



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00571**

BY: **Ms. QUACH (SALABERRY-SUROÏT)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 21, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE JIM CARR, P.C., M.P.**

Response by the Minister of Natural Resources

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Protection of the environment

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government of Canada would like to thank the petitioners for expressing their concerns.

In December 2012, the National Energy Board initiated a thorough, evidence-based review of Enbridge's project to reverse the flow on its Line 9 oil pipeline between North Westover, Ontario and Montreal, Québec. This review included a public hearing during which various organizations, Indigenous groups and members of the public presented their views on the project, including on matters related to pipeline integrity. On March 6, 2014, the National Energy Board approved the project, subject to 30 conditions including conditions related to pipeline integrity.

In its decision for the project, the National Energy Board stated that Enbridge's planned integrity activities constitute an effective approach to addressing concerns raised by hearing participants. Enbridge's integrity management program (which manages, among other things, stress corrosion cracking) requires Enbridge to investigate threats and take remedial measures where required. As an additional step to ensure the integrity of the pipeline, the National Energy Board requested that Enbridge perform hydrostatic tests on selected segments of Line 9. The National Energy Board allowed Line 9 to be put back into operation only after it was proven that it could be done safely.

The pipeline is currently in operation. Throughout the life of the pipeline project, the National Energy Board will verify compliance with safety requirements by, for example, conducting inspections, auditing company safety management systems, and reviewing Enbridge's pipeline integrity and emergency response programs to ensure the safety of Canadians and the environment. Where necessary, the National Energy Board will enforce regulatory requirements in order to obtain compliance, deter future non-compliance, and prevent harm. National Energy Board requirements are designed to identify threats and manage risk—including risks associated with ruptures—over the life of a pipeline. When companies follow those requirements, pipelines are a safe and reliable way to move oil and gas. It is the National Energy Board's role to ensure that companies are doing what is necessary to keep their pipelines safe. The National Energy Board oversees safety for the full lifecycle of a project – from construction and operation to the end of its use.

As part of its review, the National Energy Board heard directly from Indigenous groups that participated in its hearing about their views on the project. The National Energy Board also required Enbridge, as the project proponent, to undertake consultation with potentially impacted Indigenous groups. The National Energy Board's decision for the project considered information heard during the consultations undertaken with Indigenous groups, including the views of Indigenous groups presented during the hearing.

The Government is committed to building a stronger relationship with First Nations in the development and oversight of pipelines. On June 20, 2016, the Government launched a review of environmental and regulatory processes. The review will focus on: 1) reviewing federal environmental assessment processes; 2) modernizing the National Energy Board; and 3) restoring lost protections and introducing modern safeguards to the Fisheries Act and the Navigation Protection Act. The Government is committed to engaging Indigenous peoples in this review. Ensuring Indigenous communities have opportunities to participate in all aspects of energy infrastructure development is a key component of the Government's effort to renew its relationship with Indigenous peoples.

For additional information about the review and on opportunities to provide your input, please visit the following page:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/conservation/assessments/environmental-reviews.html>