



Ontario

Ontario Energy Board
Commission de l'énergie
de l'Ontario

OEB Energy East Consultation



Consultation Plan

Created: March 3rd, 2014

1. Foreword

This consultation plan provides an introduction to the OEB Energy East Consultation, the principles that inform this consultation process, and an overview of the two-part approach. It also includes a list of the key audiences that will be engaged through the consultation process, details of the various engagement activities, and the process by which input received through these activities will be summarized and documented.

This consultation plan is intended to be a living document – the Ontario Energy Board will seek feedback from the public, First Nations and Métis, and stakeholders regarding the consultation process and may modify the consultation plan in order to respond to feedback received or changing conditions. The timing of the consultation activities will be responsive to the availability of information provided by the proponent of the Energy East Pipeline, TransCanada PipeLines Limited, as part of its application to the National Energy Board.

2. Introduction to the OEB Energy East Consultation

In November 2013, Ontario's Minister of Energy asked the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) to examine and report on TransCanada PipeLines Limited's proposed Energy East Pipeline from an Ontario perspective.

The Minister has asked that the OEB consider the implications of four areas of potential impact of TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline:

- The impacts on Ontario natural gas consumers in terms of prices, reliability and access to supply, especially for those consumers living in eastern and northern Ontario
- The impacts on pipeline safety and the natural environment in Ontario
- The impacts on Aboriginal communities in Ontario, in particular how treaty and Aboriginal rights may be affected
- The short and long term economic impacts of the project in Ontario

The Government of Ontario intends to participate as an intervenor in the **National Energy Board's (NEB)** review of the Energy East Pipeline project and the Minister will use the OEB's report to help formulate the Government's position.

The decision to approve the proposed Energy East Pipeline is entirely the responsibility of the NEB and the federal cabinet.

To support the preparation of the report, the Minister asked the OEB to consult with Ontarians. This consultation process will provide a forum for Ontarians to express their views on the proposed Energy East Pipeline. These views will inform the OEB's report to the Minister.

3. The Principles that Inform the OEB Energy East Consultation

The OEB Energy East Consultation process will be driven by the following principles:

Accountability

Accountability to participants will be maintained by providing accurate, timely information through the consultation process and by demonstrating how participants' views and perspectives have informed the report of the Ontario Energy Board.

Clarity

The purpose and scope of the consultation process will be clearly communicated and roles and responsibilities will be clearly defined, including:

- those of the public, First Nations and Métis, and stakeholders, and others in sharing their thoughts and perspectives on the proposed Energy East Pipeline
- those of the Ontario Energy Board in listening to participants' feedback and crafting a report to the Ministry of Energy informed by this input.

Openness and Inclusivity

The consultation process will be open to any member of the public, member of a First Nation or Métis community, or stakeholder group that wants to be involved. The consultation process will be broadly representative, encouraging a broad cross-section of Ontarians to share their views and perspectives, and hear those of others. Consultation materials and information will be made publicly available through the project website and other appropriate means.

Flexibility

The consultation process will accommodate the needs of participants taking into account their different abilities, areas of expertise, geographic distribution, and availability. The timing of consultation activities will be responsive to the availability of information provided by the proponent of the Energy East Pipeline, TransCanada PipeLines Limited, as part of its application to the National Energy Board.

Evaluation

Throughout the OEB Energy East Consultation, the Ontario Energy Board will seek feedback from the public, First Nations and Métis, and stakeholders regarding the consultation process and may modify the consultation plan in order to respond to feedback received or changing conditions.

4. The Consultation Approach

The OEB Energy East Consultation will take place in two parts. In Part One – ***The Impacts Important to Ontarians*** – the OEB will do two things:

- seek the views of Ontarians on the types of impacts (both positive and negative) that are important to them;
- share a high-level view of the key considerations and the potential impacts of TransCanada's Energy East proposal in Ontario, drawing on existing documentation related to other pipeline projects and the professional expertise of a small team of technical advisors.

