

199—9.4(479,479B) Staking and clearing of agricultural land.

9.4(1) *Easement staking.* The pipeline company shall allow the county inspector and the landowner to be present during the staking of the easement. Written notice of the staking shall be provided to the landowner and the county inspector in the same manner as provided for in proper notice to the county inspector. Pipeline construction is prohibited until seven days after the easement is staked unless the landowner waives the seven-day period after the easement staking has been completed. If proper notice is given, easement staking may begin regardless of the county inspector's or landowner's presence on the site.

9.4(2) *Trees and brush.* If trees are to be removed from the easement, the pipeline company shall consult with the landowner to determine if there are trees of commercial or other value to the landowner.

a. If there are trees of commercial or other value to the landowner, the pipeline company shall allow the landowner the right to retain ownership of the trees with the disposition of the trees to be negotiated prior to commencement of land clearing or, if the landowner does not want to retain ownership of the trees, the pipeline company shall hire a forester with local expertise to appraise the commercial value of any timber to be cut for construction of the pipeline. The pipeline company shall compensate the landowner for the full appraised commercial value of any timber removed. The pipeline company shall remove all cleared trees and debris left on or adjacent to the easement.

b. If the trees to be cleared have been determined to have no commercial or other value to the landowner and there is no negotiated agreement between the pipeline company and the landowner for the disposition of the trees in advance of clearing of the easement, removal and disposal of the material shall be completed at the discretion of the pipeline company.

9.4(3) *Fencing.* The pipeline company may remove all field fences and gates, located within the pipeline company's easement, during clearing of the easement and shall construct temporary fences and gates where necessary. Upon completion of the pipeline construction, the pipeline company shall replace any temporary field fences or gates with permanent field fences or gates that are in the same or better condition as those present prior to construction. The pipeline company and landowner may negotiate separate agreements regarding field fences and gates. If livestock is present, the pipeline company shall construct any temporary or permanent fences and gates in a manner that will contain livestock.

[ARC 9089C, IAB 4/2/25, effective 5/7/25]