



File PA-GPI 2005-001
11 May 2006

Ms. Karen Campbell
Counsel
Pembina Institute
Suite 606, 55 Water Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1A1
Facsimile (604) 874-8557

Dear Ms. Campbell:

Subject: Gateway Pipeline Project – Crude Oil Tanker Traffic off the Coast of British Columbia

The National Energy Board (the Board) is in receipt of your letter dated 12 April 2006 in which you ask that the Board advise you as to the rationale for proceeding with the examination of the proposed Gateway Pipeline Project (the Project) “given the existence of the moratorium”.

As you may be aware, Gateway Pipeline Inc. (an entity established by Enbridge Inc.) filed a Preliminary Information Package for the Project on 1 November 2005 with the Board and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. As a potential responsible authority under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEA Act) for this Project, the Board together with other federal departments and agencies on 9 February 2006 made a recommendation to the Minister of the Environment that the Project be referred to a review panel. The recommendation was made on the basis of the information received in the Preliminary Information Package and the public concerns voiced to that date. No application has been submitted to the Board for the Project and, therefore, the Board has not established a regulatory process for the review. Further, the Minister of Environment has not yet confirmed whether the Project will be reviewed by a panel.

In your letter you refer to existing restrictions prohibiting crude oil tanker traffic off the B.C. coast. The Board understands that the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities has the primary responsibility for offshore transportation. The Minister of Natural Resources has primary responsibility for the moratorium on offshore B.C. oil and gas activities. Any oil terminal proposal along the B.C. coast would require an environmental assessment, one that

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would review, among many environmental aspects, the impacts of terminal operations on the environment. At the same time, issues related to the safety of marine navigation and shipping routes would also be addressed.

A public registry of information submitted to the Board for the proposed Gateway Pipeline Project has been set up on our website at http://www.neb-one.gc.ca/PublicRegistries/Gateway/pubreg_e.htm. All new information submitted to the Board about the proposed Project is posted on this public registry.

If you should have any other questions about the Board and its processes, please contact Ms. Christine Beauchemin, legal counsel at (403) 292-6489 or Mr. Denis Saumure, legal counsel at (403) 292-6495.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mantha', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michel L. Mantha
Secretary

c.c. The Honourable Rona Ambrose, Minister of Environment
Facsimile (819) 953-3457

The Honourable Gary Lunn, Minister of Natural Resources
Facsimile (613) 996-4516

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Facsimile (613) 995-0327

Ms. Debra Myles, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
Facsimile (613) 957-0935

Ms. Sonya Buys, Enbridge Pipelines Inc.
Facsimile (780) 420-5389