

APPENDIX K

TRENCHING AND WILDLIFE GUIDELINES

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The Trenching and Wildlife Guidelines identifies the measures to be taken by Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC and its contractors to protect wildlife when the trench is open. An open pipeline trench may affect wildlife movement and may result in wildlife entrapment in an open trench. Animals that are commonly affected are small mammals, lizards, snakes, turtles, and tortoises. The following guidelines are intended to minimize the affects on wildlife from pipeline trenches.

1. The amount of trench open ahead of pipe laying and back-filling will be minimized.
2. Trenches will be back-filled as soon as feasible after the pipe has been lowered in.
3. Open trenches will be monitored for entrapped wildlife. Monitoring will occur at least daily and before pipe lowering in and backfilling.
4. Wildlife “escape ramps” will be provided. These ramps may be short lateral trenches sloping to the surface or rough wooden planks sloping from the trench bottom to the trench top. The slope of such ramps will be less than 45 degrees. Ramps will be placed at least every 300 feet. Ramps will also be provided at the end of each section of open trench.
5. Where feasible, leave earthen “trench plugs” or some other simple “bridge” to allow crossing of the ditch by wildlife. “Trench plugs” may also serve as “escape ramps.”
6. When entrapped wildlife is found, it will be removed promptly. If questions arise about how to accomplish removal in a specific situation, the Environmental Inspector will be immediately consulted. Wildlife will be released into suitable, adjacent habitat within 0.25 mile (400 m) of construction traffic activities.
7. All shovel-nosed snakes encountered will be held alive and turned into the Arizona Game and Fish Department for ongoing studies.
8. Wildlife species, location, and numbers of individuals will be documented. This information will be provided to the appropriate land management and wildlife agencies. Photographic documentation may be necessary for some species and in situations where positive identification is difficult.
9. Additional provisions may be required where specific habitats or species rise.