

OEB Kenora Session

Energy East Presentation by Joe Chevalier

I am a 38 year member of the Operating Engineers, Local 793 of Ontario and a recently retired superintendent from Summit Pipeline Services.

Trans Canada Pipeline projects from the late 1980's and on provided not only employment but an opportunity to advance my career and move into supervisory positions. These are good paying jobs and have helped myself and family earn a good quality life.

This next point is very important for Summit Pipelines desire to work on the pipeline gathering systems in Western Canada. In 2004 the majority ownership of Summit was purchased by McLeod Indian Band from McLeod Lake BC.

McLeod Lake wanted to participate in more of the natural gas activity taking place on their traditional territory so in the spring of 2005 Summit opened an office in North Eastern BC.

With Summits experience working for Trans Canada and meeting their demands on safety and environment Summit was able to qualify to work for other owner companies who shared similar values.

The proposed Energy East project will bring opportunities to workers in Ontario not only during the construction period but possibly long term jobs at Trans Canada Facilities along the pipeline route. These long term jobs could be career positions for individuals willing to get the required education and training.

Another huge positive will be that Canadian Oil from Alberta, Saskatchewan or Manitoba will be transported safely to Canadian Refineries through an upgraded existing pipeline.

Short term impacts,

Hotels, motels, campgrounds, restaurants and stores will benefit from the business of out of town workers and these businesses may also have to hire additional staff.

I believe that because natural gas is now produced in Eastern Canada and the North Eastern United States TCPL has extra capacity to convert this line to transport oil. I'm not able to comment on impacts to the natural gas consumers the Northern and Eastern Ontario.

As for impacts on Aboriginal Communities, my opinion is if TCPL uses and upgrades an existing pipeline on an existing Right of Way I do not see any impacts. In Eastern Ontario the new construction may be entirely on private farm land.

Safety and Environment

A good portion of my work with Summit Pipeline Services has been on integrity dig programs and I will give some insight into a contractor's preparation for an integrity dig.

Safety is number ONE. The industry demands safety. We all should believe that we can achieve the goals of Zero incidents and Zero lost time injuries. The contractors are required to be active members of IS Network and post their safety statistics and if their numbers are above industry standards then there is a very good chance you will not be working.

Safety of the workers and the public are priority. Supervisors are educated in their duties. Contractors either send the supervisors to a training facility or bring a trainer in for the term and train the entire staff.

Workers are trained in First Aid, WHMIS, Ground Disturbance, ATV certification, Hazard Identification and task specific training. Safety training is always changing and each client and each province may have different requirements. In the field Certified Safety Officers provide resources to the supervisors and the workers and the entire crew must be involved.

Project orientations are mandatory for everyone. Visitors, depending on the reason and length of stay could take the full orientation or may be given a shorter visitor orientation at the site they visit. Everyone signs in at reaching the site and sign out when leaving.

When permitted, a field foreman along with the clients representative will begin looking at the dig sites. Access is planned, which may already be an existing entrance or a new culvert may have to be installed in a ditch alongside the road or highway. Access to a dig site could also involve installing a bridge over a water course or an access mat road or if during the winter season, freeze an access road.

Ontario One Calls are made and Site Hazard Assessments completed.

Traffic Control plans are built and depending on locations of the access some can be as simple as installing some warning and vehicle turning signs and other sites could require traffic control and in extreme cases a police officer with a cruiser to warn and control traffic.

No field work can begin until the permits are signed and in place, the One Calls are returned and locates are completed.

Contractor vehicles and equipment are regularly maintained with records on site and daily logs filled out by the driver or operator. Any defects are noted and reported and repaired. All carry spill kits of the suitable size.

Daily Tailgate meetings take place on arrival to site and reviewed by visitors or other workers during the day.

When on site the pipelines or utilities within the Danger Zone are confirmed before any machine excavation begins. Pipeline location will be confirmed at both ends of the planned excavation.

After the pipe is excavated the full circumference and length, there may be a coating assessment, followed by the coating removal process including containment and full removal. The pipe feature is then assessed and may be repaired and new coating applied. Then pipe protection will be installed where necessary and the site backfilled and cleaned up. Whatever material that was brought in for access to the site will be removed during final cleanup.

During the duration of an integrity dig, site hazards will change with weather and seasons so it is the responsibility of all workers to change the hazard assessments and communicate the changes to other workers.

In closing, the above is a brief description of a dig. The idea that I'm trying to get across is that there is great importance placed on safety and environment. All steps are planned and documented and the workers are trained and skilled.

New workers are mentored and their progress monitored and everyone goes home and spends the money they earn.

Thank you to

The people in the audience.

Thank you to the Ontario Energy Board, GCI Canada and Trans Canada Pipelines.