
Cacouna Energy Project

Environmental Assessment Scoping Document

1.0 INTRODUCTION

TransCanada PipeLines Limited and Petro-Canada have jointly submitted a project for the construction of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal at Gros Cacouna, on the South Shore of the St. Lawrence Estuary east of Rivière-du-Loup, namely, the Cacouna Energy Project.

The Cacouna Energy Project includes the marine shipping of liquefied natural gas and various facilities, including: two storage tanks, pumps, vaporizers, a natural gas nitrogen addition unit, offices, access roads, and buildings intended for maintenance and safety. A jetty for berthing and unloading of the LNG tankers would project about 350 metres into the St. Lawrence River from the terminal site.

The Cacouna Energy Project is subject to the federal environmental assessment process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA).

1.1 Object of the Document

The Scoping document is an information document which summarily describes the federal environmental assessment process, the various opportunities for public participation and the scope of the federal environmental assessment of the Cacouna Energy Project. “Environmental assessment scoping” refers to the scope of the project proposed for environmental assessment purposes, the factors proposed for consideration within the framework of the environmental assessment and the proposed scope of these 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 Cacouna Energy Project is subject to a comprehensive study under the CEAA, pursuant to paragraphs 13(d) and 28(c) of the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* regarding the liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility with a capacity of over 50,000 tons and the marine terminal designed to accommodate tankers over 25,000 tons Deadweight Tonnage.

Transport Canada (TC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC) are the responsible authorities (RAs) mandated to ensure that the environmental assessment of the Cacouna Energy Project is undertaken. The federal permits and authorizations which trigger the CEA Act process and which will be necessary for the project's implementation are:

- the approval of the Minister of Transport pursuant to subsection 5(1) of the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*;
- the issuance of a lease by Transport Canada;
- the authorization of the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans pursuant to subsection 35(2) of the *Fisheries Act*.

To facilitate the environmental assessment process, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Environment Canada, the National Energy Board, 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 of this project. Its mandate is to coordinate the participation of federal authorities in the environmental assessment process and facilitate communication and cooperation between them and the other participants.

In accordance with subsection 21(2) of the CEA Act, TC and FOC, after the public consultation of this document, shall report to the federal Minister of the Environment regarding the following: the scope of the environmental assessment, public concerns, 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 responsible authorities shall also recommend to the Minister to continue the environmental assessment by means of a comprehensive study or refer the project to a mediator or a review panel.

After studying the report and the recommendation of the responsible authorities, the Minister of the Environment, as he deems appropriate, shall refer the project to the responsible authorities to continue with the comprehensive study or submit the project to a mediator or a review panel.

If the Minister of the Environment opts for a comprehensive study, the responsible authorities will facilitate the public's continued participation in the comprehensive study process.

If the Minister of the Environment instead decides to submit the project to a mediator or a review panel in accordance with Section 29 of the CEA Act, the Cacouna Energy Project will no longer be subject to the comprehensive study provisions under the CEA Act. After consulting the responsible authorities and the other parties involved, the Minister of the Environment will determine the mandate of the public review and will appoint the mediator or the chair and the members of the project review panel, as the case may be.

1.3 Public Participation

Public participation is a crucial component of the environmental assessment process. When the public has the possibility of participating fully in the process, the quality and credibility of the environmental assessment are strengthened. To facilitate public participation in comprehensive studies, a review panel or mediation, the Agency administers a Participant Funding Program. The availability of this Program will be announced once the Minister of the Environment has determined the most appropriate environmental assessment process for this project. More detailed information on the Program is available on the Agency's Web site at www.acee-ceaa.gc.ca.

This consultation, which focuses on the Environmental Assessment Scoping document, essentially seeks to gather the public's comments for the purpose of preparing the report to the Minister of the Environment (discussed in section 1.2) and finally establish the scope of the environmental assessment. More specifically, during this consultation, the public is invited to make its comments specifically on the following factors:

- the scope of the environmental assessment, the factors to be considered in the assessment and the scope of these factors;
- the issue of whether the comprehensive study allows consideration of the issues involved in the project.

The written comments regarding the draft Environmental Assessment Scoping Document must be mailed by March 18, 2005 to the following address:

Ms. Éline Bolduc
Transport Canada
Programs – Quebec Region
Environmental Affairs
Champlain Marine Terminal, 901 Cap Diamant, 4th floor
Quebec (Quebec) G1K 4K1

The documents may also be sent by fax at (418) 648-7980 or at the following email address: groscaounatc@tc.gc.ca

In addition to this consultation on the scope, the public will have other opportunities to participate in the environmental assessment and present its point of view. If the project must be the object of a comprehensive study, the responsible authorities must ensure that the public has the possibility of participating in this study. In addition, the responsible authorities will draft a comprehensive study report. The public will then have the possibility of expressing comments on this report. The Minister of the Environment will consider the comments received and the conclusions of the comprehensive study report. Under Section 23 of the CEAA, the Minister shall issue an environmental assessment decision statement and refer the project back to the responsible authorities for a decision after the environmental assessment.

