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Pipeline Safety

Pipelines Across Canada

There are an estimated 825,000 kilometres (km) of transmission, gathering and distribution lines in Canada – including 100,000 km of large-diameter transmission lines – with most provinces having significant pipeline infrastructure. Of this amount, approximately 73,000 km are federally regulated pipelines, which are primarily transmission lines. Pipelines are generally buried underground and operate in both remote and populated areas, with major crude oil and natural gas pipelines servicing most major Canadian cities.

Pipelines are a safe and environmentally friendly way of transporting oil and gas. Between 2009 and 2013, 99.999 percent of the crude oil and petroleum products transported by Canada's federally regulated pipelines arrived safely, and during the past three years (2011–2013),

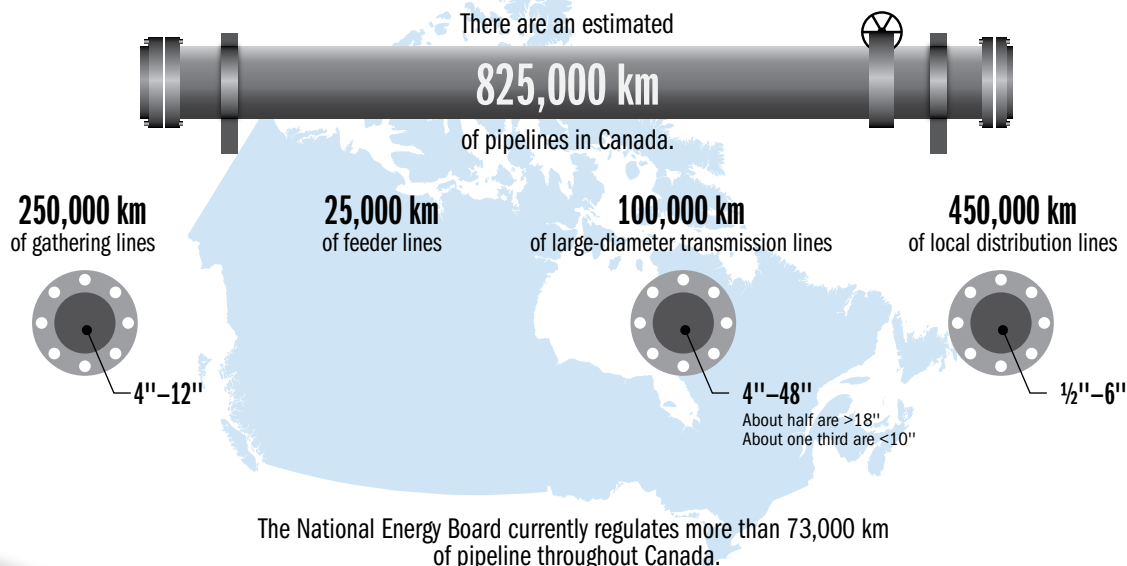
100 percent of the liquids released by these pipelines were completely recovered.

Generally, pipelines that cross provincial borders are regulated by the federal government and pipelines that are entirely within one province are regulated by the respective provincial authority where they are located. Provincially regulated lines include the smaller natural gas distribution pipelines that go to every house equipped with a natural gas furnace or water heater. Alberta, for example, regulates more than 400,000 km of pipelines.

Pipelines meet Canadian needs

Pipelines are necessary to deliver fuel for Canadians to heat their homes, drive their cars and travel by bus, ship, train and air. Cars, buses, trains, boats and airplanes are all fuelled

Canada's Pipeline Infrastructure



by petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel and aviation fuel. Petroleum products are also used as feedstock to make materials found in everyday household items, such as toiletries, electronics and clothes. Pipelines are used to move these petroleum products to refineries and to customers across the country. Canadians simply could not live as they do today without pipelines.

Pipelines benefit Canadians

The oil and gas sector also contributes significantly to the strength of Canada's economy. This sector employs about 200,000 people directly and even more indirectly, including 150,000 in construction alone. The oil and gas sector contributes nearly 7 percent of Canada's GDP and pays on average more than \$20 billion per year in taxes, royalties and fees to governments. The vast majority of the more than \$90 billion worth of Canadian crude oil and natural gas exported in 2013 was transported by pipeline.

Pipelines are stringently regulated

Building on its impressive safety record, the Government of Canada has introduced a suite of safety measures designed to give Canada a truly world-class pipeline safety system. This safety system rests on three pillars: incident prevention, preparedness and response, and liability and compensation. These pillars ensure the protection of Canadians and the environment. This safety system starts with the National Energy Board (NEB).

The NEB is an independent federal tribunal that has been regulating interprovincial and international pipelines since 1959 to ensure they are safe, secure and environmentally responsible and in the Canadian public interest.

Decision making on pipeline construction is inclusive

Before any project for an international or interprovincial pipeline can proceed, it must be reviewed by the NEB to ensure it is designed, constructed and operated in a manner that is safe and secure, protects the environment and the public, is economically feasible and is in the Canadian public interest. An integral part of this process is the engagement of stakeholders, including the public and Aboriginal Peoples.

All NEB hearings for pipeline applications allow for input from the public and Aboriginal Peoples. This two-way communication keeps stakeholders informed about projects and makes the pipeline operator and government aware of community issues and concerns.

Aboriginal Peoples are an integral part of the consultation process

As part of Canada's world-class safety system, a strategy is being developed to better integrate Aboriginal Peoples into the pipeline planning process. This initiative includes engagement on project planning, monitoring, incident response, and pipeline and environmental safety. The strategy aims to build mutual understanding between industry, government and Aboriginal Peoples and to provide new employment and business opportunities for individuals and communities.

Public hearings ensure all relevant information is considered

Before a decision is made on an application for a major pipeline project, the NEB will hold a public hearing. These hearings give various concerned parties – the company proposing the project people who are directly affected and others with relevant information or expertise – a chance to provide their views on the application. The NEB is an expert tribunal and is able to assess information for accuracy and relevance. To determine whether a proposed pipeline project is in the Canadian public interest, the NEB thoroughly considers the various environmental, engineering, land, financial, economic and socio-economic matters presented during the hearing. For major pipelines – projects with 40 km or more of new pipe – the NEB will issue a report with its recommendation to the federal government on whether to approve the project. For major pipelines, the final decision is ultimately made by the Governor in Council, which consists of Canada's Governor General acting on the advice of the federal cabinet and issues an Order in Council.

Aussi disponible en français sous le titre : La sécurité des pipelines : Le réseau de pipelines canadiens

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