



Ontario
Energy
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BY EMAIL AND WEBPOSTING

March 28, 2023

To: All Rate Regulated Natural Gas Distributors
All OPCC Members
All Other Interested Parties

Re: Release of the OEB's Environmental Guidelines, 8th Edition 2023
OEB File Number: EB-2022-0231

Today the Ontario Energy Board is releasing the 8th edition of its *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction and Operation of Hydrocarbon Projects and Facilities in Ontario* ([Environmental Guidelines](#)). The Environmental Guidelines provide direction to parties seeking hydrocarbon pipeline or natural gas storage related approvals from the OEB under the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998* (Hydrocarbon Projects). They also describe the role of the [Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee](#) (OPCC) – comprised of provincial ministries and agencies with responsibilities in respect of Hydrocarbon Projects – in the OEB's process.

The focus of the updates to this edition of the Environmental Guidelines is the process by which members of the OPCC provide feedback on individual Hydrocarbon Projects, as well as the requirements that individual OPCC members have with respect to various permits or approvals they issue that may be related to Hydrocarbon Projects. The development of these updates benefitted from input from the OPCC members, Conservation Ontario, and the rate regulated natural gas utilities. The OEB extends its thanks for the comments that were provided, which were very helpful in ensuring that the OPCC process and member requirements are up to date and clearly expressed in the Environmental Guidelines. A summary of the feedback received during the consultation is available on the OEB's [OPCC Engage With Us](#) webpage.

As indicated in the October 6, 2022, letter that gave notice of the launch of this initiative, this edition does not include any material changes to the portions of the document relating to Indigenous consultation and the Constitutional duty to consult. The OEB has initiated a separate review of the Indigenous consultation and duty to consult sections of the Environmental Guidelines to assess whether and how improvements and updates to

the process should be implemented. The Ministry of Energy is also engaged in this review and the OEB is committed to engaging with and seeking feedback from representatives of Indigenous communities and other interested parties on any future updates to these provisions of the Environmental Guidelines. Further information regarding this project will be available in due course.

Any questions relating to the updated Environmental Guidelines should be directed to Registrar@oeb.ca. The OEB's toll free number is 1-888-632-6273.

Yours truly,

Nancy Marconi
Registrar