test period for safety reasons.

**Q: How can I learn more and/or ask questions about the project?**

**A:** There are several ways to find details about the Mid-Michigan Pipeline and the work planned for 2023. You can:

- Visit [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/MidMichPipeline](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/MidMichPipeline)

- Call us at 888-441-0299
- Email us at [MidMichPipeline@cmsenergy.com](mailto:MidMichPipeline@cmsenergy.com)