May 17, 2013

Mr. John McCauley  
Director, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3  
Regulations@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Dear Mr. McCauley:

Re: Draft Regulations Amending the Regulations Designating Physical Activities, Gazette 1, April 20, 2013

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) has reviewed the draft Regulations Amending the Regulations Designating Physical Activities (the Regulations) as published in Gazette 1 on April 20, 2013, and wishes to express our industry’s support for the proposed amendments. We believe the amended Regulations are consistent with the objectives of the government under Responsible Resource Development and will lead to a more effective, efficient and timely regulatory process.

We believe the Regulations, as amended will move the pipeline approval process closer to achieving a “one project-one review” approach by removing overlap and duplication between federal and provincial review processes. For our industry, this will put pipeline project reviews clearly under the jurisdiction of the National Energy Board (NEB) for federally regulated projects or under the jurisdiction of provincial authorities for provincially regulated pipelines while maintain rigour and appropriate engagement. The NEB has in-depth knowledge of the safety, environmental and socio-economic considerations relevant to major pipeline projects, as well as the experience needed to balance local and national interests. Similarly, provincial authorities have longstanding expertise and knowledge of their respective citizen’s public interests. Such an approach will free up resources being spent on duplicative processes and respect provincial jurisdiction, while still delivering environmental protection and safety outcomes that Canadians expect.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments at this stage. We believe the amended Regulations are a positive step toward fully implementing the changes enacted under Responsible Resource Development and CEAA 2012. We would welcome the opportunity to maintain a dialogue on this Regulation and other Responsible Resource Development changes as the government moves forward with their implementation over the coming months. Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment and if you have any questions about our comments please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Brenda Kenny  
President & CEO