

Energy East Consultation

Timmins

The NorthEastern Ontario Municipal Association (NEOMA) has a great deal of interest in the TransCanada Pipelines Energy East Project as it will have a significant impact on municipalities across the Cochrane District. Participation within the Ontario Energy Board's community discussion is important to ensure that all voices and interests are heard and brought forward.

Safety continues to be top priority for us as municipalities and citizens as well as TransCanada Pipeline Limited. TransCanada has demonstrated their commitment to safety for employees, communities and their residents by investing more than \$1 billion in pipeline safety and preventative maintenance programs. They also ensure that they meet or exceed all laws and regulations associated with pipeline safety and take efforts to minimize risks to employees, the public and the land. TransCanada works with local authorities to develop joint emergency plans and to help train fire departments, police and emergency responders.

As more research has been undertaken, it is evident that transporting oil by pipelines is the safest method. Fewer accidents occur while transporting oil by pipeline in comparison to alternate modes of transportation such as road or rail. TransCanada has demonstrated more than 60 years of experience building pipelines safely and reliably.

Another priority for NEOMA is the relationship that TransCanada has demonstrated with communities. TransCanada Pipelines Limited has contributed both financially and through in-kind donations to communities across North America, totaling more than \$10 million in 2012.

The TransCanada Pipeline's Energy East project would generate significant benefits for northeastern Ontario. Energy East would provide both direct and indirect jobs during the six year development and construction phase as well as during the 40 year operations phase. The development and operation of the project will stimulate the economy by providing billions to the Ontario economy (37 per cent of an estimated \$25.3 billion occurring in Ontario).

NEOMA recognizes the potential risks associated with the Energy East project and will work to ensure that due diligence is done as it relates to safety concerns of communities, residents and employees.

Moving forward, the Ontario Energy Board should focus on the regional impacts that the project would have in its report to Ontario's Minister of Energy. Also, a thorough analysis of the natural gas supply must be done to ensure that the availability and affordability is not comprised with the conversion of a gas pipeline to an oil pipeline.