



Ontario Energy Board Community Discussion

Energy East

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The Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM) is participating in the Ontario Energy Board's Energy East Consultation on behalf of 110 municipalities across the northeast. We believe it to be vital that northern voices are heard as this project will greatly impact many municipalities within the region.

Research has demonstrated that not only do fewer accidents occur while transporting oil by pipeline as opposed to alternate modes of transportation such as road or rail, but also the severity of these accidents. Recent oil spills by rail have demonstrated the significant damage to communities both long and short term. As a result, FONOM supports the claim that pipelines are the safest method to transport oil. During the 10 year period, between 2002-2011 oil pipelines in Canada operated with a 99.9994 per cent safety record relative to the volume of product being transported. Also important to note, from 2010 to 2012, all crude oil spills that occurred were minimal in nature, with 80 per cent less than or equal to five litres.

TransCanada has demonstrated their commitment to pipeline safety for communities, residents and employees through their investment of more than \$1 billion in pipeline safety and preventative maintenance programs. They seek to meet or exceed all applicable laws and regulations and work with local authorities to develop joint emergency plans and awareness programs. Through communication with fire departments, police and emergency responders, TransCanada works to ensure that community residents are able to work and live safely near pipelines.



TransCanada has demonstrated an excellent working relationship with communities through partnerships and being an employer of choice. In 2012, TransCanada Pipelines Limited contributed more than \$10 million in financial and in-kind donations towards communities across North America.

It is evident that should the TransCanada Pipeline's Energy East project move forward, significant benefits for northeastern Ontario would be generated. According to the Deloitte & Touche LLP report, Energy East would provide both direct and indirect jobs during the six year development and construction phase as well as during the 40 year operations phase. The development and operation of the project will stimulate the economy by providing over \$25 billion to the Canadian economy and more specifically over \$9 billion to the Ontario economy.

The Ontario Energy Board should focus on the regional impacts that the project would have, both directly and indirectly. The Ontario Energy Board should also undertake further research into the impacts of a converting a gas pipeline into an oil pipeline and any potential effects it may have on northern businesses and consumers.