

Work

● CONTINUED from Page A1

out now — those selected will have to submit the routes they expect to use to the county for approval.

Any contractors need to provide bonds to cover the cost of completely repairing the roads used, Bellina said.

“If, when you’re done, everything’s in the condition it was in when you started, you’ll get your money back,” he said. “If it’s not, the commissioners will have money set aside from the contractors doing the damage to repair the road.”

The 42-inch, high-pressure pipeline will run from Joliet, Ill., to Dawn, Ontario, Canada, with 22.9 miles laid in LaPorte County. The line will run through the northern portion of the county, roughly along the Interstate 80/90 corridor, but not inside the toll road right of way.

So far, Henderson said, Vector has obtained 86 percent of its right of way and 110-foot temporary construction easements from individual landowners.

“We’re continuing to close agreements daily,” he said.

Since construction in LaPorte County is set to begin in May, “We’re trying to get it wrapped up as soon as possible,” he said.

Despite reassurances workers will restore the land as closely as possible to its preconstruction state, some landowners have opposed the pipeline coming across their land because of some damage, such as cutting 100-year-old trees, is irreparable.

When Vector conducted a public hearing in the county last fall, residents made complaints, saying promises made by one Vector employee were not upheld by others and they received threats of having their homes condemned.

Vector officials’ response was they would try to work with landowners, and they agreed some problems, such as employees not calling before showing up at a homeowner’s door, should not occur.

However, their certificate to construct the interstate line ultimately gives them the right to the land.