

**ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT:
PIPELINE TO SERVE THE PROPOSED THOROLD COGEN L.P.**

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED PIPELINE

Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc. (“Enbridge”) is proposing to install a Nominal Pipe Size (“NPS”) 12-inch (305 millimetres (“mm”)) diameter steel pipeline to supply natural gas to serve the proposed Thorold CoGen L.P., a Gas-Fired Cogeneration Station in Thorold, Ontario. The proposed pipeline begins where TransCanada PipeLine’s existing natural gas pipeline crosses Townline Road in Thorold, Ontario and ends at the site of the proposed gas-fired power generation station to be located on the property of Abitibi Consolidated Inc. – Thorold Division. The approximate length of the proposed pipeline is 2.9 kilometres (“km”). This Environmental Report (“ER”) prepared by an independent environmental consultant, Stantec Consulting Ltd. (“Stantec”), accompanies Enbridge’s application to the Ontario Energy Board (“OEB”) for Leave to Construct the proposed pipeline.

1.2 PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

Companies planning to construct and operate natural gas pipelines in Ontario must consider the OEB’s *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction, and Operation of Hydrocarbon Pipelines (2003)* (“OEB’s Guidelines (2003)”). When seeking Leave to Construct approval, pipeline companies may apply to the OEB under appropriate sections of the *Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998*. Applications to the OEB must include information that allows the OEB to make an informed decision, including:

- Engineering design and construction plans for the proposed pipeline;
- An ER including a route evaluation study and mitigation plans in support of the Application; and,
- Easement acquisition and landowner and tenant relations’ considerations.

In order to fulfill these criteria, the information presented in this ER has relied on technically sound and consistently applied procedures that are replicable and transparent. This report provides documentation of the ER activities undertaken for development of the proposed pipeline; it is organized into eleven sections:

- **Section 1** provides a description of the proposed facilities, the approval process, and the role of the ER study;
- **Section 2** details the study process for the ER;

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- **Section 3** provides a summary of the inventory of existing environmental conditions (physical, natural, agricultural, and socio-economic) within the Study Area. Detailed background information pertaining to the Study Area is provided in **Appendix C**;
- **Section 4** describes the public consultation program for the ER;
- **Section 5** describes the route evaluation methodology;
- **Section 6** describes existing environmental conditions (physical, natural, and socio-economic) along the Preferred Route; identifies potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed pipeline; and recommends mitigation measures;
- **Section 7** describes the potential impacts associated with hydrostatic testing, and the recommended mitigation measures;
- **Section 8** provides an analysis of potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project;
- **Section 9** describes monitoring and contingency plans to address potential impacts of the proposed pipeline; and,
- **Section 10** provides a summary and conclusions.

The ER also includes a list of references (**Section 11**) and appendices for supporting documentation. Environmental features maps and environmental alignment sheets are also compiled in the appendices.

1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE ER

The primary objective of this ER is to ensure environmental protection during construction and operation of the proposed pipeline, and at the same time meet the intent of the *OEB's Guidelines*, (2003). To meet these objectives, the ER study:

- Identifies existing environmental and socio-economic features that could be affected by the project;
- Identifies an environmentally acceptable route for the proposed pipeline;
- Identifies stakeholder interests (including regulatory and landowner issues) and appropriate mitigation measures to ensure concerns raised by interested parties are addressed; and,
- Establishes the mitigation and protective measures required to avoid or minimize any potential environmental effects associated with construction and operation of the proposed pipeline.

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In addition, this ER study considered relevant provincial and federal guidelines and regulations. The documents reviewed included:

- The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (“TSSA”) mandate derived from the Technical Standards and Safety Act (2000), specifically *Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems* Ontario Regulation 210/01 and the TSSA *Guidelines for Development in the Vicinity of Oil and Gas Pipeline Facilities* (1998a) and *Guidelines for Locating New Oil and Gas Pipeline Facilities* (1998b); and,
- The Ministry of the Environment’s (“MOE”) technical mandate derived from the Environmental Protection Act (1990b), and the Ontario Water Resources Act (1990c).

The *OEB’s Guidelines (2003)* define the major steps in selecting a Preferred Route for a proposed pipeline. Based on these requirements, this report has been prepared to:

- Define a Study Area and compile an inventory of physical, natural, and socio-economic features and conditions within this area;
- Identify and evaluate potential pipeline route alternatives in light of their individual and comparative environmental impacts;
- Identify an environmentally acceptable route that minimizes environmental impacts and meets Enbridge’s operating system requirements;
- Complete a detailed review of environmental features along the proposed route and assess the potential effects of the pipeline on these features;
- Define mitigation measures that may be utilized to minimize any potential environmental impacts of pipeline construction;
- Develop a consultation program to contact, record and reflect the concerns and comments of area residents, landowners, federal and provincial ministries and agencies, First Nations, municipalities and conservation authorities having jurisdiction within the Study Area and along the proposed routes; and,
- Identify an environmental protection plan that includes monitoring, contingency plans, an inspection program, and commitments to additional work.

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Key features of this study have been early and frequent contact with the public and regulatory agencies, and their continued involvement throughout all stages of the process, including:

- Notice of study commencement and Study Area definition;
- Invitation to attend the First Public Information Session to discuss the accuracy of environmental mapping and the ER study process, and to present the alternative routes;
- Invitation to attend the Second Public Information Session to discuss the Preliminary Preferred Route and potential mitigation and protection measures;
- Invitation to attend the Third Public Information Session to discuss the alternative Preferred Route and to confirm the Preferred Route;
- Specific input through discussions with affected residents concerning mitigation needs along the Preferred Route; and,
- Telephone discussions and meetings with representatives from various environmental regulatory agencies.

Throughout the project, contacts were made via letters, email and phone calls. A history of contacts with agencies, First Nations, stakeholders and the public is assembled in **Appendices B1, B3 and B4**.

1.4 APPROVAL PROCESS AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to obtain approval to construct a pipeline, proponents must submit an application to the OEB to establish that the project is in the public interest. As a regulatory body, the OEB must be assured that project sponsors meet all standards and regulations relating to both the protection of the environment and public health and safety.

This ER is consistent with the *OEB's Guidelines (2003)*, which must be considered when applicants, such as Enbridge, seek approval from the OEB. The *OEB's Guidelines (2003)* provide direction as to the content of the ER with respect to project description, route selection process, environmental and socio-economic descriptions, environmental impact assessment, and mitigation. Other requirements of the *OEB's Guidelines (2003)* include compliance and effects monitoring programs, specific mitigation and contingency plans for implementation during construction, and public participation throughout the planning process.

Once completed, the ER report is circulated or made available to the Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee ("OPCC"), other federal and municipal government agencies, interest groups, landowners, and other interested parties for their review and comment prior to a hearing before the OEB.