

CHAPTER 479B

HAZARDOUS LIQUID PIPELINES AND STORAGE FACILITIES

Referred to in §6B.42, 306A.3, 474.1, 474.9, 479.1

479B.1	Purpose — authority.	479B.16	Eminent domain.
479B.2	Definitions.	479B.17	Damages.
479B.3	Conditions attending operation.	479B.18	Venue.
479B.4	Application for permit — informational meeting — notice.	479B.19	Orders — enforcement.
479B.5	Petition.	479B.20	Land restoration standards.
479B.6	Hearing — notice.	479B.21	Civil penalty.
479B.7	Objections.	479B.22	Rehearing — judicial review.
479B.8	Examination — testimony.	479B.23	Authorized federal aid.
479B.9	Final order — condition.	479B.24	Cancellation.
479B.10	Costs and fees.	479B.25	Arbitration agreements.
479B.11	Inspection fee.	479B.26	Subsequent pipeline or underground storage facility.
479B.12	Use of funds.	479B.27	Damage agreement.
479B.13	Financial condition of permittee — bond.	479B.28	Negotiated fee.
479B.14	Permits — limitations — sale or transfer — records — extension.	479B.29	Particular damage claims.
479B.15	Entry for land surveys.	479B.30	Determination of construction damages.
		479B.31	Subsequent tiling.
		479B.32	Reversion on nonuse.
		479B.33	Farmland improvements.

479B.1 Purpose — authority.

It is the purpose of the general assembly in enacting this law to grant the utilities commission the authority to implement certain controls over hazardous liquid pipelines to protect landowners and tenants from environmental or economic damages which may result from the construction, operation, or maintenance of a hazardous liquid pipeline or underground storage facility within the state, to approve the location and route of hazardous liquid pipelines, and to grant rights of eminent domain where necessary.

95 Acts, ch 192, §28; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369

479B.2 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context appears otherwise:

1. “*Commission*” means the utilities commission.
2. “*Hazardous liquid*” means crude oil, refined petroleum products, liquefied petroleum gases, anhydrous ammonia, liquid fertilizers, liquefied carbon dioxide, alcohols, and coal slurries.
3. “*Pipeline*” means an interstate pipe or pipeline and necessary appurtenances used for the transportation or transmission of hazardous liquids.
4. “*Pipeline company*” means a person engaged in or organized for the purpose of owning, operating, or controlling pipelines for the transportation or transmission of any hazardous liquid or underground storage facilities for the underground storage of any hazardous liquid.
5. “*Underground storage*” means storage of hazardous liquid in a subsurface stratum or formation of the earth.

95 Acts, ch 192, §29; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §2695, 2696; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369

Referred to in §214A.1

479B.3 Conditions attending operation.

A pipeline company shall not construct, maintain, or operate a pipeline or underground storage facility under, along, over, or across any public or private highways, grounds, waters, or streams of any kind in this state except in accordance with [this chapter](#).

95 Acts, ch 192, §30

479B.4 Application for permit — informational meeting — notice.

1. A pipeline company doing business in this state shall file a verified petition with the

commission asking for a permit to construct, maintain, and operate a new pipeline along, over, or across the public or private highways, grounds, waters, and streams of any kind in this state. Any pipeline company now owning or operating a pipeline or underground storage facility in this state shall be issued a permit by the commission upon supplying the information as provided for in [section 479B.5, subsections 1 through 5](#), and meeting the requirements of [section 479B.13](#).

2. A pipeline company doing business in this state and proposing to store hazardous liquid underground within this state shall file with the commission a verified petition asking for a permit to construct, maintain, and operate facilities for the underground storage of hazardous liquid which includes the construction, placement, maintenance, and operation of machinery, appliances, fixtures, wells, pipelines, and stations necessary for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the underground storage facilities.

3. The pipeline company shall hold informational meetings in each county in which real property or property rights will be affected at least thirty days prior to filing the petition for a new pipeline. A member of the commission, or a person designated by the commission, shall serve as the presiding officer at each meeting and present an agenda for the meeting which shall include a summary of the legal rights of the affected landowners. No formal record of the meeting shall be required. The meeting shall be held at a location reasonably accessible to all persons who may be affected by granting the permit.

