



Peter Watson
Chair and CEO
National Energy Board
517 10th Avenue SW
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30 April 2015

Dear Mr. Watson

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) would like to extend its full support for the enhancement of public transparency regarding emergency response plans. CEPA members operate 115,000 kilometres of transmission pipelines in Canada. Our members transport 97 per cent of Canada's daily natural gas and onshore crude oil production from producing regions to markets throughout Canada and the US in a manner that emphasizes safety, pipeline integrity, and social and environmental stewardship.

CEPA acknowledges the importance of transparency of emergency response planning to the general public. It is important that people have confidence in the ability of industry to effectively respond to emergencies. The public desire for increased access to emergency response plans complements the industry's commitment, and CEPA's stated corporate value, to enhancing transparency throughout all phases of pipeline operations. As such, we are supportive of the announced NEB public consultation process that includes a review of the guidance being developed by CEPA on behalf of its member companies.

CEPA members have come together to advance a common approach to public disclosure of emergency response plans. On March 23rd of this year CEPA [publicly acknowledged](#) the importance of this issue and announced its commitment to move forward on this initiative. CEOs from our member companies have committed to developing guiding principles for disclosure of emergency response information. These guidelines, once finalized, will be used to create a standard disclosure template to be developed as soon as practical.

The intention of this initiative is to have publicly available emergency response plans that meet Canadians' high expectations for transparency. We fully intend to share the appropriate level of information with various stakeholders while taking into account Canadian legal requirements pertaining to public safety and security. Information withheld from the general public will relate to privacy and security of critical infrastructure, which is nonetheless always made available to emergency responders. Consultation with key stakeholders related to development of the disclosure template will take place through the Spring/Summer of this year. We applaud the NEB's broad consultation on this matter and very much look forward to the results and guidance that will emerge from that process.



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Canadians expect excellence and transparency. CEPA and its members are committed to working with governments, regulators and other stakeholders to meet these expectations in order to maintain public confidence. Our commitment to enhanced transparency and continuous improvement is also emphasized through the CEPA Integrity First[®] Program. Accountability, within the industry and to Canadians, is instrumental to the program's success. Through regular public reporting, CEPA Integrity First will increase the industry's transparency and accountability on performance and member activities.

In closing, CEPA and its member companies are working hard to ensure that this important initiative moves forward in an efficient and effective manner. We believe that it is a positive step forward in increasing the public confidence in the effectiveness of industry to handle emergencies. We look forward to the opportunity to share our progress on the new template in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Kenny, PhD, PEng
President & CEO