



File OF-Tolls-TollsGen-15 01
12 June 2017

To: List of Aboriginal Groups in Appendix 1

National Energy Board (NEB) Examination to Determine Whether to Undertake an Inquiry of the Tolling Methodologies, Tariff Provisions and Competition in Northeast BC (Examination)

The competitive pipeline landscape in Northeast BC is comprised of several Group 1 NEB regulated natural gas pipeline companies: NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL), Westcoast Energy Inc. carrying on business as Spectra Energy Transmission (Westcoast) and Alliance Pipeline Ltd. (Alliance). These companies, each with distinct tolling methodologies and tariff provisions, compete for gas supply and transportation in a geographically concentrated area.

In the past, facilities applications in Northeast BC have been contested on commercial grounds. In addition, parties have requested that the Board undertake a generic inquiry regarding tolling in Northeast BC, outside of the confines of any particular facilities application. The Board has dealt with these issues on an application-by-application basis to date and has not conducted such an inquiry.

The Chairperson of the NEB has determined that it is appropriate to initiate an Examination to determine whether:

- 1) an inquiry of the tolling methodologies or tariff provisions of one or more of the Group 1 NEB-regulated natural gas pipeline companies operating in Northeast BC (Inquiry) is warranted; and
- 2) what the scope of the Inquiry should include.

Accordingly, Board Member L. Mercier has been authorized pursuant to subsection 15(1) of the *National Energy Board Act* to conduct the Examination and to report and make recommendations to the Board. The Record of Decision of the Chair relating to this examination can be found in Attachment 2.

The Board notes that the outcome of the Examination will be a recommendation to the full Board with respect to whether an Inquiry is warranted and if so, its appropriate scope. Further, any Inquiry ultimately held will pertain to tolling methodologies, tariff provisions and competition in Northeast BC.

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As a first step in this Examination, comments may be filed with the Board and served on NGTL, Westcoast and Alliance by Monday, 10 July 2017 on the following questions:

- What process should the Board establish for the Examination?
- What factors should the Board consider in its Examination?
- Is there a need for an Inquiry?
- What should the scope of the Inquiry include?

NGTL, Westcoast and Alliance may file reply to comments received by Friday, 14 July 2017.

The Board understands that there may be traditional activities taking place which could affect the ability for Aboriginal groups to provide comments by Monday, 10 July 2017. If this is the case, please notify the Board by Monday, 26 June 2017 and propose an alternative date.

After considering the comments received, further direction will be provided.

If you have any questions regarding this letter please contact Rébecca Verrall, Process Advisor, at NEBExamination.ProcessHelp@neb-one.gc.ca or telephone 1-800-899-1265.

Yours truly,

Original signed by

Sheri Young
Secretary of the Board

Attachments

c.c. Mr. Brian Troicuk, Alliance
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Undertake an Inquiry of the Tolling Methodologies, Tariff Provisions
and Competition in Northeast BC
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Appendix 1

List of Aboriginal Groups

Beaver First Nation

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BC Métis Federation

Mr. Keith Henry, President
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Blueberry River First Nation

Chief Marvin Yahey Sr.
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Dawson Creek Métis Association

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Dene Tha' First Nation

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Doig River First Nation

Chief Norman Davis
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Driftpile First Nation

Chief Dean Giroux
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Duncan's First Nation

Chief Don Testawich
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Fort Nelson First Nation

Chief Liz Logan
Mr. Marc Boucher, Chief Operating Officer
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Grand Prairie Métis Local

Ms. Angie Crerar, President
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Halfway River First Nation

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Horse Lake First Nation

Chief Eugene Horseman
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Kapawe'No First Nation

Chief Thomas Frank Halcrow
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Kelly Lake Cree Nation

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Kelly Lake First Nation

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Kelly Lake Métis Society

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Métis Nation of British Columbia

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**Métis Nation of British Columbia –
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Prophet River First Nation

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Red River Métis Nation

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Saulteau First Nation

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Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation

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Sucker Creek First Nation

Chief James Badger
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Swan River First Nation

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Treaty 8 Tribal Association

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Tsek'ehene (McLeod Lake) Indian Band

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West Moberly First Nation

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Western Cree Tribal Council

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Whitefish Lake First Nation

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