4. The pipeline company seeking the permit for a new pipeline shall give notice of the informational meeting to each landowner affected by the proposed project and each person in possession of or residing on the property. For the purposes of the informational meeting, “landowner” means a person listed on the tax assessment rolls as responsible for the payment of real estate taxes imposed on the property and “pipeline” means a line transporting a hazardous liquid under pressure in excess of one hundred fifty pounds per square inch and extending a distance of not less than five miles or having a future anticipated extension of an overall distance of five miles.

5. a. The notice shall set forth the following:

- (1) The name of the applicant.
- (2) The applicant’s principal place of business.
- (3) The general description and purpose of the proposed project.
- (4) The general nature of the right-of-way desired.
- (5) A map showing the route or location of the proposed project.
- (6) That the landowner has a right to be present at the meeting and to file objections with the commission.
- (7) A designation of the time and place of the meeting.

b. The notice shall be served by certified mail with return receipt requested not less than thirty days previous to the time set for the meeting, and shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The publication shall be considered notice to landowners whose residence is not known and to each person in possession of or residing on the property provided a good faith effort to notify can be demonstrated by the pipeline company.

6. A pipeline company seeking rights under [this chapter](#) shall not negotiate or purchase an easement or other interest in land in a county known to be affected by the proposed project prior to the informational meeting.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §31; 2018 Acts, ch 1160, §28; 2019 Acts, ch 24, §68; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)
Referred to in [§479B.15](#)

479B.5 Petition.

A petition for a permit shall state all of the following:

1. The name of the individual, firm, corporation, company, or association applying for the permit.
2. The applicant’s principal office and place of business.
3. A legal description of the route of the proposed pipeline and a map of the route.
4. A general description of the public or private highways, grounds, waters, streams, and private lands of any kind along, over, or across which the proposed pipeline will pass.

5. If permission is sought to construct, maintain, and operate facilities for the underground storage of hazardous liquids the petition shall include the following additional information:

a. A description and a map of the public or private highways, grounds, waters, streams, and private lands of any kind under which the storage is proposed.

b. Maps showing the location of proposed machinery, appliances, fixtures, wells, and stations necessary for the construction, maintenance, and operation of the hazardous liquid storage facilities.

6. The possible use of alternative routes.

7. The relationship of the proposed project to the present and future land use and zoning ordinances.

8. The inconvenience or undue injury which may result to property owners as a result of the proposed project.

9. An affidavit attesting to the fact that informational meetings were held in each county affected by the proposed project and the time and place of each meeting.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §32](#)

Referred to in [§479B.4, 479B.14](#)

479B.6 Hearing — notice.

1. After the petition is filed, the commission shall fix a date for a hearing and shall publish notice for two consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in each county through which the proposed pipeline or hazardous liquid storage facilities will extend.

2. The hearing shall not be less than ten days nor more than thirty days from the date of the last publication of the notice. If the pipeline exceeds five miles in length, the hearing shall be held in the county seat of the county located at the midpoint of the proposed pipeline or the county in which the proposed hazardous liquid storage facility would be located.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §33](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1041, §127](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.7 Objections.

1. A person, including a governmental entity, whose rights or interests may be affected by the proposed pipeline or hazardous liquid storage facilities may file written objections.

2. All objections shall be on file with the commission not less than five days before the date of hearing on the application. However, the commission may permit the filing of the objections later than five days before the hearing, in which event the applicant must be granted a reasonable time to meet the objections.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §34](#); [2019 Acts, ch 24, §104](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.8 Examination — testimony.

The commission may examine the proposed route of the pipeline and location of the underground storage facility. At the hearing the commission shall consider the petition and any objections and may hear testimony to assist the commission in making its determination regarding the application.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §35](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.9 Final order — condition.

The commission may grant a permit in whole or in part upon terms, conditions, and restrictions as to location and route as it determines to be just and proper. A permit shall not be granted to a pipeline company unless the commission determines that the proposed services will promote the public convenience and necessity.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §36](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.10 Costs and fees.

The applicant shall pay all costs of the informational meetings, hearing, and necessary preliminary investigation including the cost of publishing notice of hearing, and shall pay the actual unrecovered costs directly attributable to inspections conducted by the commission.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §37](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.11 Inspection fee.

