



SOUTHERN UTE GROWTH FUND

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

# Topics of Discussion

1. **Background** – Past processes, and the need to properly document the abandonment of pipelines going forward
2. **Review** – Forms and processes
3. **Review deliverables** – What is given to the operators by DOE and what is expected as a deliverable from the operator upon completing the abandonment work



# Background

1. Past pipeline abandonment process was considered maintenance activity and was not standardized. DOE was receiving very little abandonment information
2. Issues related to past process:
  - Environmental impacts from improperly abandoned lines
  - Orphaned lines that were improperly abandoned or exposed. Difficult to track down gatherer/operator because of operator change
  - Safety concerns to the Tribal Membership and public that utilizes the land (homesites, agriculture, grazing, recreation)
  - Release of company responsibility



# New Process


1. The new process is a BIA/DOE driven process
2. Integral part of the decommissioning of the field from a safety and environmental standpoint
3. Accountability for decommissioning work is paramount for responsible future energy development
4. Allows for confidence regarding future land development and conservation of tribal land (grazing, farming, recreation, residential development)
5. Off Lease Pipelines - Process allows for the documentation of proper abandonment and surface compliance in order to release the contract by the Tribe/BIA
6. On Lease Pipelines - Process allows for the decommissioning of on lease pipelines that will be needed for DOE to recommend termination of the lease to the BIA
7. Be able to answer Tribal member questions when asked
8. Inventorying historical pipeline decommissioning work






# Southern Ute Department of Energy




 [Amended & Restated Hydraulic Fracturing Chemical Disclosure Regulations](#)

 [Air Quality Report Form](#)


 [Notice of Intent to Abandon Pipeline](#) Revised 01/19/2022

 [Pipeline Abandonment Checklist](#) Revised 01/19/2022

 [Plug & Abandonment Form](#) Revised 10/22/2020


 [Proposed Maintenance Project \(PMP\) Form](#) Revised 01/19/2022


 [Southern Ute Indian Reservation Hydraulic Fracturing Checklist](#)

 [Southern Ute Indian Reservation Hydraulic Fracturing Notification Form](#)

 [SUIT Spill Report](#)


 [SUIT Standard Operating Procedures for Field On-Sites and Survey Plats](#)


 [SUIT Stormwater Recommendations](#)

 [Well Site Equipment Worksheet](#)


 [Westside Road Designations](#)

### **Example Forms and Reports**

 [EXAMPLE – Approved Notice of Intent to Abandon Pipeline Form](#)

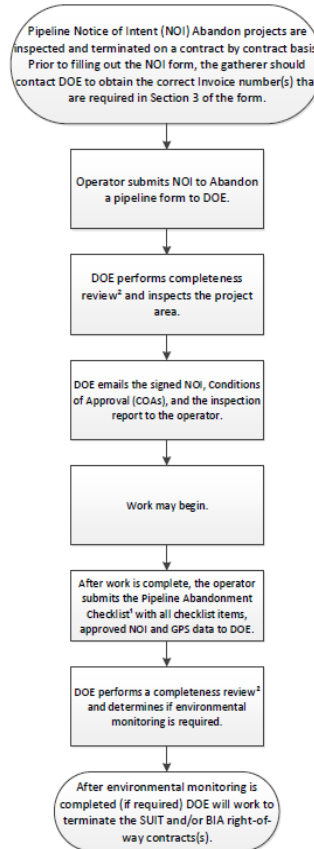
 [EXAMPLE – DOE Pipeline Abandonment Inspection Report – Single PL ROW Format](#)

 [EXAMPLE – DOE Pipeline Abandonment Inspection Report – Multiple PL ROW Format](#)

 [EXAMPLE – Pipeline Abandonment Checklist Binder](#)



Flowchart 14 – Pipeline Abandonment Process



<sup>1</sup> Available on the SUI/DOE webpage.

<sup>2</sup> If there are deficiencies, DOE will contact the operator requesting additional information before proceeding to the next step.





# Section 1

UPDATED 01-19-22

\*ABOVE FIELDS FOR AGENCY USE ONLY\*

ASSIGNED NUMBER: 2021-0002



## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Department of Energy Notice of Intent to Abandon Pipeline Form

**14929 Hwy 172 Ignacio, CO 81137**

The information below is to be sent to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Department of Energy to serve as notification of a ROW holder's intent to abandon or temporarily shut in a pipeline. One Notice of Intent to Abandon Pipeline (NOI) Form is to be submitted to DOE for each pipeline ROW associated with the abandonment project. DOE will conduct a field inspection on the pipeline ROW(s) associated with the NOI Form(s). DOE will notify the operator or ROW holder of the completed inspection and acceptance of the NOI Form(s). Upon completing the abandonment work, the operator will submit items listed in the DOE Pipeline Abandonment Checklist with original NOI Form attached for each approved NOI/ROW associated with the project.

