

Clore and Hoult Tunnels

Two tunnels will be constructed through the Coast Mountains, approximately 50 km northeast of Kitimat.

The tunnels will be located between the Clore River valley on the east side of North Hope Peak and the Hoult Creek valley on the west side of Nimbus Mountain. The east tunnel is referred to as the Clore tunnel and the west tunnel is referred to as the Hoult tunnel.

The tunnels will provide greatly enhanced pipeline stability and safety, and reduced right-of-way reclamation and restoration activities relative to conventional pipeline design and construction in the upper reaches of the Clore River and Hoult Creek valleys.

- The Clore and Hoult tunnels will be approximately 6.5 km and 6.6 km long, respectively.
- The tunnels will be approximately 5.5 m high and 5.5 m wide in cross-section. These dimensions provide sufficient space for the oil and condensate pipelines (36" and 20" in diameters respectively).
- The tunnels will also be equipped with lighting, ventilation and seepage control systems.
- The tunnels will be equipped with a range of monitoring instruments tied to a real-time supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system that is continuously monitored by the Enbridge Operations Control Centre in Edmonton.
- The tunnels will be designed to provide inspection and maintenance crews with year-round access.
- Permanent tunnel supports will be installed, where needed, to provide long-term stability of the tunnel arches and walls.
- There will be no public access to the tunnels.

Tunnel Construction

Construction of the tunnels is expected to require approximately 36 months with three construction camps required for the contractor crews and project support personnel.

The tunnels will be constructed using tunnel boring machines (TBMs), drilling and blasting methods or a combination of both methods. For the tunnel boring option, two TBMs will be used, one for each tunnel.

Existing forest service roads will provide access to the Clore tributary valley and Hoult Creek. These roads will be upgraded at some locations to meet tunnel construction needs, including increasing the width of the road in some locations and upgrading or replacing some bridges and culverts.

Stringent environmental controls will be in place throughout the construction period and subsequent operations. Work will be undertaken within the conditions of federal and provincial permits, and in close cooperation with regulators. Ongoing monitoring and inspection by on-site environmental inspectors ensure compliance with permit conditions.