

## Have your say

### Participate in the National Energy Board review of the Energy East oil pipeline

*On February 3, the National Energy Board (NEB) begins accepting applications for public participation in its review of TransCanada's proposed Energy East oil pipeline. The deadline to apply to participation is March 3, 2015 at 3 p.m. AST. Have your say to protect our land, our water, and our whales.*



#### What is TransCanada's oil pipeline proposal?

The pipeline is expected to be 4,600-kilometres long with capacity to carry 1.1 million barrels of crude oil per day from the tar sands in Alberta to facilities in Quebec and Saint John. It would require the construction of around 1,400km of new pipeline in New Brunswick, the first oil pipeline in the province. Far from a made-in-Canada energy solution, publicly available information from TransCanada, as well as sources from industry, government reports and legal documents show that most of the pipeline's oil would be exported unrefined, with little benefit to Canadians.

#### Why is it important I speak up and participate in the NEB review process?

This is a public process and your chance to voice specific concerns about a proposal that could threaten New Brunswick's land and water. The proposed pipeline would traverse hundreds of acres of farmland and forest, putting a number of industries – including agriculture and tourism – at risk. It will also flow crude oil under or over several important N.B. watercourses, including rivers and streams in the St. John River basin, the Miramichi, Tobique, Salmon and Madawaska rivers, Coal Creek (which drains into Grand Lake), and the Bay of Fundy. Your participation is even more important due to changes introduced by the federal government in 2012 about how projects are reviewed. Public input to environmental assessment was restricted, environmental laws weakened, and now pipelines crossing provincial borders are only evaluated by the NEB, not environmental regulators. These changes stifle public concerns that must be heard.

#### What issues will be addressed in the NEB's review?

The NEB will consider the need for the project, economic feasibility, environmental and socio-economic impacts, potential pipeline spills, impacts on Aboriginal interest and impacts on landowners and land-use. However, the NEB assessment will not consider important 'upstream' impacts such as tar sands development, nor 'downstream impacts' including climate change. For full details, see the [list of issues](#).

#### What are my options for participating in the NEB process?

You have two options. "Commenters" participate by submitting a letter. "Intervenors" can request further information from TransCanada and are obliged to respond to information requests and present final evidence. Intervenors can also apply for NEB participant funding.

#### Can anyone participate?

Only those who meet NEB criteria of being "directly affected" by the proposal or who have "relevant knowledge and expertise."

#### Who is "directly affected"?

Put broadly, you are directly affected by the pipeline proposal if it could impact your **commercial or business property, personal property**, other financial interests (**like your job**), **personal use and occupancy** of your land and resources, or your **use of land and resources for traditional Aboriginal purposes**. Many individuals whose property and everyday activities would be negatively affected by the pipeline - such as farmers, fishers and home and land owners – have succeeded in acquiring commentator status from the NEB.

### Examples of people who are directly affected include:

- A farmer could argue that both the construction of the pipeline and a potential spill could affect crops and therefore impact their profits and livelihood.
- Property owners could show how the pipeline will decrease the value of their holdings.
- Aboriginal bands with unique relationships and rights to the land could demonstrate how the pipeline would hamper their ability to use their land according to traditions.

Given the large amount of farmland and commercial property the pipeline will cross, a significant number of New Brunswick residents will be directly affected. If you think this includes you, submit an application!

### Personal use has not been well defined and could include:

- Recreational use (fishing, birdwatching, clean water)
- Your children's school lies close to the pipeline (say how close)
- The pipeline could affect your local water supply (say where this is in comparison to the pipeline)
- The pipeline could affect the aesthetic value of your local area (impact your view, the lay of the land, nearby parks)
- A spill could impact your enjoyment and use of the Bay of Fundy or other watercourses

It is best to be as specific and detailed as possible when demonstrating how your personal use of land and water will be directly affected by the oil pipeline.

### What counts as "relevant knowledge and expertise"?

Here again, it is important to be specific and detailed. Do you hunt or fish in an area the pipeline will pass through? Talk about that with specific examples (what regions of the forest do you hunt in and how close are they to the pipeline route; what rivers are you fishing; how long have you been going to these places; what fish do you typically catch and what types of game have you hunted?

Outline your experience, studies or qualifications, your local or cultural knowledge and how this information or expertise is relevant to the project.

### Examples of people with relevant knowledge include:

- a medical doctor who is concerned or has information about the human health impacts of the project
- an economist who knows how the pipeline could affect businesses in your area
- an environmental engineer with concerns about the pipeline's route through vital rivers and drinking water wells
- a First Nations member with an extensive understanding of the history and cultural significance of your local area.

### Help is available

The process can seem daunting and confusing and we want to be there to help you make your voice heard. Contact us the Conservation Council of New Brunswick and we'll walk you through the process and help you fill out the application form. For help or further information, don't hesitate to call Tracy Glynn at 506-458-8747 or email her at [tracy.glynn@conservationcouncil.ca](mailto:tracy.glynn@conservationcouncil.ca). Applications to participate will be available beginning February 3 on the [NEB website](#).

### Answer this call to action

It is very important that the NEB hear from New Brunswickers before making a decision on this oil pipeline project. We need you to stand up and answer this call to action. Together, we can protect our land and livelihoods, keep our rivers and well water clean, and preserve the natural beauty of the Bay of Fundy, with its majestic whales, breathtaking coastline, and crucial fisheries.

Learn more at [conservationcouncil.ca](http://conservationcouncil.ca)

