

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

December 14, 2020

Mr. Donald Stewart
President
Gordon Woods Homeowners' Association
dacstewart7@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 12, 2020, regarding the Credit River Pipeline Relocation Project and the associated construction of an aboveground valve compound by Trans-Northern Pipelines Incorporated (TNPI).

I would like to note the tireless efforts of your local member of Parliament, Mr. Sven Spengemann, and the staff in his office in working with you to understand the concerns, as well as for bringing this matter to my attention and advocating on your behalf.

I understand the concerns of the members of the Gordon Woods Homeowners' Association about the significant change to your community resulting from the industrial appearance of the new valve compound in its current state. I see from your correspondence that you are asking the Canada Energy Regulatory (CER) to initiate a review of the approval of the new facility. The CER is also available to help facilitate a resolution of a dispute via its Alternative Dispute Resolution program. This process is collaborative, interest-based, confidential, and voluntary.

I encourage you to make full use of both the formal complaint process and the Alternative Dispute Resolution as a way to seek an appropriate remedy that satisfies the concerns of all parties.

I would also encourage an open and meaningful discussion between the Gordon Woods Homeowners' Association and TNPI that respects, on the one hand, the need for TNPI to relocate the valve at the request of the city and, on the other hand, the need of the community to have the site restored to an appropriate appearance. It is incumbent on TNPI to establish and maintain strong relationships throughout the project's entire lifecycle. I encourage both parties to adopt the Government of Canada and the CER's view that productive engagement should be guided by the principles of transparency, relevance, inclusivity, accountability, and adaptability. It is important that all sides remain at the table, willing to discuss options and find creative solutions.

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With respect to your specific requests of me, I must note that the CER by design operates independently of the Government and independent of me as Minister of Natural Resources. As an adjudicative body, the CER must decide impartially, and without interference, on such matters. This is a critical point worth emphasizing. Our world-class energy regulator is strengthened by its independence. Canadians can have confidence that decisions are made based on clear processes. I know the CER will offer you every service that it can while respecting the limits of its role.

You also referenced safety concerns related to the valve. The issue of pipeline safety is a top priority for the Government of Canada, and the CER is responsible for enforcing the highest safety standards to protect our people, communities, and environment. I have full confidence that safety is at the core of the CER's decision-making with respect to the Credit River Pipeline Relocation Project and of its lifecycle oversight of the construction and operation of the new valve. Traffic safety is another important consideration for communities like yours and will need to be carefully assessed, as well as the impacts properly understood, as part of efforts to ensure the site post-construction is safe for motorists, pedestrians, and nearby residents.

I trust that, if both parties come to the table seeking mutually agreeable solutions, they can be found. I wish you and the members of the Gordon Woods Homeowners' Association every success in your discussions with TNPI and the CER.

Again, thank you for writing and for bringing this important issue to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seamus O'Regan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Seamus O'Regan, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Distribution

Distribution

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