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December 13, 2005

Michel Mantha Secretary National Energy Board 444 Seventh Ave SW Calgary AB T2P 0X8

Dear Mr. Mantha:

Thank you for your correspondence of November 28, 2005, requesting the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) indicate its roles and responsibilities respecting an environmental assessment of the Enbridge Gateway Project (Project).

We note that the Project proposes to build a pipeline that is inter-provincial in nature. Inter-provincial pipelines are federally regulated since they are works or undertakings that fall within section 92(10)(a) of the Constitution, and are not therefore subject to any certificate that may be issued under the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act* (Act).

Since an environmental assessment under the Act is not applicable, the Canada-British Columbia Agreement on Environmental Assessment Cooperation is also not applicable.

I trust this information addresses the questions that have been raised by the National Energy Board. If you have any further questions on this matter, please contact John Bones, Project Assessment Director, at (250) 387-1447 or John.Bones@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

Joan Hesketh

**Associate Deputy Minister** 

Joan Hesketh

pc:

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