1. If the commission enters into agreements with the United States department of transportation pursuant to [section 479B.23](#), a pipeline company shall pay an annual fee of fifty cents per mile of pipeline or fraction thereof for each inch of diameter of the pipeline located in the state. The inspection fee shall be paid to the commission between January 1 and February 1 for the calendar year.

2. The commission shall collect all fees. Failure to pay any fee within thirty days from the due date shall be grounds for revocation of the permit or assessment of civil penalties.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §38; 2018 Acts, ch 1041, §127; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.12 Use of funds.

All moneys received under [this chapter](#), other than civil penalties collected pursuant to [section 479B.21](#), shall be remitted monthly to the treasurer of state and credited to the commerce revolving fund created in [section 546.12](#).

[95 Acts, ch 192, §39; 2009 Acts, ch 181, §56; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §2697](#)

479B.13 Financial condition of permittee — bond.

Before a permit is granted under [this chapter](#) the applicant must satisfy the commission that the applicant has property within this state other than pipelines or underground storage facilities, subject to execution of a value in excess of two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or the applicant must file and maintain with the commission a surety bond in the penal sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars with surety approved by the commission, conditioned that the applicant will pay any and all damages legally recovered against it growing out of the construction, maintenance, or operation of its pipeline or underground storage facilities in this state. When the pipeline company deposits with the commission security satisfactory to the commission as a guaranty for the payment of the damages, or furnishes to the commission satisfactory proofs of its solvency and financial ability to pay the damages, the pipeline company is relieved of the provisions requiring bond.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §40; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

Referred to in [§479B.4, 479B.14](#)

479B.14 Permits — limitations — sale or transfer — records — extension.

1. The commission shall prepare and issue permits. The permit shall show the name and address of the pipeline company to which it is issued and identify the decision and order of the commission under which the permit is issued. The permit shall be signed by the chairperson of the commission and the official seal of the commission shall be affixed to it.

2. The commission shall not grant an exclusive right to any pipeline company to construct, maintain, or operate its pipeline along, over, or across any public or private highway, grounds, waters, or streams. The commission shall not grant a permit for longer than twenty-five years.

3. A permit shall not be sold until the sale is approved by the commission.

4. If a transfer of a permit is made before the construction for which it was issued is completed in whole or in part, the transfer shall not be effective until the pipeline company to which it was issued files with the commission a notice in writing stating the date of the transfer and the name and address of the transferee.

5. The commission shall keep a record of all permits granted by it, showing when and to whom granted and the location and route of the pipeline or underground storage facility, and if the permit has been transferred, the date and the name and address of the transferee.

6. A pipeline company may petition the commission for an extension of a permit granted under [this section](#) by filing a petition containing the information required by [section 479B.5, subsections 1 through 5](#), and meeting the requirements of [section 479B.13](#).

[95 Acts, ch 192, §41; 2019 Acts, ch 24, §104; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.15 Entry for land surveys.

After the informational meeting or after the filing of a petition if no informational meeting is required, a pipeline company may enter upon private land for the purpose of surveying and examining the land to determine direction or depth of pipelines by giving ten days' written

notice by restricted certified mail to the landowner as defined in [section 479B.4](#) and to any person residing on or in possession of the land. The entry for land surveys shall not be deemed a trespass and may be aided by injunction. The pipeline company shall pay the actual damages caused by the entry, survey, and examination.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §42](#)

479B.16 Eminent domain.

1. A pipeline company granted a pipeline permit shall be vested with the right of eminent domain, to the extent necessary and as prescribed and approved by the commission, not exceeding seventy-five feet in width for right-of-way and not exceeding one acre in any one location in addition to right-of-way for the location of pumps, pressure apparatus, or other stations or equipment necessary to the proper operation of its pipeline. The commission may grant additional eminent domain rights where the pipeline company has presented sufficient evidence to adequately demonstrate that a greater area is required for the proper construction, operation, and maintenance of the pipeline or for the location of pumps, pressure apparatus, or other stations or equipment necessary to the proper operation of its pipeline.

