



FEB 27 2013

Ref. 75542

The Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Natural Resources Canada
580 Booth Street, 21st Floor, Room C7-1
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

Dear Minister Oliver:

I am aware that the federal government has received a proposal from the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) to amend the pipeline threshold in section 14(a) of the Regulations Designating Physical Activities (Regulations) under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEA Act 2012). The proposed amendment would remove the federal obligation to conduct environmental assessments on intra-provincial oil and gas pipelines.

I wish to convey that British Columbia supports the intent of this change to the Regulations, and views the regulatory processes managed by our Environmental Assessment Office and the BC Oil and Gas Commission as sufficient to ensure the rigorous management of oil and gas pipelines in the Province.

To ensure fairness for proponents and consistency within the Province, it is British Columbia's view that should the federal government adopt this amendment approach to section 14(a) of the Regulations, the amended threshold would be applied to any proposed project that has entered the federal environmental assessment process following the coming into force of the CEA Act 2012. This would help ensure a common approach for the environmental reviews of pipelines supporting proposed liquefied natural gas projects in British Columbia.

I wish to emphasize that I am very pleased with the collaborative work that has been undertaken by our governments to develop a framework for implementation of the CEA Act 2012.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Rich Coleman
Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas
and Deputy Premier

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Ministry of
Energy, Mines and Natural Gas
and Deputy Premier

Office of the Minister

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9060, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Telephone: 250 387-5896
Facsimile: 250 356-2965

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cc: The Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of the Environment
Government of Canada

Honourable Terry Lake
Minister of Environment
Government of British Columbia

Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training
Government of British Columbia

Mr. Steve Carr
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas
Government of British Columbia

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

MAY 15 2013

The Honourable Rich Coleman, M.L.A.
Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas
and Deputy Premier
Government of British Columbia
P.O. Box 9060, Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, British Columbia V8W 9E2

Dear Minister:

Thank you for your correspondence of February 27, 2013, regarding amendments to the intra-provincial pipeline threshold in the *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*.

Through the Economic Action Plan 2012, the Government of Canada announced its plan to modernize the review process for major projects. Responsible Resource Development will create jobs, growth, and long-term prosperity while strengthening protection of the environment for future generations of Canadians. We believe that the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* provides a reasonable and balanced approach to federal environmental assessment and is key to our efforts to achieve the goal of "one project, one review" in a clearly defined time period. I appreciate your support of our efforts to put in place a more efficient and effective regulatory system to unleash the potential of our resource sector while strengthening environmental protection.

The *Regulations Designating Physical Activities* are a core element of our plan for Responsible Resource Development. The current Regulations are based on the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* under the former *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*. However, we recognize that changes are required to ensure that this list is fully aligned with the objectives of our plan to focus on major projects with the greatest potential for significant environmental effects on areas of federal jurisdiction. Therefore, on April 20, 2013, my colleague, the Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment, published proposed changes to the Regulations in the *Canada Gazette*, Part I, for a 30-day public comment period. The proposed amendments would result in the removal of the entry for intra-provincial pipelines, recognizing that the provinces regulate such projects.

MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES		
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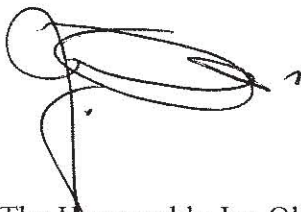
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With respect to pipelines, the proposed amendments would remove pipelines from the regulations, except those that are regulated by the National Energy Board, located in a wildlife area or migratory bird sanctuary, or located offshore.

The *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* and its regulations are the responsibility of the Honourable Peter Kent, Minister of the Environment; therefore, I have sent a copy of this correspondence to Minister Kent to ensure that he is aware of your views.

Again, thank you for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Oliver', with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Honourable Joe Oliver, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment