Frequently Asked Questions
Integrated Decision Approach (IDA) Pipelines Shapefile Submissions

June, 2017

Q1. **Why do I get an error when I load and validate a shapefile in OneStop for pipeline applications?**

A1. The shapefile submission requirements for the OneStop for pipeline applications tool are described in the AER *Import Spatial Data Into OneStop Quick Reference Guide* (*QRG*). Common submission errors include the following:

- Choosing the incorrect projection and datum

- Not using the correct schema (attributes), including data types

- Not including the required information—e.g., the Geom_Src attribute value

- Incorrectly naming the shapefiles, as the shapefile names are case sensitive

Please note that the topology and business rules described in the *QRG* are not yet checked at the time of submission, but they are checked either during the review of the application or after it has been approved.

Q2. **What is a shapefile and how does it differ from a base map submission?**

A2. A shapefile is a digital spatial vector data format that represents locations as points, lines, or polygons. The shapefile standard also includes attributes; attributes describe each of the features in the dataset. For more information on the submission of pipeline application shapefiles, see the AER *Import Digital Spatial Data (Shapefiles) into OneStop QRG*.

The pipeline base map is a map product required to support *Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules* pipeline application submissions. This mapping product is available in PDF format for industry to submit with their applications. The pipeline spatial data that supports this base map has been modified by the AER to ensure that each base map is readable.

Q3. **What is the difference between the shapefile submission and the .csv submission?**

A3. The shapefile digital spatial data submission shows the location of the assets being applied for to the AER. Attributes included in the shapefile uniquely identify each feature and describe how the feature was created. The contents of the .csv file focus on the technical aspects of the assets being applied for. Be sure to align the information in the shapefile with the corresponding information in the .csv file.

Q4. **Why are shapefiles being collected with pipeline applications?**

A4. It is more efficient and accurate for industry to submit the spatial representation of the assets they are applying for in a digital spatial data format (shapefile). Manually marking up maps by hand and manually transcribing them into the AER records is time consuming and much less accurate. The shapefiles represent the planned location of the pipeline assets that align with the surveyed boundaries of the leases on public or freehold land.

Q5. **What type information is included in each shapefile submission?**

A5. The most important piece of data included in the shapefiles is the location of the asset. Unique identifiers and an indication of how the location of the asset was determined are also included in the file. This data provides the geographic reference for all future information collected about each asset.

Q6. **How do I create a shapefile if I want to include more than one pipeline segment or installation in one application?**

A6. When an application includes multiple line segments, include each segment as a feature in the same shapefile. Each row in the shapefile attribute table uniquely describes each line segment in the application.

When an application includes multiple installations, include each installation as a feature in the same shapefile. Each row in the shapefile attribute table uniquely describes each installation point in the application.

Reasons for Errors When Submitting a Shapefile

Is the shapefile projection correct?

The AER requires that all spatial data submissions be referenced to the NAD83 datum and projected to the following:

- NAD 1983 10TM AEP Forest
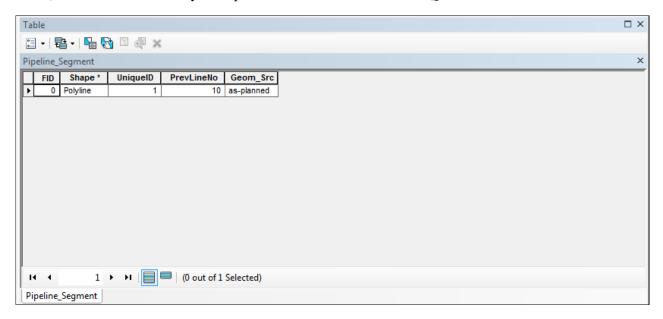- NAD 1983 CSRS 10TM AEP Forest

Please see the *QRG* on aer.ca for further details.

Is the shapefile created with the correct geometry?

The AER requires pipeline segment geometry to be created as a polyline (please do not submit as a polygon), and pipeline installation geometry to be created as a point.

Are all mandatory fields completed in the shapefile attribute table?

The AER requires all mandatory fields to be completed in the shapefile attribute table (see the screenshot below). A list of the mandatory and optional fields can be found in the *QRG* on aer.ca.

Are the shapefile mandatory attribute table fields completed correctly?

The AER requires all mandatory fields to be completed correctly—e.g., UniqueID must be submitted as an integer only. A list of mandatory and optional fields can be found in the *QRG* on aer.ca.

Is the shapefile packaged correctly?

The AER requires all files be included in a zip file. Please submit **separate** zip files for pipeline segments and pipeline installations.

Please **Do Not** submit using a subfolder—the AER requires shapefiles to be placed under the zip file directly.

Only one shapefile must be submitted per application; if multiple pipeline applications are being submitted, please submit as one shapefile.

Packaging instructions can be found in the *QRG* on aer.ca.