2. A pipeline company granted a permit for underground storage of hazardous liquid shall be vested with the right of eminent domain to the extent necessary and as prescribed and approved by the commission in order to appropriate for its use for the underground storage of hazardous liquid any subsurface stratum or formation in any land which the commission shall have found to be suitable and in the public interest for the underground storage of hazardous liquid, and may appropriate other interests in property, as may be required adequately to examine, prepare, maintain, and operate the underground storage facilities.

3. [This chapter](#) does not authorize the construction of a pipeline longitudinally on, over, or under any railroad right-of-way or public highway, or at other than an approximate right angle to a railroad track or public highway without the consent of the railroad company, the state department of transportation, or the county board of supervisors, and [this chapter](#) does not authorize or give the right of condemnation or eminent domain for such purposes.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §43; 2018 Acts, ch 1041, §127; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.17 Damages.

A pipeline company operating a pipeline or an underground storage facility shall have reasonable access to the pipeline or underground storage facility for the purpose of constructing, operating, maintaining, or locating pipes, pumps, pressure apparatus, or other stations, wells, devices, or equipment used in or upon the pipeline or underground storage facility. A pipeline company shall pay the owner of the land for the right of entry and the owner of crops for all damages caused by entering, using, or occupying the lands and shall pay to the owner all damages caused by the completion of construction of the pipeline due to wash or erosion of the soil at or along the location of the pipeline and due to the settling of the soil along and above the pipeline. However, [this section](#) does not prevent the execution of an agreement between the pipeline company and the owner of the land or crops with reference to the use of the land.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §44, 62](#)

479B.18 Venue.

In all cases arising under [this chapter](#), the district court of any county in which property of a pipeline company is located has jurisdiction of a case involving the pipeline company.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §45](#)

479B.19 Orders — enforcement.

If the pipeline company fails to obey an order within the period of time determined by the commission, the commission may commence an equitable action in the district court of the county where the pipeline, device, apparatus, equipment, or underground storage facility is located to compel compliance with its order. If, after trial, the court finds that the order is reasonable, equitable, and just, the court shall decree a mandatory injunction compelling

obedience to and compliance with the order and may grant other relief as may be just and proper. Appeal from the decree may be taken in the same manner as in other actions.

95 Acts, ch 192, §46; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369

479B.20 Land restoration standards.

1. The commission, pursuant to [chapter 17A](#), shall adopt rules establishing standards for the restoration of agricultural lands during and after pipeline or underground storage facility construction. In addition to the requirements of [section 17A.4](#), the commission shall distribute copies of the notice of intended action and opportunity for oral presentations to each county board of supervisors. Any county board of supervisors may, under the provisions of [chapter 17A](#), and subsequent to the rulemaking proceedings, petition under those provisions for additional rulemaking to establish standards for land restoration after pipeline construction within that county. Upon the request of the petitioning county, the commission shall schedule a hearing to consider the merits of the petition. Rules adopted under [this section](#) shall not apply to land located within city boundaries unless the land is used for agricultural purposes. Rules adopted under [this section](#) shall address, but are not limited to, all of the following subject matters:

- a. Topsoil separation and replacement.
- b. Temporary and permanent repair to drain tile.
- c. Removal of rocks and debris from the right-of-way.
- d. Restoration of areas of soil compaction.
- e. Restoration of terraces, waterways, and other erosion control structures.
- f. Revegetation of untilled land.
- g. Future installation of drain tile or soil conservation structures.
- h. Restoration of land slope and contour.
- i. Restoration of areas used for field entrances and temporary roads.
- j. Construction in wet conditions.
- k. Designation of a pipeline company point of contact for landowner inquiries or claims.

2. The county board of supervisors shall cause an on-site inspection for compliance with the standards adopted under [this section](#) to be performed at any pipeline construction project in the county. A licensed professional engineer familiar with the standards adopted under [this section](#) and registered under [chapter 542B](#) shall be responsible for the inspection. A county board of supervisors may contract for the services of a licensed professional engineer for the purposes of the inspection. The reasonable costs of the inspection shall be paid by the pipeline company.

3. If the inspector determines that there has been a violation of the standards adopted under [this section](#), of the land restoration plan, or of an independent agreement on land restoration or line location executed in accordance with [subsection 10](#), the inspector shall give oral notice, followed by written notice, to the pipeline company and the contractor operating for the pipeline company and order corrective action to be taken in compliance with the standards. The costs of the corrective action shall be borne by the contractor operating for the pipeline company.

