

NOMA Resolution Supporting Energy East: Fort Frances, ON

09:00 Apr 24, 2014 Fort Frances, Ontario, Canada

Description:

Resolution #: 2014-12

SUPPORT OF TRANSCANADA PIPELINES ENERGY EAST PROJECT

Submitted by: NOMA Resolutions Committee

Background:

WHEREAS there are 28 NOMA member communities located immediately adjacent to or are divided by CN and CP rail in the Northwest;

and

WHEREAS there is a total population of 165,294 people who live in those communities and this number increases with the inclusion of First Nations communities and unincorporated areas;

and

WHEREAS the vast majority of the population of the Northwest are exposed on a daily basis to the hundreds of rail cars carrying some form of fossil fuel beside their homes and businesses;

and

WHEREAS rail accidents involving cargo of fossil fuels have had devastating results including significant loss of life;

and

WHEREAS shipping crude oil by pipeline is a much safer way of transporting such a commodity than by rail car or truck;

and

WHEREAS the pipeline that TransCanada is proposing to convert from natural gas to crude oil is buried underground throughout its entire length through Northwestern Ontario with the exception of facilities such as pumping stations, valves etc.

Resolution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association hereby requests that the National Energy Board (NEB) approve TransCanada Pipelines Energy East Project provided that the following are included:

TransCanada to utilize a state-of-the-art leak detection system which can isolate any section of pipe by remotely closing valves and shutting down pump stations;

Valves to be installed on both sides of significant water crossings to immediately isolate the section of pipe in the unlikely event of a leak;

A comprehensive public consultation on the definition of a 'significant water crossing' to be undertaken by TransCanada Pipelines throughout Northern Ontario prior to the NEB approval;

This system is to have highly trained staff that monitor it 24 hours a day ensure that the pipeline will be shut down at the first sign of a potential problem;

Frequent visual inspection of the pipeline route to be completed by TransCanada personnel;

Aerial inspections by TransCanada and industry partners to be undertaken; and

The process for verification of the above requirements form part of the NEB decision.