

TransCanada Files Eastern Mainline Pipeline Project Description with National Energy Board

By <u>Julie Abouchar</u>, Partner and Certified Environmental Law Specialist and <u>Chuck Birchall</u>, Partner © Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP

May 8, 2014

TransCanada filed its Eastern Mainline Project Description with the National Energy Board (NEB) today. TransCanada proposes to construct and operate a new natural gas pipeline along its existing Canadian Mainline in Southeastern Ontario, from Markham to Iroquois. In its letter to the NEB, TransCanada states that it needs the new pipeline to continue servicing customers following the proposed transfer of Canadian Mainline facilities to Energy East Pipeline and its conversion to crude oil.

According to the project description, the Eastern Mainline Project includes 370 km of 914 mm pipeline, compression facilities at existing compressor stations, mainline valve sites, access roads and construction related temporary infrastructure. The proposed route of the Eastern Mainline Project crosses Rouge Park, Cataraqui River (Rideau Canal), Trent-Severn Waterway, seven Conservation Authorities, eight rivers and numerous streams and wetlands, and 23 local municipalities. About 70 per cent of the proposed route is on lands designated for agricultural purposes. The project description identifies eleven Aboriginal communities for consultation.

TransCanada plans to file an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate the pipeline in Q3 2014. Participant Funding will likely be available for eligible parties including individuals, landowners and Aboriginal groups to participate in the NEB oral hearing.

Julie Abouchar, BSc., LL.B., LL.M. is a partner at Willms & Shier Environmental Lawyers LLP in Toronto and is certified as a Specialist in Environmental Law by The Law Society of Upper Canada. She can be reached at 416-862-4836 or by e-mail at jabouchar@willmsshier.com.

Charles (Chuck) J. Birchall, B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., LL.M., has over 23 years of legal experience devoted exclusively to environmental law. Chuck provides advice on environmental assessment and compliance, energy law and Aboriginal consultation and economic development. Chuck has particular experience advising on environmental assessment issues raised by mining, oil and gas, energy and infrastructure projects. He can be reached at 613-761-2424 or by e-mail at cbirchall@willmsshier.com.

The information and comments herein are for the general information of the reader only and do not constitute legal advice or opinion. The reader should seek specific legal advice for particular applications of the law to specific situations.