4. An inspector shall adequately inspect underground improvements altered during construction of the pipeline. An inspection shall be conducted at the time of the replacement or repair of the underground improvements. An inspector shall be present on the site at all times at each phase and separate activity of the opening of the trench, the restoration of underground improvements, and backfilling. The pipeline company and its contractor shall keep an inspector continually informed of the work schedule and any schedule changes. If proper notice is given, construction shall not be delayed due to an inspector's failure to be present on the site.

5. If the pipeline company or its contractor does not comply with the requirements of [this section](#), with the land restoration plan or line location, or with an independent agreement on land restoration executed in accordance with [subsection 10](#), the county board of supervisors may petition the commission for an order requiring corrective action to be taken. In addition, the county board of supervisors may file a complaint with the commission seeking imposition of civil penalties under [section 479B.21](#).

6. The pipeline company shall allow landowners and the inspector to view the proposed center line of the pipeline prior to commencing trenching operations to ensure that construction takes place in its proper location.

7. An inspector may temporarily halt the construction if the construction is not in compliance with [this chapter](#) and the standards adopted pursuant to [this chapter](#), the land restoration plan, or the terms of an independent agreement with the pipeline company regarding land restoration or line location executed in accordance with [subsection 10](#), until the inspector consults with the supervisory personnel of the pipeline company.

8. The commission shall instruct inspectors appointed by the board of supervisors regarding the content of the statutes and rules and the inspectors' responsibility to require construction conforming with the standards provided by [this chapter](#).

9. Petitioners for a permit for pipeline construction shall file with the petition a written land restoration plan showing how the requirements of [this section](#), and of rules adopted pursuant to [this section](#), will be met. The company shall provide copies of the plan to all landowners of property that will be disturbed by the construction.

10. [This section](#) does not preclude the application of provisions for protecting or restoring property that are different than those prescribed in [this section](#), in rules adopted under [this section](#), or in the land restoration plan, if the alternative provisions are contained in agreements independently executed by the pipeline company and the landowner, and if the alternative provisions are not inconsistent with state law or with rules adopted by the commission. Independent agreements on land restoration or line location between the landowner and pipeline company shall be in writing and a copy provided to the county inspector.

11. For the purposes of [this section](#), "construction" includes the removal of a previously constructed pipeline.

12. The requirements of [this section](#) shall apply only to pipeline construction projects commenced on or after June 1, 1999.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §47; 99 Acts, ch 85, §7, 11; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.21 Civil penalty.

1. A person who violates [this chapter](#) or any rule or order issued pursuant to [this chapter](#) shall be subject to a civil penalty levied by the commission in an amount not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation. Each day that the violation continues shall constitute a separate offense. However, the maximum civil penalty shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars for any related series of violations. Civil penalties collected pursuant to [this section](#) shall be forwarded by the chief operating officer of the commission to the treasurer of state to be credited to the general fund of the state and appropriated to the department of health and human services for purposes of the low income home energy assistance program and the weatherization assistance program.

2. A civil penalty may be compromised by the commission. In determining the amount of the penalty, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, the appropriateness of the penalty to the size of the pipeline company charged, the gravity of the violation, and the good faith of the person charged in attempting to achieve compliance, after notification of a violation, shall be considered. The amount of the penalty, when finally determined, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, may be deducted from any sums owed by the state to the person charged, or may be recovered in a civil action.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §48; 2017 Acts, ch 169, §46, 49; 2018 Acts, ch 1160, §29; 2023 Acts, ch 19, §1180; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

Referred to in §479B.12, 479B.20

479B.22 Rehearing — judicial review.

Rehearing procedure for any person aggrieved by actions of the commission under [this chapter](#) shall be as provided in [section 476.12](#). Judicial review may be sought in accordance with the terms of [chapter 17A](#).

[95 Acts, ch 192, §49; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.23 Authorized federal aid.

The commission may enter into agreements with and receive moneys from the United States department of transportation for the inspection of pipelines to determine compliance with applicable standards of pipeline safety, and for enforcement of the applicable standards of pipeline safety as provided by 49 U.S.C. §60101 et seq.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §50](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

Referred to in [§479B.11](#)

479B.24 Cancellation.