Submit Pipeline NOI Form and Checklist Form information to [abandonpipe@sudoe.us](mailto:abandonpipe@sudoe.us).

### 1. Operator Information

Company Name: Acme Energy Company

Phone: 970-123-1234

Address: 230 Valley View Circle

Mobile: 970-123-4567

City: Durango

State: CO

Zip: 81301

Contact Person: Jane Doe

Email: jd@acmeenergy.com





# Section 2

## 2. Project Intent

### Definitions: Pipeline Status

Permanently abandon: To permanently remove a pipeline from service and will not be put back into service in the future.

Abandon segment: To permanently abandon a segment of still active pipeline and that segment will not be put back into service.

Temporarily shut-in: To isolate a pipeline for more than 6 months, not to exceed 2 years.

### Definitions: ROW Status

Partially abandon: To permanently abandon or abandon a segment of line in a still active ROW (i.e. abandonment of water line but not gas line).

Fully abandon: To permanently abandon all lines within the permitted ROW.

Describe intent of the project

To permanently abandon in place the Acme Water Disposal Line.

This line is 0.35 miles in length and is a produced water pipeline going from the Acme Water Transfer Station (WTS) to the operational Acme Water Trunk Line.

Acme Energy Co. has an active gas line in the same ROW to carry gas from the adjacent Acme Ute #1 well site.

This ROW will be partially abandoned.

The produced water pipeline will be cut/capped where it currently ties into the WTS (S end) and will be cut/capped at the valve can on the active trunk line ROW (N end)

The valve can for the disposal line will be removed.

The water disposal line will be abandoned at a minimum of 30" below final grade.



## Section 3

### 3. ROW Information (One form per ROW/Invoice Number)

Tribal Oil and Gas Lease Numbers:

750-88-1234

\*\*\*The below information is included in your original Grant and/or Pipeline Worksheet.

ROW Name/Invoice Number: Acme Ute Gas Line and Water Disposal Line/ACM-01

Right-of-way is: Off Lease ☐ On Lease ☒

Right-of-way is: 1848 Feet 112 Rods or 0.35 Miles in Length  
40 Feet in Width 1.70 Acres



# Section 4

4. Pipeline Information (for pipelines downstream of custody transfer only)			
<u>2</u> Number of Pipes in ROW			
<u>4</u> Diameter of Pipe #1			
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Gas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Produced Water	Other: _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steel	<input type="checkbox"/> Polyethylene	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiberglass	Other: _____
<u>4</u> Diameter of Pipe #2			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Gas	<input type="checkbox"/> Produced Water	Other: _____	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steel	<input type="checkbox"/> Polyethylene	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiberglass	Other: _____
Additional Pipelines or Other Information:			
Pipeline #2 (Gas/Steel) is to remain operational.			



# Section 5

## 5. Generally Describe Scope of Work Including Proposed Purge & Cap Method Relating to Map Requirements

1. Water will initially be drained by gravity.
2. Compressed air will be used to purge any pockets of produced water from low spots.
3. Connect water truck to line at the tie-in point on the trunk line ROW.
4. Connect air compressor to line at WTS.
5. ACME will verify that valves are properly positioned.
6. Blow down water line and record water volumes received at water truck.
7. Contractor to cut and cap lines so that pipeline will be 30" below final grade.
8. Seed and mulch ground disturbance at cut points.

\*Existing access roads and permitted Acme Pipeline ROW's will be used to access the project area.

\*ACME will provide an updated map of cut points (if necessary) and GIS shapefiles to DOE once the decommissioning work is completed.



# Section 6

## 6. Mapping Requirements for Midstream and Transmission Pipelines

- ☒ Full length of pipeline
- ☒ Legal description
- ☒ Lease boundary
- ☒ Portions of pipeline to be abandoned and or remain active if applicable
- ☒ Cut points and appurtenances to be removed and to remain in place if applicable



### DOE Review and Approval (For DOE Use Only)

DOE Land Review and Approval: ☒

DOE E&P: Richard Gunnar Westerman

#### **Tribal Conditions of Approval:**

Please provide DOE with the items on the DOE Pipeline Abandonment Checklist and address any items that require action on the DOE Pipeline Abandonment Inspection report.



