

Construction Begins

With approvals from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the United States Army Corps of Engineers and numerous state permitting agencies, Sabal Trail Transmission (Sabal Trail) is proceeding with construction of the pipeline. Sabal Trail would like to provide you with information about what can be expected during construction.



Construction staff

The Sabal Trail team will be in the field offices and on construction sites supervising the assembly of the pipeline. Sabal Trail's construction crews will be guided by professionals with years of experience in building natural gas pipelines. We have carefully planned each step of the Sabal Trail project so we can install the pipeline and then restore the area in accordance with Sabal Trail's permits. Sabal Trail is committed to safely constructing the pipeline while having a minimal impact on residents near the pipeline and the environment.

Construction

Construction preparation commenced in August 2016 and construction to begin installing the pipeline started after Labor Day. Sabal Trail recognizes that constructing a new pipeline and facilities may result temporary disruption along the construction right-of-way. Sabal Trail will make every effort to minimize these temporary impacts. Sabal Trail will continue to work with neighbors and communities while being responsive to any concerns.

Construction in any one particular area may typically take six (6) to ten (10) weeks of actual construction activity. There may be some areas where, depending on construction techniques and existing conditions, construction could take longer. Sabal Trail will work with each landowner along the route to help define the extent of construction on each landowner's property as construction progresses.

Inspection

Throughout construction multiple levels of ongoing inspection will occur to ensure compliance with all authorizations, and design and contract requirements. Sabal Trail construction and environmental inspectors, as well as FERC 3rd party monitors, will oversee the day-to-day construction activities. There will also be FERC inspectors, US Department of Transportation inspectors and state environmental inspectors that will periodically be on site to inspect the work and review construction records.

How we build the pipeline

Typically, the installation of the pipeline will follow these steps (note that special techniques are in place for road crossings, stream and river crossings, agricultural lands and sensitive environmental sites):

- Survey and mark the route and authorized work areas
- Clear the work areas of brush and trees
- Separate the top soil (where required)
- Grade the work area to level
- String the pipe along the work area
- Bend the pipe joints (as needed to follow the contours of the terrain)
- Weld sections of the pipe together
- Dig the trench for the pipeline
- Visually inspect and NDE (Non-destructive examination) Inspection of each weld area to verify the integrity of each weld
- Coat the weld with corrosion resistant coating to provide a waterproof seal
- Place the pipe into the trench
- Backfill the trench
- Restore the work areas to pre-construction condition



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Construction is limited to the FERC approved workspace and landowner easements or agreements. Before construction begins in an area, Right-of-Way Agents will review information with the construction team and contractors to let everyone know the provisions specific to each property.

Construction Hotline

To resolve construction-related questions and issues in the most responsive manner, Sabal Trail has established a 24-hour Landowner Hotline that may be reached toll-free at 1-888-596-7732. A representative will respond to your call as soon as practicable, but in any event, within 48 hours of your call.

Construction Disturbances

To the extent possible, Sabal Trail will make every attempt to limit construction to daylight hours. However, there may be areas that require sections of the pipeline to be constructed at night to minimize interruption to traffic flow or to accelerate construction.

As with any type of major construction project, noise and dust are likely to occur. Noise from most construction activities is limited to daylight working hours. Most sounds that will be heard during construction will be from standard construction-type equipment, such as track-excavators, side-boom tractors, dump trucks, etc. Again, Sabal Trail will try to limit noise from most construction activities to daylight working hours.

Dust will be controlled to the extent possible by watering down the construction workspace as needed in accordance with Sabal Trail's FERC approved construction plans. Sabal Trail's inspection staff monitors all working conditions along the right-of-way to attempt to minimize construction disturbance.

Roads and traffic

Sabal Trail has tried to limit the amount of public roads that will be affected by construction activities. Applicable traffic management and signage will be used as necessary. Sabal Trail will attempt to minimize disruption of local traffic patterns, ensure the maintenance of the traffic flow and have safe driving conditions along the pipeline route during construction.

Contractor equipment, materials or workers will need to use public roads to travel to and from the job site. However, this should not have a dramatic effect on the everyday traffic flow.



Blasting

Sabal Trail anticipates rock excavation and/or rock blasting during construction activities may be performed in Alabama and Georgia. If any blasting is necessary, it will be conducted during daylight hours by state-licensed contractors. Sabal Trail's contractors will obtain the required permits, follow the appropriate notification procedures and comply with applicable regulations applying to blasting and blast vibration limits with regard to structures and underground utilities.

Burning

Sabal Trail may, in certain areas, acquire burn permits to dispose of the cleared shrubbery or wooded growth from the construction right-of-way. The contractors will secure the necessary permits for controlled burns and will follow all protocols to ensure safe burning. All burn piles will be limited to the construction workspace.

Restoring

As soon as possible following installation of the pipeline, all affected areas will be returned, as close as possible, to their pre-construction contours. The right-of-way will be restored in accordance with the landowner agreement and the construction workspace will be allowed to return to its original state. The entire work area will be restored in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local permits

Testing

As various sections of the pipeline are completed, backfilled and cleaned, these are filled with water and pressurized to pressures higher than the maximum pressure at which the pipe is authorized to be operated. This "hydrostatic" test pressure is held for a minimum of eight (8) continuous hours and catalogued to ensure the integrity of the pipeline. The nature of this testing could result in increased noise and extended work hours in areas at the beginning and end of each lengthy test section.



Sabal Trail's Right-of-Way Agents will be available throughout construction as well as restoration to respond to landowner questions and concerns. After the landowner and Right-of-Way Agent have reviewed the restoration, Sabal Trail will return to review and evaluate any follow-up issues or concerns.

Safety during construction

In order to protect the public, Sabal Trail's employees, construction crews and the facilities, as well as to safeguard property and the environment, access to construction areas is restricted to those performing the work.

QUESTIONS?
Call the
Construction Hotline
1-888-596-7732

Safety is of the utmost importance. Sabal Trail employees and contractors demonstrate personal commitment to continuous safety. This is especially true during construction as well as in operation. The pipeline will be constructed of high strength carbon steel, manufactured in accordance with U.S. Department of Transportation pipeline regulations and is designed and engineered to protect public safety and preserve the environment. All of Sabal Trail's pipeline facilities will meet or exceed federal requirements. Throughout construction and operation, Sabal Trail has rigorous inspection and testing plans to ensure and maintain the pipeline's integrity.