A pipeline company seeking to acquire an easement or other property interest for the construction, maintenance, or operation of a pipeline or underground storage facility shall do all of the following:

1. Allow the landowner or a person serving in a fiduciary capacity on the landowner's behalf to cancel an agreement granting an easement or other interest by restricted certified mail to the pipeline company's principal place of business if received by the pipeline company within seven days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, of the date of the agreement and inform the landowner or the fiduciary in writing of the right to cancel prior to the signing of the agreement by the landowner or the fiduciary.
2. Provide the landowner or a person serving in a fiduciary capacity in the landowner's behalf with a form in duplicate for the notice of cancellation.
3. Not record an agreement until after the period for cancellation has expired.
4. Not include in the agreement a waiver of the right to cancel in accordance with [this section](#). The landowner or a person serving in a fiduciary capacity in the landowner's behalf may exercise the right of cancellation only once for each pipeline project.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §51](#)

479B.25 Arbitration agreements.

1. If an easement or other written agreement between a landowner and a pipeline company provides for the determination through arbitration of the amount of monetary damages sustained by a landowner and caused by the construction, maintenance, or repair of a pipeline or underground storage facility, and if either party has not appointed its arbitrator or agreed to an arbitrator under the agreement within thirty days after the other party has invoked the arbitration provisions of the agreement by written notice to the other party by restricted certified mail, the landowner or the pipeline company may petition a magistrate in the county where the real property is located for the appointment of an arbitrator to serve in the stead of the arbitrator who would have been appointed or agreed to by the other party. Before filing the petition the landowner or pipeline company shall give notice of the petitioning of the magistrate by restricted certified mail to the other party and file proof of mailing with the petition.

2. If after hearing, the magistrate finds that the landowner or pipeline company has not been diligent in appointing or reasonable in agreeing to an arbitrator, the magistrate shall appoint an impartial arbitrator who shall have all of the powers and duties of an arbitrator appointed or agreed to by the other party under the agreement.

3. For purposes of [this section](#) only, "landowner" means the person who signed the easement or other written agreement, or the person's heirs, successors, and assigns.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §52, 62](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1041, §127](#)

479B.26 Subsequent pipeline or underground storage facility.

1. A pipeline company shall not construct a subsequent pipeline or underground storage facility upon its existing easement when a damage claim from the installation of its previous pipeline on that easement has not been resolved unless that claim is under litigation or arbitration, or is the subject of a proceeding pursuant to [section 479B.30](#).

2. With the exception of claims for damage to drain tile and future crop deficiency, for [this section](#) to apply, landowners and tenants must submit their claims in writing for damages

caused by construction of the pipeline or underground storage facility within one year of final cleanup on the real property by the pipeline company.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §53](#); [2018 Acts, ch 1041, §127](#)

479B.27 Damage agreement.

A pipeline company shall not construct a pipeline or underground storage facility until a written statement is on file with the commission as to how damages resulting from the construction of the pipeline shall be determined and paid, except in cases of eminent domain. The pipeline company shall provide a copy of the statement to the landowner.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §54](#); [2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369](#)

479B.28 Negotiated fee.

In lieu of a one-time lump sum payment for an easement or other property interest allowing a pipeline to cross property or allowing underground storage of hazardous liquids, a landowner and the pipeline company may negotiate an annual fee, to be paid over a fixed number of years. Unless the easement provides otherwise, the annual fee shall run with the land and shall be payable to the owner of record.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §55](#)

479B.29 Particular damage claims.

1. Compensable losses shall include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

a. Loss or reduced yield of crops or forage on the pipeline right-of-way, whether caused directly by construction or from disturbance of usual farm operations.

b. Loss or reduced yield of crops or yield from land near the pipeline right-of-way resulting from lack of timely access to the land or other disturbance of usual farm operations, including interference with irrigation.

c. Fertilizer, lime, or organic material applied by the landowner to restore land disturbed by construction to full productivity.

d. Loss of or damage to trees of commercial or other value that occurs at the time of construction, restoration, or at the time of any subsequent work by the pipeline company.

e. The cost of or losses in moving or relocating livestock, and the loss of gain by or the death or injury of livestock caused by the interruption or relocation of normal feeding.

f. Erosion on lands attributable to pipeline construction.

g. Damage to farm equipment caused by striking a pipeline, debris, or other material reasonably associated with pipeline construction while engaged in normal farming operations as defined in [section 480.1](#).

