

What is a Pipeline Project Application?

When a company is considering building a pipeline the size and significance of the Northern Gateway Project (NGP), the company is required to submit an application to the National Energy Board (NEB). One part of the application is an environmental and socio-economic assessment. When the NEB receives an application, NEB staff review a range of issues related to the application, including environmental, socio-economic and land issues. For larger or more complex projects such as Northern Gateway, the NEB will hold a public hearing to hear the views of the public. In this case, the Joint Review Panel (JRP) will review the application and hold a public hearing on behalf of the NEB and the Minister of Environment.

What is an Environmental Assessment?

An environmental assessment is a review of the environmental effects likely to be associated with a project. A company completes an environmental assessment as part of its application to the NEB. Following public consultation, the JRP writes an environmental assessment report containing conclusions and recommendations. The Minister of the Environment reviews the report and provides a government response. The JRP then decides whether to approve the pipeline project on behalf of the NEB.

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEA Act) requires that certain federal approvals do not happen until an environmental assessment is completed for the project. Since more than one federal authority may have an approval role or expert advice to offer, regulations under the CEA Act require that federal authorities coordinate their activities so that only one assessment is completed for each project.

What does the NEB consider during an Environmental Assessment?

The NEB considers many factors when conducting an environmental assessment, including:

- physical and meteorological environment
- soil (productivity and vegetation)
- wetlands (water quality and quantity)
- fish, wildlife, and their habitat
- species at risk or species of special status and related habitat
- heritage resources
- traditional land and resource use
- human health
- aesthetics and noise

What kind of environmental information must the company provide to the NEB?

The NEB provides a list of environmental issues it expects companies to respond to in their applications. In the case of the NGP, this has been provided by the JRP.

Companies are required to file information explaining how the proposed project will affect the environment and what measures they will take to avoid causing harm to the environment. Information about preferred and alternate routes must also be provided.

PROJECT APPLICATION

FACT SHEET



What information did Northern Gateway provide?

The Northern Gateway application amounted to about 7,500 pages including appendices held in 10 hard copy binders. The information was arranged into eight volumes and addressed topic areas including: engineering; environment and socio-economic assessment of pipelines, the Kitimat Terminal, and marine transportation; public consultation; Aboriginal engagement & Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK); and the risk assessment and management of spills for pipelines, the Kitimat terminal, and marine transportation.

Besides the project application as described above, Northern Gateway has also filed with the NEB all technical data reports (TDRs) supporting its application. The 30 TDRs amount to just over 11,000 pages in hard copy.

Northern Gateway has also completed a TERMPOL assessment, a voluntary process administered through Transport Canada. A TERMPOL assessment is intended to precisely and reliably measure the navigational risks associated with the location and operation of marine terminals built for large oil tankers.

Supplemental information to the project application will be filed in an ongoing process as the Northern Gateway project moves through the regulatory process.

Where can I get a copy of the project application?

The Enbridge Northern Gateway Project application can be found on the public registry at www.gatewaypanel.review-examen.gc.ca. The application is also available online on Northern Gateway's website (www.northerngateway.ca). Northern Gateway has also sent hard copies of the application to some public libraries in locations along the proposed route including Edmonton, Grande Prairie, Prince George and Kitimat.

Where can I go to get more information on the Northern Gateway project application?

There are a number of ways people can access information:

- **NEB website** - The NEB website contains information on NEB activities, regulatory documents including the Northern Gateway application and general energy information. The website can be accessed at: www.neb-one.gc.ca.
- **E-mail** - You can submit your question to info@neb-one.gc.ca and your question will be responded to in two working days. If your question is more complicated, more time may be needed to respond.
- **Telephone/Fax** - Please contact the NEB at 403-292-4800 or toll free at 1-800-899-1265. To send a fax, dial 403-292-5503 or toll free 1-877-288-8803.
- **Mail** - If you do not have access to the Internet and wish to submit your question or comments in writing, you can also send a letter. The mailing address is:

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