Moreover, if the environmental assessment is referred to a mediator or a review panel, the public will also have the opportunity to participate in different steps of the assessment process, particularly at the public hearings. If applicable, the conditions of the public's participation will be disclosed later.

It is also possible for the public to consult the environmental assessment file on the Cacouna Energy Project. This can be accessed via the [Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry](#). The project file will be updated by Transport Canada. The project file contains all the documents produced, collected or submitted concerning the environmental assessment of the Cacouna Energy Project.

2.0 SCOPE OF THE ASSESSMENT

The responsible authorities will ensure that the environmental assessment of the project, as the case may be, is conducted in accordance with the scope of the project set out under subsection 2.1 below. In their review, the responsible authorities will consider the factors indicated in subsection 2.2 and the potential effects of the project within the spatial and temporal boundaries described in subsection 2.3.

2.1 Scope of the Project

The scope of the project includes the construction, operation, maintenance and foreseeable modifications and, when relevant, the cessation of operation, decommissioning and rehabilitation of the premises related to the LNG terminal as a whole, and more specifically the following works and activities:

- transportation of natural gas by LNG tanker from the limits of the St. Lawrence estuary until its arrival at the terminal;
- the marine facilities composed of a jetty projecting some 350 metres into the St. Lawrence River, equipped with articulated booms and mooring dolphins, capable of accommodating LNG tankers with a capacity of up to 250,000 metres³ of LNG and all the associated unloading infrastructure;
- the cryogenic pipes to bring the LNG from the jetty to the terminal;
- a terminal composed of two storage tanks with an approximate capacity of 160,000 m³ each;
- a regasification plant including pumps, vaporizers to reheat the LNG and transform it into the gaseous state and the pipes and related equipment allowing annual production of 500 million cubic feet of natural gas per day on the average;
- a natural gas composition adjustment unit;
- all of the related works and activities, including all the temporary facilities required for construction of the terminal, in particular:
 - the permanent and temporary access roads;
 - the temporary or permanent power sources and infrastructure required to supply power to the site;
 - the water supply and wastewater treatment;

-
- the dredging and depositing of sediments, as the case may be;
 - the use, handling and storage of explosives, petroleum products and hazardous materials;
 - the buildings, including all temporary facilities required for construction of the LNG terminal.

2.2 Factors to Consider

The environmental assessment will include a consideration of the following factors, listed in paragraphs 16(1)(a) to (e) and subsection 16(2) of the CEEA:

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 point 1;
3. comments from the public in this regard that are received during the environmental assessment;
4. measures that are technically and economically feasible that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project;
5. the need for the project;
6. alternative means for carrying out the project ;
7. the purpose of the project
8. the need for, and the requirements of, any follow-up program with respect to the the project;
9. 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 future generations.

The environmental effects, as defined in subsection 2(1) of the CEEA, are any changes the project may cause to the environment, including any change it may cause to a listed wildlife species, its critical habitat or the residences of individuals of that species, within the meaning of subsection 2(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* – the effects of these changes on health and socio-economic conditions, the current use of land and resources for traditional purposes by aboriginal persons, any structure, site or thing that is of archaeological, paleontological or architectural significance, and any change to the project that may be caused by the environment.

2.3 Scope of the Factors to be considered

The environmental assessment will account for the potential effects of the Cacouna Energy Project within the spatial and territorial limits that correspond to the periods and

sectors in which the project could interact with or affect components of the environment. These limits, which will vary according to the issues and factors considered, will include:

- construction, operation, maintenance, foreseeable modifications, decommissioning, rehabilitation and cessation of operation or other activities proposed by the promoters or which will probably be carried on in relation to the works proposed by the promoters, including the mitigation and habitat replacement measures;
- the natural variation of a component of the population or an environmental component;
- the sensitive stages of the life cycles of wildlife species in relation to the project schedule;
- the time necessary for an effect to become evident;
- the time necessary for a component of the population or an environmental component to recover from the effect in question and return to the previous state, including the estimated degree of recovery;
- the zone within which a component of the population or an environmental component functions and within which an effect of the project could be felt.

The environmental assessment should account for the factors indicated in the following table, without limitation:

	Subjects
Physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meteorology, climatology and climate changes (greenhouse gases) • Geology, geomorphology and seismology • Hydrodynamics (currents, tides, water levels and waves) • Ice conditions • Water quality and quantity (effluents, nutrients, chemical substances, etc.) • Air quality (pollutants, dust) • Marine sediments (quality and transportation) • Noise environment, including underwater noise levels
Biological environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and aquatic vegetation • Fish habitat and fish² • Marine mammals • Wetlands • Wildlife and wildlife habitats, including migratory birds • Species at risk or with special status and their habitat
Human environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human occupation and use of land and aquatic resources Protected areas: (St. Lawrence Estuary Marine Protection Area project, marine parks, wildlife reserve) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity of residential zones - Recreotourist activities

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

	Subjects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resorts - Future development plans - Access management - Commercial and sport fishing - Commercial and pleasure navigation • Heritage, cultural, historical, archeological and paleontological resources (land and aquatic) • Current use of lands and land and aquatic resources for traditional purposes • Human health • Public safety, including exclusion zones • Economic spinoffs • Esthetics and scenery