Participants' views and perspectives in this part of the consultation process will help inform the work undertaken in preparation for Part Two of the consultation process.

In Part Two of the consultation process – *The OEB's Understanding of the Impacts* – the OEB will do two things:

- share its preliminary understanding of the impacts, informed both by participants' Part One feedback and by a technical assessment of TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline based on information that will be filed with the NEB;
- seek participants' input on this preliminary understanding.

The input during this second part will assist and inform the OEB in the completion of its report to the Minister of Energy regarding the matters outlined in the Minister's November 2013 Letter. The Government of Ontario intends to participate as an intervenor in the National Energy Board's (NEB) review of the Energy East Pipeline project and the Minister will use the OEB's report to help formulate the Government's position.

5. Key Audiences

In order to provide a forum in which all Ontarians can be engaged and to ensure that a broad range of views and perspectives are heard, the consultation process has identified a number of key audiences, including:

- The public, and in particular those communities located along the route of the proposed Energy East Pipeline
- First Nations and Métis
- Province-Wide Stakeholders

6. Engagement Activities

Community Discussions

One of the four areas of potential impact that the Minister of Energy requested the OEB examine is the impacts on local communities. These impacts will be assessed in part by holding community discussions along the path of the existing pipeline, and where new construction is proposed.

First Nation and Métis Meetings

To better understand the potential impact on treaty and Aboriginal rights, there will be specific meetings for First Nation and Métis communities. These meetings will focus on issues that are of particular concern to Aboriginal communities and while they may cover extensive discussions on treaty and Aboriginal rights there will be opportunity to discuss economic impacts on communities that may result from the pipeline project. This process is not a substitute for the obligation for consultation and accommodation by the federal Crown.

Province-Wide Stakeholder Forum

Organizations representing a variety of sectors from across Ontario have been asked to participate in a series of stakeholder forums. The sectors include: the academic community, agriculture, business, construction, electricity utilities, environment, industrial and institutional gas consumers, landowners, mining, municipalities, the oil and gas industry, public health, residential gas consumers, social action and tourism.

Stakeholder forums will provide a forum where these organizations can provide the OEB Energy East team with their perspectives and advice. Province-wide stakeholders will be asked for their advice on the consultation process and the sufficiency of the information that will be provided to all participants in the consultation process, as well as for their perspectives on the potential impacts of TransCanada's Energy East proposal.

Stakeholder Session on Potential Impacts and Benefits

Between Part One and Part Two of the consultation process, the OEB will be organizing an opportunity for stakeholders to make presentations to the OEB, reflecting stakeholders' perspectives on the potential impacts (both positive and negative) of TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline. Other stakeholder organizations, members of the public, and First Nation and Métis representatives will be able to attend these presentations.

Project Website

The project website (www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/oebenergyeast) will play a key role in enabling public, First Nations and Métis, and stakeholder engagement by hosting information and materials (e.g. presentations, background reports, discussion guides, etc.), providing updates, and providing an online feedback mechanism for Ontarians to provide comments during both parts of the consultation process. The project website will also host the summary reports of all public, First Nations and Métis, and stakeholder forums as they become available.

Discussion Guides/Conversation Toolkits

In both Part One and Part Two of the consultation process, discussion guides will be used to provide the objectives of the process, a concise summary of information related to the process, and to elicit the views and perspectives of Ontarians through a series of focus questions. These discussion guides will be used at all public, First Nations and Métis, and stakeholder forums; will be distributed to those who have signed up for e-updates; and will be available on the project website.

A conversation toolkit will accompany each discussion guide. This toolkit will contain a set of suggestions on how Ontarians can use the information and focus questions in the discussion guide to initiate and document their own conversations with friends, neighbours and colleagues.

