

Emergency Response Preparedness Q&A

For over 60 years, TransCanada has delivered energy safely and efficiently. Safety is our top priority. Always. This is why we prepare for everything, even the unexpected.

During Energy East's continued engagement with community members along the project's pipeline route, questions were asked about pipeline safety and our emergency response preparedness. Here are answers to six of the most frequently asked questions:

Question: What is an Emergency Response Plan?

Answer: An Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is a document that outlines procedures to provide the safest and earliest possible response to an emergency in order to protect and mitigate impacts to the public and responders, property and the environment. TransCanada has a comprehensive ERP in place for every pipeline it operates.

In response to community and stakeholder feedback, Energy East announced in April 2015 that it was accelerating the development and roll out of ERPs with local and regional emergency response agencies along the project's pipeline route.

The Energy East Project team has already met with local and regional emergency response agencies along the route to provide preliminary information about emergency response planning and to encourage their involvement to help us develop our ERPs. As a result, Energy East will submit prepared ERPs to the National Energy Board (NEB) much earlier than the regulatory process requires.

The existing Keystone Pipeline and the Canadian Mainline have response plans that will serve as the basis for the Energy East Pipeline Project ERP.

Question: Are ERPs tailored to local communities?

Answer: Yes, TransCanada's ERPs are developed through a detailed and comprehensive process specific to the project and communities in which we operate or plan to operate.

The overall ERP for the Project will be the product of collaboration and information-sharing with local first responders. It will take into account geographically-sensitive areas and will include the details of how emergency response would be conducted to protect public safety and the environment if an incident happened.

Question: How long does it take to respond to a spill?

Answer: As with all of TransCanada's pipelines, the Energy East pipeline will be monitored 24 hours a day, 365 days a year from our Oil Control Centre (OCC) in Calgary. Sensors placed along the pipeline will transmit data every few seconds to our highly-trained OCC specialists. If data shows an unexpected drop in pressure or temperature, or any other sign of anomaly, our leak detection operators have only a few minutes to identify the issue.

If they cannot quickly solve the issue, the pipeline will be shut down, meaning the oil will stop flowing within minutes, and a local team will be dispatched to the site immediately. Pump stations will stop moving the oil along the pipeline and shut-off valves will compartmentalize the pipeline into smaller units, effectively isolating the segment of pipeline where data indicate a possible leak.

Energy East Pipeline



Contact us

We encourage your input and invite interested stakeholders to contact us.

1.855.895.8750 (Toll-free)

EnergyEast@TransCanada.com

EnergyEastPipeline.com

Emergency Response Preparedness Q&A

Question: How long will it take to clean up a spill?

Answer: While the amount of time required for clean-up depends on the size and nature of the spill, our objective remains the same: to move quickly and efficiently to protect public safety and limit any harm to the environment.

We work with first responders to review processes and the specialized equipment we will store in various locations all along the pipeline route, and we ensure they are trained to respond to an emergency through regular training exercises. We prepare so we are fully ready, and everyone knows their role and responsibility, if we need to intervene.

Question: Who pays for cleanup?

Answer: Regardless of the cause of a spill from its facilities, Energy East has the responsibility to cover the cost of clean-up, remediation and other spill related impacts, for example property damage.

If an incident happened, local first responders would not be expected to perform additional work outside of their usual duties. We offer them training at no cost and we develop our plans in consultation and collaboration with them.

Question: Who is responsible for planning, training and costs of participation of local first responders?

Answer: TransCanada is responsible for planning and handling emergency response scenarios as well as the costs associated with emergency response training. We also work with local first responders to help them prepare for possible pipeline emergencies. We actively engage them to help us build our ERPs and participate in our emergency response field exercises so everyone knows their roles and responsibilities.

In addition, we manage responses using the Incident Command System (ICS) – a collaborative system widely used by first responders across North America. When we train our personnel in the ICS, and other spill response courses, we invite first responders to attend. We organize these exercises at various locations along the pipeline route and schedule awareness training with first responders at locations convenient for them.