2. A claim for damage for future crop deficiency within the easement strip shall not be precluded from renegotiation under [section 6B.52](#) on the grounds that it was apparent at the time of settlement unless the settlement expressly releases the pipeline company from claims for damage to the productivity of the soil. The landowner shall notify the pipeline company in writing fourteen days prior to harvest in each year to assess crop deficiency.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §56, 62](#); [99 Acts, ch 85, §8, 11](#)

479B.30 Determination of construction damages.

1. The county board of supervisors shall determine when construction of a pipeline or underground storage facility has been completed in that county for the purposes of [this section](#). Not less than ninety days after the completion of construction and if an agreement cannot be made as to damages, a landowner whose land was affected by the construction of the pipeline or underground storage facility or the pipeline company may file with the board of supervisors a petition asking that a compensation commission determine the damages arising from construction of the pipeline.

2. If the board of supervisors by resolution approves the petition, the landowner or pipeline company shall commence the proceeding by filing an application with the chief judge of the judicial district for the county for the appointment of a compensation commission as provided in [section 6B.4](#). The application shall contain all of the following information:

a. The name and address of the applicant and a description of the land on which the damage is claimed to have occurred.

b. A description of the nature of the damage claimed to have occurred and the amount of the damage claimed.

c. The name and address of the pipeline company claimed to have caused the damage or the name and address of the affected landowner.

3. a. After the commissioners have been appointed, the applicant shall serve notice on the pipeline company or the landowner stating all of the following:

(1) That a compensation commission has been appointed to determine the damages caused by the construction of the pipeline or underground storage facility.

(2) The name and address of the applicant and a description of the land on which the damage is claimed to have occurred.

(3) The date, time, and place when the commissioners will view the premises and proceed to appraise the damages and that the pipeline company or landowner may appear before the commissioners.

b. If more than one landowner petitions the county board of supervisors, the application to the chief judge, notice to the pipeline company, and appraisal of damages shall be consolidated into one application, notice, and appraisal. The county attorney may assist in coordinating the consolidated application and notice, but does not become an attorney for the landowners by doing so.

4. The commissioners shall view the land at the time provided in the notice and assess the damages sustained by the landowner by reason of the construction of the pipeline or underground storage facility and they shall file their report with the sheriff. The appraisal of damages returned by the commissioners is final unless appealed. After the appraisal of damages has been delivered to the sheriff by the compensation commission, the sheriff shall give written notice by ordinary mail to the pipeline company and the landowner of the date the appraisal of damages was made, the amount of the appraisal, and that any interested party may appeal to the district court within thirty days of the date of mailing. The sheriff shall endorse the date of mailing of notice on the original appraisal of damages. At the time of appeal, the appealing party shall give written notice to the adverse party or the party's attorney and the sheriff.

5. Chapter 6B applies to [this section](#) to the extent it is applicable and consistent with [this section](#).

6. The pipeline company shall pay all costs of the assessment made by the commissioners and reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred by the landowner as determined by the commissioners if the award of the commissioners exceeds one hundred ten percent of the final offer of the pipeline company prior to the determination of damages. The pipeline company shall file with the sheriff an affidavit setting forth the most recent offer made to the landowner. Commissioners shall receive a per diem of fifty dollars and actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties. The pipeline company shall also pay all costs occasioned by the appeal, including reasonable attorney fees to be taxed by the court, unless on the trial of the appeal the same or a lesser amount of damages is awarded than was allowed by the compensation commission from which the appeal was taken.

7. As used in [this section](#):

a. "Commissioner" means a member of the compensation commission appointed under [subsection 2](#).

b. "Damages" means compensation for damages to the land, crops, and other personal property caused by the construction of a pipeline and its attendant structures or underground storage facility but does not include compensation for a property interest.

c. "Landowner" includes a farm tenant.

8. The provisions of [this section](#) do not apply if the easement provides for any other means of negotiation or arbitration.