# Topics of Discussion

## **NOI Deliverables:**

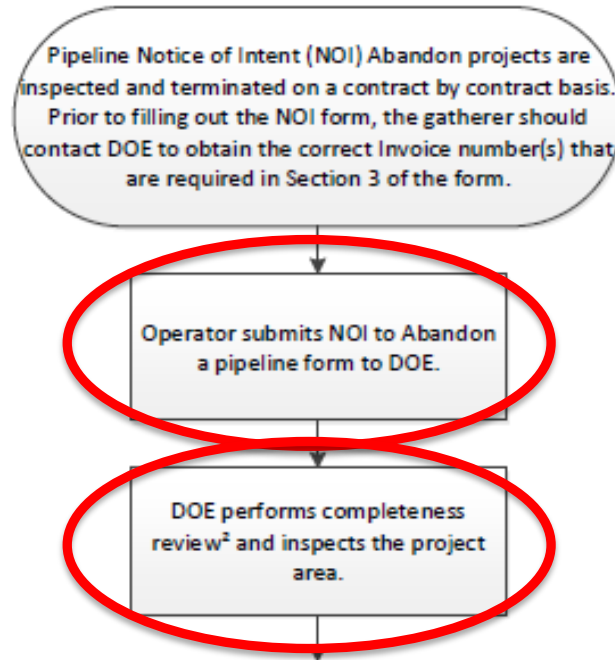
- What the operator will receive from DOE with an approved NOI Form:  
**DOE ROW/Project Area Surface Inspection**
- What the operator will submit to DOE upon completing the pipeline abandonment work:  
**Pipeline Abandonment Checklist Binder**





# DOE Project Area/ROW Surface Inspection

Flowchart 14 – Pipeline Abandonment Process



# DOE Project Area/ROW Surface Inspection

## DOE's ROW Surface Inspection:

- Identifies any surface issues needed to be addressed in order for DOE to make the recommendation to terminate the ROW.
- Focuses on surface issues (erosion, vegetation cover, noxious weeds, exposed pipe, etc.).
- Conducted upon DOE receiving the NOI from operator.
- Final inspection report submitted to operator with approved NOI.
- Two different inspection report formats (both have the same inspection items).
  1. ROW based format: single stand-alone ROW being abandoned.
    - Deficient inspection items & site-specific map for each item.
  2. Project based format: multiple interconnected ROW's being abandoned at one time.
    - Compiles all deficient items identified in the project area/across multiple ROW's into one report.
    - Avoids operator from receiving multiple inspection reports with redundant inspection items for one abandonment project.
    - Shows what deficient items are associated with what ROW/NOI – info. will be needed for final closure documentation (checklist binder).
    - Includes detailed map book showing the location of deficiencies.
    - Goal: make it easier for the operator to understand the scope of work and to document the abandonment work as it is completed.



