



February 15, 2017

Secretary of the Board  
National Energy Board  
Suite 210, 517 Tenth Avenue SW  
Calgary, AB T2R 0A8

Re: File No. OF-Fac-Oil-E266-2014-01 02.  
A81494 National Energy Board  
Ruling No. 1 - Panel Decision to Recommence the Energy East and Eastern Mainline  
Hearing

Re: A81494 National Energy Board - Ruling No. 1 - Panel Decision to Recommence the  
Energy East and Eastern Mainline Hearing

Comment --- Ruling 1.2 Joint Hearing

In the matter of the National Energy Board (NEB) Ruling No. 1 and Comment for Ruling 1.2 noted above, it is the opinion of the undersigned that Energy East and Eastern Mainline Hearings should not be considered as a single hearing but rather should be separate processes. These pipeline projects are the largest in Canadian history. They cross multiple jurisdictions, Aboriginal traditional lands and Treaty territories. The potential for significant environmental impacts are high and serious public concerns have been raised throughout the country. Combining Energy East and Eastern Mainline into a single hearing process poses the risk that the full scope of factors needing to be considered would be scaled down to accommodate the sheer size of the projects rather than address the full scope of issues and factors that need to be evaluated.

In addition, the adequacy of a Comprehensive Study to review the multifaceted and complicated issues associated with pipeline projects is put into question. The best Environmental Assessment (EA) process to date would be a Joint Review Panel where the federal minister of environment works in collaboration with their provincial counterparts to appoint a group of independent experts to conduct a Joint Review. A Joint Review is the highest level of scrutiny of all the current EA processes and is established when the potential for significant impacts are high and/or when serious public concerns are being raised. Serious concerns are continually being raised by various citizens, environmental groups, Aboriginal organizations and First Nations. Nothing short of a review process that enables a comprehensive analysis and broad public participation is required so that the voices of concern and interest from across the country can be heard, considered and acted upon.

The environment is everybody's business. It is the natural capital that sustains us all: industry, communities, individuals, societies and cultures. The current NEB and EA frameworks, however, are not equipped to evaluate the full scope of inter-connected environmental issues and divergent viewpoints. We have an opportunity at this juncture of the Panel's decision, to suspend the Energy East process altogether until the federal government completes their EA

review. It is imperative that a modernized EA process enable the due diligence required to address climate change and plan for a sustainable future that balances the economy with nature before there are irreversible effects.

Respectfully Submitted:

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