

For Developers

Basic Information for Developers Working Along Pipeline Rights of Way

The El Paso Pipeline Group's pipelines are always constructed along rights of way, which are long, narrow stretches of land designating a safe and clear corridor for the pipeline. A Right of Way Agreement or Pipeline Easement is a legal document through which the property owner grants the pipeline company permission to use a portion of his or her land to install, operate, and maintain its pipeline facilities. It also provides the company with access rights to and over the rights of way, so employees may inspect and maintain the pipeline after it is built. The El Paso Pipeline Group regularly maintains the rights of way along its pipeline systems to ensure the pipeline remains safe and to protect the area's ecological balance.

The El Paso Pipeline Group works closely with developers who wish to build projects that involve our pipeline rights of way and easements. A developer should provide to the company a description of the proposed project along with drawings that depict a scale plan with proposed grade changes and a ground profile.

To ensure pipeline integrity, a developer may not:

- Erect buildings or any other structures on the pipeline right of way.
- Plant trees or place any other obstructions on the right of way.
- Excavate, change the grade, or impound water within the right of way without approval.
- Move heavy equipment across the right of way without approval.

Although building on the right of way is prohibited, under certain conditions the pipeline may be crossed by roads, railroads, streets, cables, and utility lines. In these instances, the El Paso Pipeline Group will work with the developer to accommodate construction. The developer will be required to pay any costs necessary to ensure the pipeline continues to meet all regulations under the new conditions. Developers who wish to log, blast, excavate, or mine on or near an El Paso Pipeline Group's pipeline right of way will be asked to work closely with the company to ensure safe procedures to protect the integrity of the pipeline.

If you are a developer and would like more information, please contact the El Paso Pipeline Group office nearest you.