

# Underground Gathering Pipeline Naming Guidelines

Industrial Commission of North Dakota  
Oil and Gas Division

## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this document is to assist pipeline owners by providing guidance for naming underground gathering pipeline systems and the pipeline laterals that make up a system. This document describes how gathering systems and pipeline laterals need to be named and segmented in order for the Commission to best manage and track gathering pipeline data. Naming must be consistent in the attribute data for all GIS shapefile submissions from cradle to grave.

## **Nomenclature:**

The naming convention for underground gathering pipeline systems and the pipeline laterals that make up a system all need to be identified using a unique name. The naming hierarchy is as follows:

### **Gathering System Name:**

Certain information will be collected on a system wide level. Crude oil and produced water underground gathering pipeline systems are required to be bonded. All reporting of pipeline data will be dependent on the gathering system name. Therefore, pipeline owners need to differentiate their underground gathering systems and name them appropriately. These systems can be identified and uniquely named based on any criteria the owner chooses (e.g. system names can be based on the geographic region or the fields from which fluids are being gathered). The only requirement is that an individual gathering system must be interconnected.

The gathering system name must be limited to a single hyphen (-), no commas, no backslashes, no double hyphens, or other special characters, and single spaced where necessary. Do not exceed 150 characters.

### **Pipeline Name:**

The pipeline laterals that make up a gathering system also need to have a unique name. Pipeline owners should use pipeline intersections, vertices, or individual GPS points to determine where the individual pipeline segment originates and terminates when naming individual pipelines within a system. As stated above the naming convention is important for the NDIC to manage and track pipeline data. Uniquely named pipelines also assist in communication between the NDIC and pipeline owners.

The naming convention can be chosen by the operator. The simplest example would be to use the pipeline name and sequential numbers to follow (e.g. Pipeline Name 1, Pipeline Name 2, Pipeline Name 3, etc.).

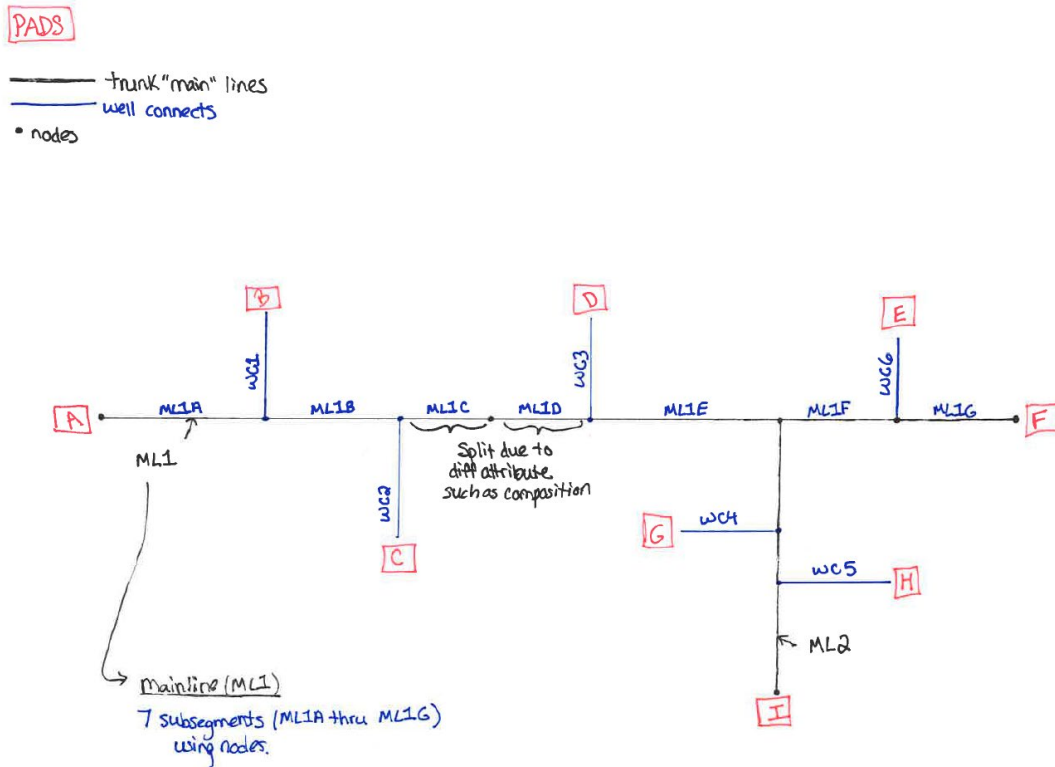
The pipeline name must be limited to a single hyphen (-), no commas, no backslashes, no double hyphens, or other special characters, and single spaced where necessary. Do not exceed 150 characters.

An individual pipeline will have one to many GIS features (segments) to differentiate other attributable changes across the length of the pipeline such as wall thickness.

### Pipeline Data (burial depth):

The data that accompanies each pipeline segment must accurately account for pipeline burial depth changes due to horizontal directional drilling or deepening of the trench during construction. Road and water crossings data must be segmented if the pipeline burial depth is different from other sections of pipeline.

### Segmentation of GIS Features Example



In the example above the pipeline names are ML1, ML2, WC1, WC2, WC3, WC4, WC5, and WC6. The well connects (WC1 through WC6) are made of single GIS segment features but the mainline ML1 has been segmented into 7 features to show attribute changes.

For further guidance on naming of gathering systems and pipeline segments please contact the Oil and Gas Division's Pipeline Program Staff at (701) 328-8020 or [pipelines@nd.gov](mailto:pipelines@nd.gov).