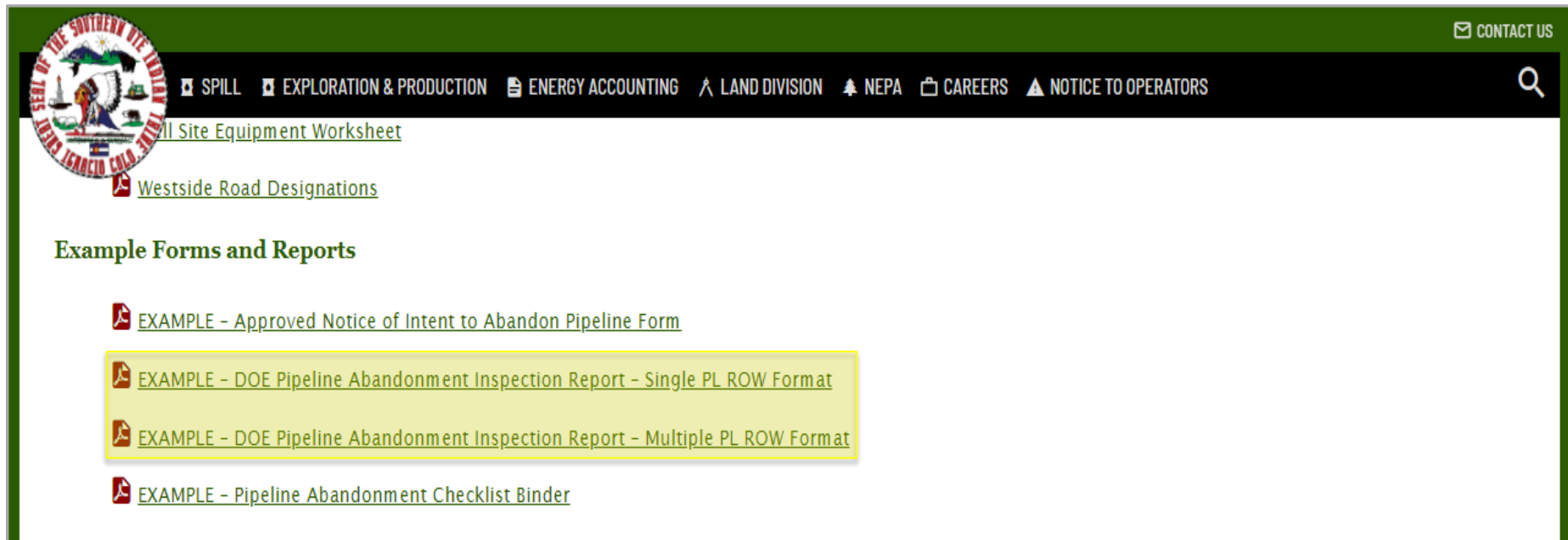
<b>Inspector: Name</b> <b>Title</b> <b>e-mail</b> <b>Phone # (office/cell)</b>		<b>Date Inspected:</b>	<b>Operator:</b> <b>Attendees:</b>	
<b>Lease #:</b>		<b>Pipeline Invoice #:</b>		
<b>Site Name and NOI #:</b>		<b>Legal Description:</b>		
Item #	Pipeline Abandonment Inspection Items	Item Present/Status	Condition	Requires Action/ See Narrative
1	Pipeline appurtenances present on ROW?			
2	Exposed pipe in the pipeline ROW?			
3	Are there locations such as drainage crossings where pipeline depth will need to be verified?			
4	Need for soil sampling?			
5	Need to restore the landform to match adjacent topography?			
6	Overall site stability			
7	All non-natural BMPs have been removed			
8	Undesirable vegetation/noxious weeds controlled			
9	Site has reached 70% desirable perennial vegetation when compared to surrounding area			
10	All pipeline appurtenances removed, exposed pipelines removed, and operator has asserted all pipelines abandoned in place are >30" below final grade, flushed and capped.			
11	Other:			




# DOE Project Area/ROW Surface Inspection

**\*\*See Inspection Report Examples available on DOE's website.\*\***

<https://www.suitdoe.com/exploration-production/>



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[SPILL](#) [EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION](#) [ENERGY ACCOUNTING](#) [LAND DIVISION](#) [NEPA](#) [CAREERS](#) [NOTICE TO OPERATORS](#)

[All Site Equipment Worksheet](#)

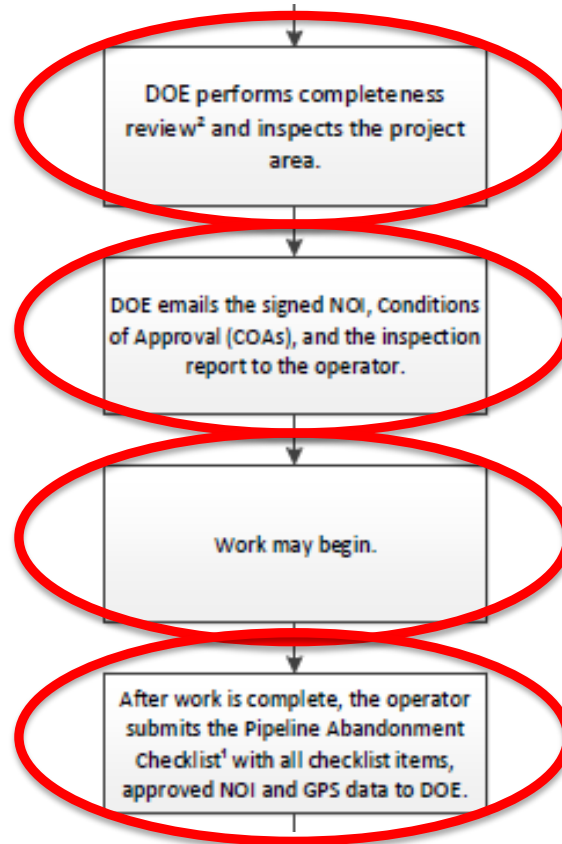
[Westside Road Designations](#)