95 Acts, ch 192, §57, 62; 2000 Acts, ch 1179, §28, 30; 2011 Acts, ch 25, §143; 2018 Acts, ch 1160, §30; 2024 Acts, ch 1170, §369; 2025 Acts, ch 30, §80

Referred to in §479B.26
Subsection 7 amended

479B.31 Subsequent tiling.

All additional costs of new tile construction caused by an existing pipeline or underground storage facility shall be paid by the pipeline company. To receive compensation under [this section](#), the landowner or agent of the landowner shall either present an invoice specifying the additional costs caused by the presence of the pipeline which is accompanied by a written verification of the additional costs by the county engineer or soil and water conservation district conservationist or reach an agreement with the pipeline company on the project design and share of the cost to be paid by the pipeline company during the planning of the tiling project.

[95 Acts, ch 192, §58, 62](#)

Referred to in [§479B.32](#)

479B.32 Reversion on nonuse.

1. If a pipeline right-of-way, or any part of the pipeline right-of-way, is wholly abandoned for pipeline purposes by the relocation of the pipeline, is not used or operated for a period of five consecutive years, or if the construction of the pipeline has been commenced and work has ceased and has not in good faith resumed for five years, the right-of-way may revert as provided in [this section](#) to the person who, at the time of the abandonment or nonuse, is the owner of the tract from which such right-of-way was taken. For purposes of [this section](#), a pipeline or a pipeline right-of-way is not considered abandoned or unused if it is transporting product or is being actively maintained with reasonable anticipation of a future use.

2. To effect a reversion on nonuse of right-of-way, the owner or holder of purported fee title to such real estate shall serve notice upon the owner of such right-of-way easement and, if filed of record, successors in interest and upon any party in possession of the real estate. The written notice shall accurately describe the real estate and easement in question, set out the facts concerning ownership of the fee, ownership of the right-of-way easement, and the period of abandonment or nonuse, and notify the parties that such reversion shall be complete and final, and that the easement or other right shall be forfeited, unless the parties shall, within one hundred twenty days after the completed service of notice, file an affidavit with the county recorder of the county in which the real estate is located disputing the facts contained in the notice.

3. The notice shall be served in the same manner as an original notice under the Iowa rules of civil procedure, except that when notice is served by publication an affidavit shall not be required before publication. If an affidavit disputing the facts contained in the notice is not filed within one hundred twenty days, the party serving the notice may file for record in the office of the county recorder a copy of the notice with proofs of service attached and endorsed, and when so recorded, the record shall be constructive notice to all persons of the abandonment, reversion, and forfeiture of such right-of-way.

4. Upon reversion of the easement, the landowner may require the pipeline company to remove any pipe or pipeline facility remaining on the property. Provisions of [this chapter](#) relating to damages shall apply when the pipeline is removed.

5. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the landowner and the pipeline company, if a pipeline right-of-way is abandoned for pipeline use, but the pipe is not removed from the right-of-way, the pipeline company shall remain subject to [section 479B.33](#), shall remain responsible for the additional costs of subsequent tiling as provided for in [section 479B.31](#), shall mark the location of the line in response to a notice of proposed excavation in accordance with [chapter 480](#), and shall remain subject to the damage provisions of [this chapter](#) in the event access to or excavation relating to the pipe is required. The landowner shall provide reasonable access to the pipeline in order to carry out the responsibilities of [this subsection](#).

[99 Acts, ch 85, §9, 11; 2000 Acts, ch 1139, §5](#)

Service of original notice, [R.C.P. 1.302 – 1.315](#)

479B.33 Farmland improvements.

A landowner or contractor may require a representative of the pipeline company to be present on site, at no charge to the landowner, at all times during each phase and separate

activity related to a farmland improvement within fifty feet of either side of a pipeline. If the pipeline company and the landowner or contractor constructing the farmland improvement mutually agree that a representative of the pipeline company is not required to be present, the requirements of [this section](#) are waived in relation to the farmland improvement which would have otherwise made the requirements of [this section](#) applicable. A farmland improvement includes, but is not limited to, the terracing of farmland and tiling.

[2000 Acts, ch 1139, §6](#)

Referred to in [§479B.32](#)