

Frequently Asked Questions

Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules – Pipeline Applications

April 2016

This document clarifies how to submit pipeline applications under *Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules*. The questions below identify common omissions and errors in applications.

Q1. What are some of the most common errors when submitting a base map?

A1. *Directive 056*, section 6.9.14.1, outlines the requirements for base-map submissions. Common errors include

- submitting a base map that has not been obtained from the AER's Information Distribution Services group (informationrequest@aer.ca; <http://www1.aer.ca/ProductCatalogue/PIPE.html>),
- submitting a base map that is illegible.
- submitting a base map where the line shown does not match the locations given on Schedule 3.1, section 4 (a pipeline must be licensed to its physical start and end points [valve end to valve end]), and
- submitting a base map with lines drawn in the incorrect colours.

Applications that do not meet the requirements of *Directive 056* may be closed.

Q2. What colours should I use when submitting a base map?

A2. Colour requirements are found within *Directive 056*, section 6.9.14.1. Applications that do not meet these requirements may be closed.

Directive 056 does not specify what colours to use when submitting a mapping correction. Therefore, the following practices are recommended:

- Mapping corrections for operating or permitted pipelines should show the new route in red and any portion that needs to be deleted in green.
- Mapping corrections for discontinued and abandoned pipelines should show the lines in green and should identify what portions are being added or removed.

Q3. What are the most common errors when submitting a pipeline right-of-way plan?

A3. *Directive 056*, section 6.9.14.2, outlines the requirements for right-of-way plans. Common errors include

- submitting a partial plan for a new construction (pipeline right-of-way plans must show the pipeline route in its entirety) and
- submitting a pipeline right-of-way plan that is illegible.

Applications that do not meet the requirements identified in *Directive 056* may be closed.

Q4. Are pipeline right-of-way plans where the proposed route is only surveyed to the edge of the lease boundary acceptable?

A4. Yes.

Q5. How should a spare pipeline be applied for?

A5. A new spare line should be applied for with a status of “discontinued,” facility code of “blind-end to blind-end,” maximum operating pressure (MOP) and stress level set to zero, and be shown in green on the base map.

Q6. How should the environment code be shown on line split applications?

A6. For a line split where there is an environment code (e.g. “CC”), enter “00” in the environment (ENV) field on Schedule 3.1 for the segments where the code will no longer apply.

Q7. Should an application to notify of a pipeline discontinuation or abandonment be submitted routine or nonroutine?

A7. The following describes how applications to notify of pipeline discontinuations and abandonments need to be filed:

- A routine application can be submitted if the pipeline was out of service for less than 12 months before the discontinuation or abandonment work being completed and the application is being filed within 90 days of completing the work.
- A routine application with a cover letter can be submitted if the pipeline was out of service for less than 12 months before the discontinuation or abandonment work being completed and the application is being filed more than 90 days after completing the work.
- A nonroutine application must be submitted if the pipeline was out of service for more than 12 months before the discontinuation or abandonment work was completed.

Q8. What is the recommended practice for submitting an application with pipeline tie-ins?

- A8. The MOP, hydrogen sulphide (H₂S) content, and substance for the pipeline being applied for must be compatible with those of the pipelines being tied into.

The applicant should include a cover letter with any application for a pipeline with a facility code of “Pipeline (PL).” The cover letter should include the following information for the pipelines being tied into:

- licence number
- line number
- substance
- MOP
- H₂S content
- status

The applicant should confirm that a pressure control system and overpressure protection will be in place if the MOPs of the connecting pipelines are not within 5 per cent of each other as defined in section 22 of the *Pipeline Rules*.

Where a pipeline with a lower H₂S content is tying into a pipeline with a higher H₂S content, the applicant should confirm that a check valve will be in place and designed for sour service, if applicable.

In cases where the pipeline being tied into is not yet licensed, indicate this in the cover letter.

Q9. In what situations does a routine pipeline application require a cover letter?

- A9. Cover letters are required in the following situations:

- for a pipeline with a facility code of “Pipeline (PL)” (see Q8 for additional information);
- for unlicensed line applications (the applicant needs to provide any known history of the pipeline);
- for discontinuation and abandonment applications where the application is being filed more than 90 days after completion of the discontinuation or abandonment work (the applicant needs to provide the date the pipeline was shut in and the date the discontinuation or abandonment work was completed);
- for line split and abandonment or discontinuation combinations where the application is being filed more than 90 days after completion of the discontinuation or abandonment

work (the applicant needs to provide the date the pipeline was shut in and the date the discontinuation or abandonment work was completed);

- for all applications where the “other” box is checked off on Schedule 3.1 (the applicant needs to identify what changes are being made); and
- for all not constructed applications where the line has a status of “operating” (the applicant must provide an explanation as to how it was determined the line was not constructed).

Q10. Will submitting extra information not required under *Directive 056* help with the review of my routine pipeline application?

A10. Information submitted in addition to *Directive 056* requirements will not be reviewed unless it is a cover letter as noted in Q7 and Q8 of this FAQ. It is recommended that applicants only submit those documents required under *Directive 056* or as noted above.