

Rabaska Project

Environmental Assessment Scoping Document

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Gaz Métro Limited Partnership, Gaz de France and Enbridge Inc. (the Proponents) jointly propose the development of the Rabaska Project aimed at constructing a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in the Ville Guay/Beaumont area comprising the western portion of the City of Beaumont and the eastern portion of the City of Lévis, in the Province of Quebec.

The Rabaska Project includes a terminal comprising of two storage tanks, a marine jetty to receive the LNG tankers, pumping, compression and vaporizing facilities and a pipeline of approximately 50 kilometres to connect the terminal to the existing facilities of Trans Québec & Maritimes (TQM) Pipeline Inc. in St. Nicolas.

The Rabaska Project is subject to the federal environmental assessment process pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the CEA Act).

1.1 Purpose of the Scoping Document

This document is an information document briefly describing the federal environmental assessment process, the various opportunities for public participation, and the scope of the federal environmental assessment for the Rabaska Project. The term “scope of the environmental assessment” means the proposed scope of the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment, the factors proposed to be considered in the environmental assessment, and the proposed scope of those factors.

This document is currently being submitted for public consultation pursuant to the environmental assessment process set out in the CEA Act and as described in sections 1.2 and 1.3 below.

1.2 Environmental Assessment Process

The Rabaska Project is subject to a comprehensive study under the CEA Act, pursuant to paragraphs 13(d) and 28(c) of the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* regarding the LNG storage facility, with a capacity of over 50,000 tonne, and the marine terminal designed to accommodate tankers over 25,000 Deadweight Tonnage.

The National Energy Board (NEB), the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and Transport Canada (TC) are the responsible authorities (RAs) and shall ensure that an environmental assessment of the Rabaska Project is undertaken. The federal permits and authorizations which trigger the CEA Act and will be necessary for this project are:

- a certificate of public convenience and necessity delivered pursuant to section 52 of the *National Energy Board Act* (NEB Act);
- authorization by the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans pursuant to subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*; and
- approval by the Minister of Transport pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*.

To assist in the environmental assessment process, Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada and Health Canada will provide expert advice in relation to the project.

The Quebec regional office of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is the Federal Environmental Assessment Coordinator for this project. Its role is to coordinate the participation of federal authorities in the environmental assessment process and to facilitate communication and cooperation among them and other participants.

Pursuant to subsection 21(2) of the CEA Act, after the public consultation on this document, the NEB, DFO and TC (the RAs) shall report to the federal Minister of the Environment regarding the following: the scope of the environmental assessment, public concerns in relation to the project, the potential of the project to cause adverse environmental effects, and the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project. The RAs shall also recommend to the Minister to continue with the environmental assessment by means of a comprehensive study or to refer the project to a mediator or review panel.

After considering the RAs' report and recommendation, the Minister of the Environment will determine whether to refer the project back to the RAs so that they may complete the comprehensive study, or refer the project to a mediator or review panel.

If the Minister of the Environment determines that the environmental assessment may continue as a comprehensive study, the RAs will facilitate the public's continued participation in the comprehensive study process.

If the Minister of the Environment decides to refer the project to a mediator or a review panel in accordance with section 29 of the CEA Act, the Rabaska Project will no longer be subject to the comprehensive study provisions under the CEA Act. The Minister of the Environment, after consulting the RAs and other appropriate parties, will set the terms of reference for the public review, and appoint the mediator or review panel chairperson and members.

1.3 Public Participation

Public participation is a critical component of the environmental assessment process. By ensuring timely and meaningful public participation opportunities, the quality and credibility of the environmental assessment is strengthened. To facilitate public participation in comprehensive studies, review panels and mediations, the Agency administers a participant funding program. For information about this program, please consult the Agency's website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca.

