

Energy East Stakeholder Forum Presentation

January 30th, 2015 - Hilton Garden Inn Ballroom, Ottawa

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Thank you for the privilege to present our views regarding the Energy East Pipeline Project. My name is Carman Kidd, and I am speaking to you today as the Mayor of the City of Temiskaming Shores, as well as one of the co-chairs for the Temiskaming Mayors Action Group, also known as TeMag. This organization represents a Northeastern Ontario district encompassing 13,300 square Kilometers of land, and is made up of 24 mayors and reeves from the Town of Kirkland Lake, in the North, to the Municipality of Temagami in the South. TeMag was formed to discuss regional issues. The communities in the Timiskaming District operate as single-tier municipalities, meaning each community provides their own local government services. As such, we work together as a collaborative body to lobby for regional initiatives to make Timiskaming a better place to live.

We have a diverse economy, made up of hard rock mining, forestry, agriculture and tourism. TransCanada also has a pipeline running through our district, most notably through the Little Agricultural Claybelt, comprised of over 46,000 hectares of fertile farmland. However, the pipeline is also routed through rock and forested areas, and adjacent to lakes and streams.

We are aware of the potential risks involved with this venture, as well as with the many benefits for Ontario and for Eastern Canada. Most of the members of the TeMag group were involved when the original gas pipelines were installed in the Timiskaming District between 1980 and 2000. We discussed many of the safety concerns during this time with TransCanada, and as such, developed a positive partnership for open dialogue, which has continued over the past 34 years.

John Vanthof, our current MPP, and I sat on the executive of the Temiskaming Federation of Agriculture, and worked with local farm owners and TransCanada to develop easement rates and a detailed formula for damages. The structure of the negotiation group changed when a communications company was permitted to use the pipeline easement to install fibre optic cables; however, during the installation, many of the farms sub-surface tile drainage lines were cut. As a result, all negotiations with TransCanada for the third natural gas pipeline were conducted with the entire group of affected farmers, instead of on an individual basis. Since then, a constructive relationship has been formed and maintained for the past 20 years between the farm community and TransCanada.

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In 2014, TransCanada made numerous presentations to TeMag and to municipal councils across our district, as well as hosted public open houses across Northern Ontario. The intent of these meetings was to explain the benefits of the project – both local and domestic, the inspection and maintenance programs, and the safety features of the pipeline. TransCanada representatives addressed all of the concerns expressed, answered all questions, and gained the support of our local municipalities and ratepayers alike.

Inspection of the pipeline in the Timiskaming District is currently being completed using “Smart PIGs” technology, which assesses potential threats from corrosion, cracking and denting. It should also be noted that leak prevention and detection systems will also be installed. We are confident that any anomalies identified through these systems will be investigated to mitigate any potential risks associated with the pipeline.

Residents in our region have also expressed confidence in the SCADA system, which monitors the pumping stations and shut-off valve sites. This remote monitoring system can detect incidents immediately, to isolate and limit the impact of any potential spill. Many local governments are already familiar with SCADA technology, as they rely on them for water and wastewater systems.

The pipeline and compressor stations are primarily located in sparsely populated areas; this adds to our residents’ safety and comfort levels, unlike the rail and highway transportation systems.

TransCanada Highway 11 and the Ontario Northland railway both run through the City of Temiskaming Shores and through many of the municipalities in the Timiskaming District, creating a high risk assessment for transporting oil or hazardous goods by road or by railway. The option of transporting over one-million barrels per day by truck, would equate to an additional 3,000 tanker truck loads per day on our highways. The associated environmental impact, the increased risk to motorists, as well as the wear-and-tear on our highway infrastructure makes this an unacceptable option.

We anxiously monitor the progress of the Energy East Pipeline project as it will generate significant job creation potential in Eastern Canada, as well as support the use of domestic oil, to lessen the reliance on imports.

The Emergency Management Control Groups in our district are working together with TransCanada to co-ordinate emergency response programs, and to develop contingency plans.

Our region has greatly benefitted from the construction of the three pipelines. There have been jobs created directly for the pipeline, such as for the operation of compressor stations; however, the project also supported businesses for ancillary services, such as for accommodations, meals, entertainment, etc. Upon project approval for the installation of

valves and for the construction of pumping stations, our area will once again see job creation as a result of TransCanada, and generate a boost to our local economy.

We are confident that our long-term needs for natural gas can and will be met with the two remaining pipelines. The Temiskaming Mayors Action Group is pleased to support the Energy East Pipeline project, and many municipalities from the Temiskaming District are also endorsing TeMag's motion, by forwarding their own Council resolution of support to the Minister of Energy, and to the Minister of Northern Development and Mines.

Once again, I thank you for the opportunity to attend this Stakeholder Forum, and to present our views.

Presented by
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Mayor of Temiskaming Shores

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