

In a recent communication, dated April 20, 2022, filed with the IUB by ISG (the preferred testing/inspection service recommended to the Iowa Counties by Summit), ISG addressed ruts left in the fields by pipeline construction activity. A depth of 12" was noted as the depth permitted. This clearly demonstrates the failure by ISG to understand the concerns of farmers. A 12" rut is an indication of significant compaction of earth in the field, compaction which impacts absorption of water and prevents proper drainage in the field resulting in erosion. Additionally, the creation of ruts of this depth suggests greater damage to the existing subsurface tiling.

ISG's failure to understand the needs of the farming community and the clear bias towards the constructors that will be invading the farmers' fields is a great concern. The fortunes of the pipeline companies clearly is of greater import to Summit and their preferred inspectors than the livelihood of Iowa farmers, whose land they propose to invade and occupy with the proposed pipeline.