The purpose of the current public consultation on the scope of the environmental assessment is to seek comments from the public in order to prepare a report to the Minister of the Environment (discussed in section 1.2), and to finalize the scope of the environmental assessment. Specifically, during the current consultation, the public is invited to comment on the following points:

- the proposed scope of the project for the purposes of the environmental assessment, the factors proposed to be considered in its assessment, and the proposed scope of those factors; and
- the ability of the comprehensive study to address issues relating to the project.

Written comments on the draft environmental assessment scoping document are to be filed by mail with the Secretary of the National Energy Board by 13 September 2004 at the following address:

Mr. Michel L. Mantha
Secretary
National Energy Board
444 - 7th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8

Filings may also be made by facsimile at (403) 292-5503.

In addition to this consultation on the scope, the public will be offered other opportunities to participate in the environmental assessment and offer their views.

If the project continues as a comprehensive study, the RAs will prepare a comprehensive study report and submit it to the Minister of the Environment and to the Agency. The public will then have the opportunity to comment on the comprehensive study report. The Minister of the Environment will consider the public comments received and the conclusion of the comprehensive study report. Finally, pursuant to section 23 of the CEA Act, the Minister shall issue an environmental assessment decision statement and refer the project to the RAs so that they can make a decision as to the exercise of their powers, duties or functions.

With respect to the comprehensive study, the public will also have the opportunity to participate during the environmental assessment period specifically planned as part of the NEB public hearing process.

Furthermore, if the environmental assessment is referred to a mediator or review panel, the public will have the opportunity to participate in various stages of the evaluation process, specifically, at public hearings. Where necessary, the terms and conditions of public participation will be communicated subsequently.

The public may also consult the environmental assessment file for the Rabaska Project via the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry, which is accessible at the Agency's website at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca. The project file will be maintained by the NEB and is available on the NEB's web site at www.neb-one.gc.ca under "Public Registries". The project file includes all records produced, collected or submitted with respect to the environmental assessment of the Rabaska Project.

2.0 SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The RAs will ensure that an environmental assessment of the project is conducted in accordance with the scope of the project provided under subsection 2.1 below. The RAs will include in their review consideration of the factors identified in subsection 2.2 and will consider the potential effects of the proposed Rabaska Project within spatial and temporal boundaries described in subsection 2.3.

2.1 Scope of the Project

The scope of the project as determined for the purposes of the environmental assessment includes the various components of the project as described by the Proponents in the June 2004 Project Description, and the physical works and activities described in this document.

The scope of the project includes construction, operation, maintenance and foreseeable changes, and where relevant, the abandonment, decommissioning and rehabilitation of sites relating to the entire LNG terminal, and specifically, the following physical works and activities:

- marine facilities comprising:
 - a jetty designed to accommodate LNG tankers ranging between 138,000 metres³ and 160,000 metres³ in capacity together with all related unloading facilities;
- dredging and sediment disposal, where necessary;
- use of explosives, where necessary;
- cryogenic lines to move the LNG from the jetty to the terminal;

- a terminal capable of delivering 500 million cubic feet per day of vaporized gas consisting of:
 - two storage tanks, the walls and roof of which will be made of concrete,
 - pumping, compression and vaporizing facilities to withdraw the liquefied gas from the tanks and inject it in a gaseous state into the pipeline,
 - maintenance, control, and administration buildings,
 - a water treatment plant, including water intake and outfall, where necessary,
 - a metering station together with all related facilities including gas fractionating installations,
 - and a railway spur required to connect the terminal to the railway operated by Canadian National to ship natural gas liquids to local markets;
- a pipeline of approximately 50 kilometres between the Ville Guay/Beaumont area and the existing facilities of TQM Pipeline in St. Nicolas, Quebec, including a metering station, cathodic protection and shutoff valves;
- permanent access roads, communications system, and power supply as may be required to service the site;
- related physical works and activities, including all temporary facilities required for the construction of the LNG terminal; and
- natural gas supply taken from various places in the Atlantic basin and delivered to the project on an annual basis by means of about 60 LNG tanker deliveries.