### Example Forms and Reports

- [EXAMPLE - Approved Notice of Intent to Abandon Pipeline Form](#)
- [EXAMPLE - DOE Pipeline Abandonment Inspection Report - Single PL ROW Format](#)
- [EXAMPLE - DOE Pipeline Abandonment Inspection Report - Multiple PL ROW Format](#)
- [EXAMPLE - Pipeline Abandonment Checklist Binder](#)



# Inspection, NOI Form Approval, Work Conducted, & Work Documented



# Pipeline Abandonment Checklist

- Goal: to adequately document the proper abandonment of the pipeline so DOE can make the recommendation to terminate the ROW contract.
- A checklist that outlines the information/documentation the operator will need to provide to DOE upon completing the abandonment work.
- One checklist binder is to be submitted per approved NOI.
- Needs to include any documentation of completed work as requested in DOE's surface inspection.
- The checklist binder needs to have sufficient detail (i.e., if information cannot be provided for an inspection/checklist item, DOE needs to know the "why").  
\*\* the more detail the better\*\*





## Southern Ute Indian Tribe Department of Energy Pipeline Abandonment Checklist

**14929 Hwy 172 Ignacio, CO 81137**

This checklist with original Notice of Intent to Abandon Pipeline (NOI) Form and all attachments are to be sent to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe's Department of Energy. Prior to DOE submitting a recommendation to the BIA to terminate the ROW an inspection may be conducted upon completion of the items on this checklist. Termination will not be approved until the ROW is stable and has the appropriate amount of desirable vegetation. Please submit this checklist with checklist items to SUIT DOE at: [abandonpipe@sudoe.us](mailto:abandonpipe@sudoe.us).

**Form Checklist (All information on checklist must be present for contract termination to be accepted; attach documentation)**

☐

**#1** Accepted NOI

☐

**#2** Dates work was performed.

☐

**#3** Provide verification that all water, oil and gas pipelines have been fully drained; and if necessary in order to prevent a hazardous atmosphere; purged with air or inert gas; cut and sealed; at all end connections; and all portions of pipeline that are abandoned in place are greater than 30" below final grade.

☐

**#4** Photo documentation of cut points demonstrating pipe has been properly capped.

☐

**#5** Photo documentation that surface appurtenances have been removed.

☐

**#6** Photo documentation of seeding/mulching as needed and performed.

☐

**#7** Provide aerial map and shapefile detailing decommissioning work (i.e. cut points, abandoned lines in place, etc.).

☐

**#8** Documentation for addressing ROW surface inspection items.

**\*\*No updated map needed if the original NOI map is accurate.\*\***

**Additional Comments**





# Pipeline Abandonment Checklist – Options for Submitting to DOE

- File sizes permitted by email: [abandonpipe@sudoe.us](mailto:abandonpipe@sudoe.us).
- File sizes too large for email: DOE's Microsoft Share Point Site.