Written Submissions

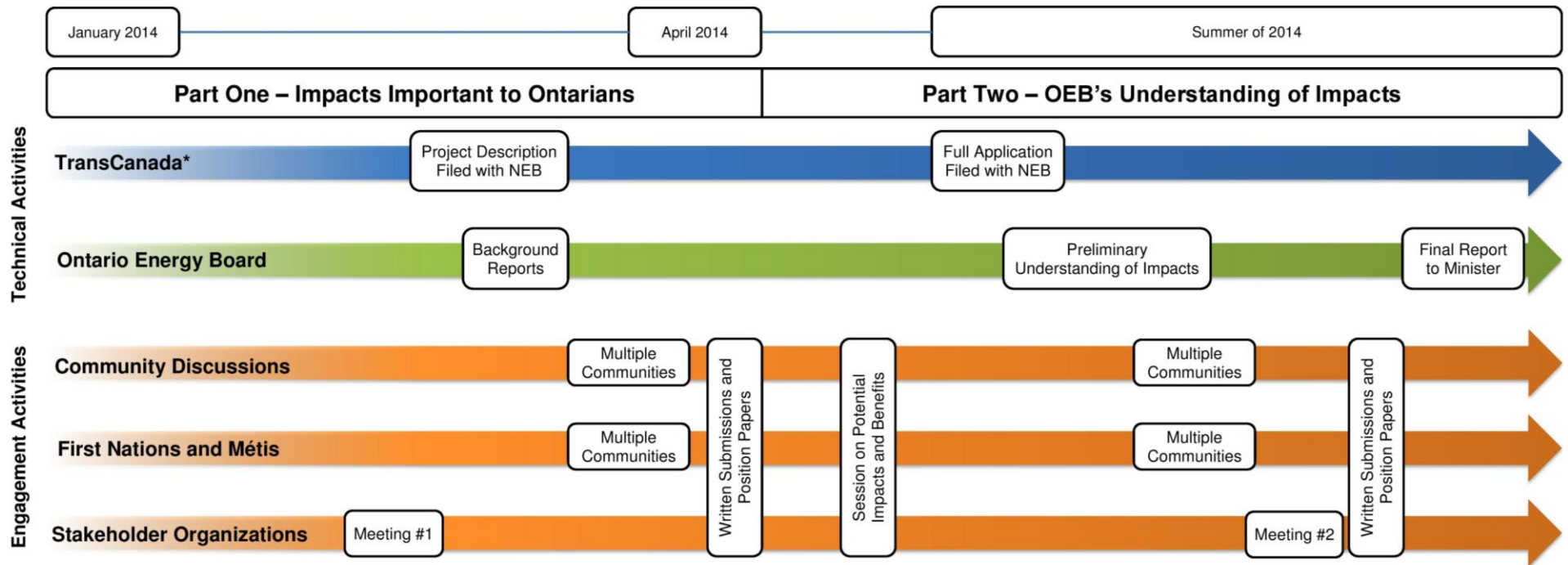
Another way for Ontarians to provide their views and perspectives on TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline is through written submissions or position papers. In Part One of the consultation process the OEB Energy East team will be seeking written submissions or positions papers on the types of impacts – both positive and negative – that are important to Ontarians. In Part Two of the process, written submissions and position papers will be sought in response to the OEB's Understanding of the Impacts.

7. Reporting

In order to ensure that all Ontarians have the opportunity to help inform the OEB's report to the Ministry of Energy, all of the above engagement activities will be comprehensively and rigorously documented as follows, and posted online at ontarioenergyboard.ca/oebenergyeast:

- Reports summarizing the views and perspectives shared by participants at each respective meeting will be prepared.
- A consultation summary report will be prepared following the conclusion of both Part One and Part Two of the consultation process. These reports will summarize the views and perspectives shared by participants in all of the engagement activities that have occurred in each part of the process.
- These reports will highlight the range of perspectives, where perspectives converged and where they differed. The reports will organize views and perspectives under the four areas of potential impact identified by the Minister of Energy. Views and perspectives that fall outside of these four areas will also be included in the reports.
- The reports will be posted online on the project website, and distributed directly to those who participated at meetings and those who have signed up for e-updates through the project website.

8. Consultation Process Graphic



*The timing of TransCanada's Full Application shown in this graphic is approximate. TransCanada may choose to time their filings differently.