2.2 Factors to be Considered

The environmental assessment will include a consideration of the following factors listed in subsections 16(1)(a) to (d) and 16(2) of the CEA Act:

1. The environmental effects of the project, including the environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project and any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
2. The significance of the effects referred to in paragraph 1;
3. Comments from the public that are received during the public review;
4. Measures that are technically and economically feasible and that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project;
5. The purpose of the project;
6. Alternative means of carrying out the project that are technically and economically feasible and the environmental effects of any such alternative means;
7. The need for, and the requirements of, any follow up program in respect of the project; and
8. The capacity of renewable resources that are likely to be significantly affected by the project to meet the needs of the present and those of the future.

In accordance with subsection 16(1)(e) of the CEA Act, the assessment by the RAs will also include a consideration of the additional following matters:

9. Need for the project; and
10. Alternatives to the project.¹

Subsection 2(1) of the CEA Act defines environmental effects as any change that the project may cause in the environment, including any change it may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residences of individuals of that species, as those terms are defined in subsection 2(1) of the *Species at Risk Act*, any effect of any such change on health and socio-economic conditions, physical and cultural heritage, the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons or any structure site or thing that is of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance or any change to the project that may be caused by the environment.

2.3 Scope of Factors to be Considered

The environmental assessment will consider the potential effects of the proposed Rabaska Project within spatial and temporal boundaries which encompass the periods and areas during and within which the project may potentially interact with, and have an effect on components of the environment. These boundaries will vary with the issues and factors considered, and will include;

- construction, operation, decommissioning, site rehabilitation and abandonment or other undertakings that are proposed by the Proponents or that are likely to be carried out in relation to the physical works proposed by the Proponents, including mitigation and habitat replacement measures;
- the natural variation of a population or ecological component;
- the timing of sensitive life cycle phases of wildlife species in relation to the scheduling of the project;
- the time required for an effect to become evident;
- the time required for a population or ecological component to recover from an effect and return to a pre-effect condition, including the estimated degree of recovery;
- the area affected by the project; and
- the area within which a population or ecological component functions and within which a project effect may be felt.

For the purpose of the assessment of the cumulative environmental effects, the consideration of other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out will include those for which formal plans or applications have been made.

¹ The Agency's October 1998 Operational Policy Statement addressing the "need for" the project, the "purpose of" the project, the "alternatives to" the project and "alternative means" of carrying out the project, provides definitions and general guidance on when and how these factors should be considered.

The environmental assessment should consider, but not be limited to, the issues and topics identified in the following table:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Issues

Biophysical and Socio-Economic Elements	Potential Issues
Physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meteorology, climatology and climate change • Geology, geomorphology and seismology • Currents, tides, water levels and waves • Ice conditions • Water quality and quantity, including nutrients and chemicals • Sediment (quality and transport) • Soil and soil productivity
Biological environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terrestrial and aquatic vegetation • Fish² • Fish habitat • Wetlands • Wildlife and wildlife habitat, including migratory birds • Species at Risk or Species of Special Status and related Habitat
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air emissions and greenhouse gases
Acoustic environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underwater noise • Noise during construction and operation
Human occupancy and use of terrestrial and aquatic resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks • Forestry • Agriculture • Mineral tenures, gravel resources • Landfills • Proximity to residential areas • Recreational/tourism activities • Resorts • Future development plans • Access management • Crossing of contaminated areas • Commercial and recreational fishing • Commercial shipping and pleasure boating
Terrestrial and aquatic heritage resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural, historic, archaeological and paleontological resources
Traditional land and resource use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current use of land and terrestrial and aquatic resources for traditional purposes • Cultural sites
Human health and aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project emissions and effluents • Noise, dust during construction and operation • Potential accidents and malfunctions • Public safety • Water supplies, sewage treatment • Aesthetics and landscape

² The *Fisheries Act* defines fish as including parts of fish, shellfish, crustaceans, marine animals and any parts of shellfish, crustaceans or marine animals, and the eggs, sperm, spawn, larvae, spat and juvenile stages of fish, shellfish, crustaceans and marine animals.

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