

## Thunder Bay Community Discussion Summary

Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

6:30 – 9:00pm

Airlane Hotel

698 Arthur Street West

---

### Overview

*On March 26<sup>th</sup>, the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) hosted the second of seven Community Discussions in Part One of its Energy East Consultation Process. The purpose of these Community Discussions is to provide a forum for local residents and organizations to tell the Province of Ontario their perspectives on the potential impacts (both positive and negative) of TransCanada PipeLines Limited's proposed Energy East Pipeline.*

*Approximately 160 people attended the Thunder Bay Community Discussion, including members of First Nations and Métis communities, representatives of environmental organizations, academic institutions, mining organizations, local businesses, construction companies, unions, social justice organizations, and municipal representatives. Representatives of the Ontario Ministry of Energy and TransCanada Pipelines Limited also attended. About two-thirds of participants did not indicate an affiliation with any organization.*

*All feedback received in Part One of the OEB's Energy East Consultation will be included in a Part One Consultation Summary Report that will be written by the independent facilitation team. This report will be used by the OEB and its technical advisors to help inform their assessment of the potential impacts of the proposed Energy East Pipeline. The OEB will share and seek feedback on their understanding of the impacts in Part Two of the Energy East Consultation.*

*This summary was written by Swerhun Facilitation, a third-party facilitation firm that the OEB has hired to provide independent facilitation services for community discussions and stakeholder meetings. This report is not intended to provide a verbatim transcript of the meeting and instead provides a high level summary of the perspectives and advice provided by participants during the facilitated discussion.*

*This summary was subject to participant review prior to being finalized.*

### High-Level Summary of Feedback

*Note points are numbered for ease of reference only.*

#### **1. The importance of pipeline safety was heard consistently from a range of participants throughout the meeting. Their comments included:**

- Concerns about the number of rivers that TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline would cross in northern Ontario.
- Concerns that a pipeline leak would impact outdoor activities, including hunting, fishing, paddling and eco-tourism.
- Concerns that pipeline maintenance or responses to leaks in swamp areas could only happen when these swamps are frozen. A member of a pipeline maintenance company stated that they are able to perform maintenance operations even when the swamps are not frozen.
- Concerns that diluted bitumen is more corrosive than other petroleum products and that it is more difficult to clean up in the case of a leak.
- A suggestion that if TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline was approved, the entire length should be built with a brand new pipe, at least half an inch thick and double walled so that any leak would be contained within the pipeline.
- Concerns that the only alternative to shipping oil by pipeline is to do so by rail. A representative of elected municipal leaders from the north shared their view that rail is a much less safe method of transportation and that in many cases rail lines run through the centre of or immediately adjacent

to cities and towns – as a result, they said they would like to see Ontario support the proposed Energy East Pipeline and require strict safety measures.

2. **Several participants agreed on the importance of jobs and employment, however their perspectives related to Energy East were very different:**
  - a. **Some felt that the TransCanada's Proposed Energy East Pipeline would create long-term economic benefits, support companies in the north and generate new jobs, all of which would benefit the cities and towns in northwestern Ontario, though others disagreed (see point b).** These participants felt that jobs would be created through the construction of pumping stations and supporting infrastructure, through ongoing maintenance of the proposed Energy East Pipeline and other pipelines (which may see an increased volume of natural gas), and through the manufacturing of new segments of pipeline and pipeline components.
  - b. **Others felt that transitioning towards a more sustainable, alternative energy-based economy would generate a greater number of jobs and long-term economic benefits and help mitigate climate change.** These participants felt that choosing to invest in skills related to fossil fuels meant forgoing investments in skills that would serve Canada in the future. One participant stated that every million dollars invested in fossil fuels leads to 2 full time jobs while an equal investment in renewable energy production leads to 15 full time jobs. They felt that this transition will be a lengthy and difficult process – everyone has a carbon footprint – but it is necessary to have a serious debate as a country about climate change and decide as a country to transition away from fossil fuels and towards alternative fuels.
3. **Many expressed concern about the climate change impacts they felt would result from the approval of the proposed Energy East Pipeline,** in particular concerns were raised regarding:
  - The increases in extreme weather events and the need for a reliable climate pattern;
  - The size of the carbon footprint of the oil sands; and
  - The need for clean air.
4. **There were different perspectives on the National Energy Board's (NEB) hearing process.**
  - There was a suggestion from municipal elected officials that the NEB should hold hearings in northern Ontario (one in the northwest and one in the northeast).
  - Some participants expressed concern that the NEB has yet to consider the upstream and downstream climate change impacts of pipeline projects. Concern was expressed that the NEB has never disallowed a project.
  - Others felt that the NEB is not a 'rubber-stamp' agency – that it is progressive in its outlook and takes into account the economic benefit of projects to all citizens. These participants felt that the NEB should impose requirements that the proposed Energy East Pipeline employ Canadians and use Canadian steel and other manufactured goods in its construction.
5. **A number of specific conditions that Ontario should seek at the NEB were suggested.**
  - One participant noted the five conditions that the Premier of British Columbia had set out for the Northern Gateway Pipeline. This participant felt that Ontario should seek both royalties from the proposed Energy East Pipeline and the establishment of a \$1 Billion fund paid for by TransCanada to be used for spill cleanup in the event of a pipeline leak.
  - There was concern that the NEB had ignored Ontario's requests in the past, including the request that Enbridge perform hydrostatic testing as part of its proposed Line 9 Reversal project.
  - One participant suggested that Ontario perform an Environmental Assessment of the proposed Energy East Pipeline.
  - One participant suggested that the NEB should ensure that TransCanada secure free prior and informed consent from the Aboriginal people whose territory the proposed Energy East pipeline crosses through.
6. **The Community Discussion closed out with remarks from a member of a First Nations community – a hereditary clan mother and a descendant of Treaty 3 and Treaty 9 Chiefs:**

- Everyone's children will inherit the decisions that are made today. People should not sign away their children's lives for money – it's not possible to carry wealth to the spirit world.
- It is important to honour life and honour water – no one would give their children or grandchildren contaminated water to drink or feed them food from contaminated lands.
- There should be Aboriginal representation on the National Energy Board.

## Next Steps

*Participants were thanked for their feedback and reminded that they have until April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to share their perspectives on the potential impacts of TransCanada's proposed Energy East Pipeline in Ontario. To provide additional feedback, Ontarians can visit the Energy East Consultation website ([www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/oebenergyeast](http://www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/oebenergyeast)) and fill out a discussion guide or send in written submissions.*

*All of the feedback received in Part One of the Energy East Consultation will be summarized in a report and used by the OEB and its Technical Advisors to inform their work in preparation for Part Two of the Energy East Consultation. Part Two Community Discussions are expected to take place in July/August 2014 after TransCanada Pipelines Limited's full application to the NEB is available.*