SharePoint

Search this library

GS GF-SUDOE-Pipeline-Abandonment-Checklist-Submittal

Home

Company-A

Company-B

Site contents

Recycle bin

Edit

+ New

Upload

Edit in grid view

Sync

Add shortcut to OneDrive

Export to Excel

Power Apps

Automate

Company-B

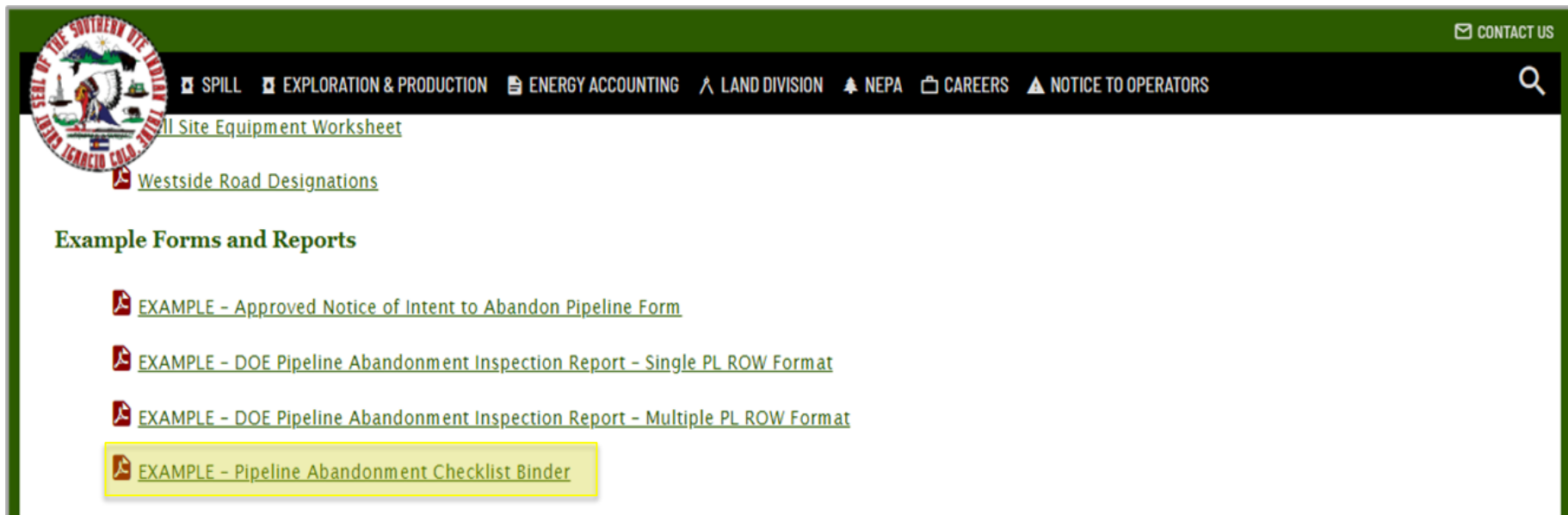
Name	Modified	Modified By	+ Add column
Book.xlsx	3 hours ago	Lansing-suss, Quanah	
Company B doc 1.docx	3 hours ago	Lansing-suss, Quanah	



# Pipeline Abandonment Checklist

**\*\*See Pipeline Abandonment Checklist Binder example available on DOE's website.\*\***

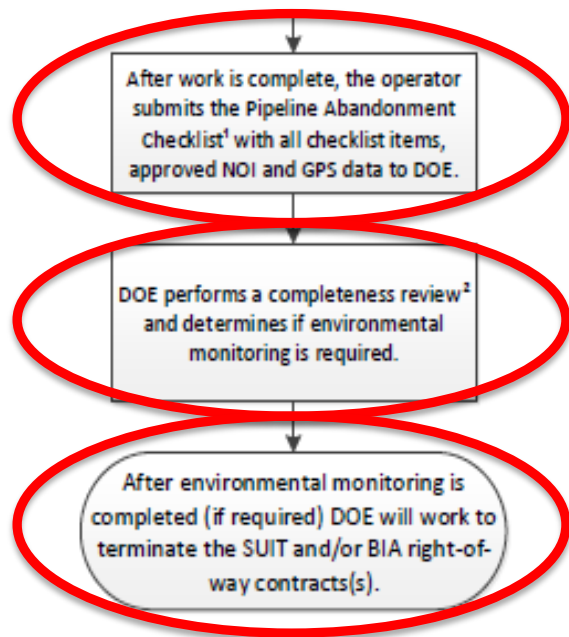
[Exploration & Production – Southern Ute Department of Energy \(suitdoe.com\)](http://suitdoe.com)



The screenshot shows the Southern Ute Department of Energy website. The header features the department's seal on the left and a navigation bar with links: SPILL, EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION, ENERGY ACCOUNTING, LAND DIVISION, NEPA, CAREERS, and NOTICE TO OPERATORS. A 'CONTACT US' link is in the top right. Below the navigation bar, the 'All Site Equipment Worksheet' and 'Westside Road Designations' are listed. The 'Example Forms and Reports' section contains four links, each preceded by a document icon: 'EXAMPLE – Approved Notice of Intent to Abandon Pipeline Form', 'EXAMPLE – DOE Pipeline Abandonment Inspection Report – Single PL ROW Format', 'EXAMPLE – DOE Pipeline Abandonment Inspection Report – Multiple PL ROW Format', and 'EXAMPLE – Pipeline Abandonment Checklist Binder'. The last link is highlighted with a yellow background.



# Checklist Binder Processed, ROW Considered for Termination



<sup>1</sup> Available on the SUI DOE webpage.

<sup>2</sup> If there are deficiencies, DOE will contact the operator requesting additional information before proceeding to the next step.



# Thank You!

## Questions?

