

Answer: My dad started the company in 1992, I've been handling most of the day-to-day operations since 2010.

6. What is your employment history with Brandenburg Drainage?

Answer: I have worked within the company since it began, and have been working around drain tile since I was eight years old.

7. What is your personal experience with farming and drain tile repair and installation?

Answer: My grandfather was a lifelong farmer and my uncle still operates those farms today. I have done all aspects of tile installation and repair from local farm fields to pipeline right-of-ways in seven different states.

8. What is your relationship with Navigator Heartland Greenway LLC?

Answer: I was contacted by Navigator at the end of 2022 when they were developing a list of local and regional drain tile service providers in anticipation of constructing the Heartland Greenway pipeline. I was later retained to provide consulting services related to drain tile repair and restoration, including review of their respective plans and to provide expert witness testimony on an as needed basis.

9. In your experience in pipeline work and drain tile repairs, what methods can be used to identify the location of drain tile in advance of ground disturbing activities?

Answer: We use maps from landowners when available. If maps are unavailable or not provided by the landowner, we can often identify likely locations based on years of experience in the industry combined with review the topography of the land and history of tile installation in that area.

10. If a drain tile that is flowing water is severed when excavating the trench for a pipeline, does the severance create a trench full of water as Mr. McKean stated on page 5 lines 16-17 of his testimony?

Answer: If a temporary repair is not made, it would. But to avoid this, temporary repairs are made upon severing a flowing drain tile line. This consists of installing a conduit of pvc or other pipe by tying it into the severed ends on either side of the trench for the water to flow through. The temporary conduit is meant to be in place only while the trench is open to continue the flow of water through the tile line and avoid large amounts of water from entering the trench line until a permanent repair can be made. Excess water that may accumulate in the trench from precipitation, from severing the tile line, or from shallow groundwater can be effectively managed by dewatering the trench. Navigator addresses trench dewatering practices in its Environmental Construction Guidance Document.

11. Are you aware of a practice of capping severed drain tile lines as discussed on lines 19-20 of Mr. McKean's testimony?

Answer: No, severed tile lines are not capped during pipeline construction for the reason Mr. McKean's states, they could back up water resulting in impacts in the tile lines upstream of the pipeline trench, or a cap could blow out causing water to enter the trench unnecessarily. The proper way to manage this is to perform a temporary repair on any drain tile lines which have flowing water, or which may have flowing water once severed and before permanent repairs are expected. For tile lines that are dry when severed and expected to remain dry for the time needed for construction, we would install a screen mesh at the severed ends. This prevents soil, sediment, and even small animals from entering the drain tile system which could pose problems when or after performing a permanent repair.

12. Do you have experience with drain tile installation and repair in the “prairie pothole region” of the Midwest as discussed in Mr. McKean’s testimony on page 6?

Answer: Yes, the prairie pothole region extends through parts of Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota in the Midwest and Brandenburg and I have worked in some of these areas. We have successfully repaired drain tile in this and other geophysical areas.

13. In your experience can and are severed drain tile lines successfully repaired following pipeline installation?

Answer: Yes, that is Brandenburg Drainage’s primary service as a company. We have successfully worked with many union and non-union contractors in this capacity and even performed our own drain tile repairs on pipeline projects we have completed.

14. Please explain the measures you take in performing a permanent drain tile repair.

Answer: Once the pipe is lowered in and backfilled permanent repairs can be made. We start by exposing and taking elevation shots of each end of the tile line to know for sure what way it is flowing. Next we determine how much of the tile is damaged within the right of way (by camera, probe or whatever method the client requires), then we start at the lowest point of the repair and begin replacement from lower end to upper end. When we get to the pipeline ditch we dig down to the top of the pipe and install the sandbags (for support) to the flowline of the repair. Then we install the steel pipe (for support across the pipeline ditch) and lastly finish installing the plastic tile and make all connections.

15. Do you know if Navigator intends to implement the methods for identification of drain tile and the temporary and permanent repair measures you have discussed in your testimony?

Answer: Yes, I've reviewed their drain tile specification, their SD Agricultural Protection Plan, relevant sections of their Environmental Construction Guidance Document, and even the relevant section of their Iowa Agricultural Land Restoration plan, all of which address measures for drain tile management during and even after construction.

16. Have you ever been called back to repair a tile line where initial repair efforts for permanent repair may not have been successful?

Answer: Yes, on occasion an initial repair may not be successful at some point after restoration for one reason or another. In my experience the contractor or pipeline operator has contacted us to repair a drain tile after construction was complete. I understand from discussions with Navigator that they are committed to repairing all damages that result from installation of their pipeline. Sometimes, we are retained by the landowner who experienced an issue with a drain tile repair and understand that the company reimburses the landowner for the cost and damages related to this. I will note that having to repair a drain tile line a second time is the exception and not typical as our methods of permanent repair are highly successful.

17. In your capacity as a drain tile installation company, have you ever installed a drain tile system on lands that contained existing pipelines, (water, sewer, natural gas, wind farm electric lines, etc.) or turned down a drain tile installation job due to the presence of an existing pipeline as Mr. McKean claims installation companies would do on pages 6 and 7 of his testimony?

Answer: There are multiple existing pipelines in my local area, and we have worked around all of them. Brandenburg Drainage has never turned down a project because of existing utilities in a field.

18. Does this conclude your prepared testimony?

a. Yes, it does.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2023.

/s/ Steve Brandenburg
Steve Brandenburg