

**Brunswick Pipeline Southwest New Brunswick Community Liaison Committee Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**September 22, 3–5 pm | St. George Fire Hall**

Present for the meeting were:

Wayne Pollock  
Donald St. Pierre  
Ken McLeod  
Sean Morton  
Andrew Langille  
Susan Layton  
Christian Richard  
Nina MacKinnon

Regrets: Jeff Richardson, Marion St. Pierre

### **REVIEW OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

- Committee members did not have any additions or corrections to last meeting's minutes.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- **Media contact**

Company representative stated that Nina MacKinnon will serve as primary contact for any questions the Committee might have, media-related or otherwise. Emera's primary media contact person is located in Halifax, but for the purposes of this Committee, Nina will be the best point of contact. If necessary, she will field questions to the appropriate Emera contact.

- **Identification of location in relation to pipeline**

Company representative advised that there are several indicators that assist the Brunswick Pipeline team in identifying caller's location relative to our pipeline. They include our blue/white pipeline markers, numbered areal markers, as well as white test posts located about every kilometre and a half. The top of the white post is labeled with kilometre markings relative to our pipeline.

Further, our pipeline technicians are very familiar with the Brunswick Pipeline RoW and the surrounding area. There is also local expertise of the RoW and its surroundings among the fire chiefs and their departments.

The company representative explained that a person's location would be quickly determined given all these factors.

Committee member asks what happens when an individual dials 911 – will Brunswick Pipeline be notified if the call is related to the pipeline?

Company representative responds that if the caller mentions the pipeline, Brunswick Pipeline is automatically notified. The protocol in the 911 script dictates this procedure. Company representative also explained that this procedure was successfully tested in last year's Oak Bay mock exercise.

- **Terms of Reference**

Company representative asked whether committee members have any comments or edits to the previously shared Terms of Reference. Committee members did not have any comments or edits to the Terms of Reference.

### **PRESENTATION: CATHODIC PROTECTION**

Company representative commenced a presentation on cathodic protection.

Company representative asks presenter to clarify whether the corrosion protection equipment which is attached to the pipeline is visible. Company presenter responds that most of this equipment is not visible. There are, however, white test stations that are visible. These are white pipes that come to surface and have wires in them. They are a kilometre and a half apart. Corrosion technicians use these sites to measure the corrosion protection on the pipeline at that location. In addition, individuals might see grounding mats and small white square signs that say "rectifier bed" around test points.

Committee member asks how far away from the pipe the sacrificial anodes are located. Company representative responds that the anodes are either right on top or right beside the pipeline.

Committee member asks where Brunswick Pipeline's regulator is located. Company representative responds that the National Energy Board is located in Calgary.

Committee member asks about the helicopters and airplanes flying above the pipeline. Company representative responds that our aerial patrols are flown weekly, in a fixed-wing, yellow plane, and that Brunswick Pipeline rarely uses helicopters. Our planes do not monitor for corrosion protection in aerial patrols, they look for anomalies on our RoW (abandoned vehicles, for instance). The helicopter seen by the committee member is likely an NB Power helicopter conducting their transmission surveys.

Committee member asks if the company has any issues with vandalism. Company representative says that at times, during hunting season, the tops of our test posts get shot off. Sometimes big 4x4 trucks drive over the test posts.

Committee member asks whether turns in the pipeline wear quicker than straight pipeline. Company representative explains that is not the case because we are moving gas and not a liquid. Company representative adds that our gas comes from an LNG source, and all impurities and moisture in the gas would have been taken out when the gas was warmed to a gas state from a liquid state. It is clean gas running through the pipeline.

Without any additional committee questions, company representative concluded the presentation on cathodic protection.

## **ACTIVITIES ON PIPELINE**

### **▪ Routine maintenance**

Company representative explained that in the following week Brunswick Pipeline is planning on conducting a maintenance activity that measures the thickness of the pipeline steel. Company representative mentions this routine maintenance because committee members may notice some activity on the pipeline. The tool may be run at a later date if the gas flows in the pipeline are not optimal for the tool to be run.

Committee member asks if there are times of the year when the gas flow is higher than other times of the year. Company representative responds that the winter time is usually a period of higher gas flows.

Committee member asks if the pipeline has to be shut down for the tool to run. Company representative explains there is a way to insert the tool with the gas flowing, so the pipe does not have to be shut down.

Committee member asks how fast the tool runs through the pipeline. Company representative responds that the speed varies between 7km/hour and 11km/hour.

Committee member asks if residents are notified of the tool run. Company representative says no, but fire departments are notified in the case of a flare or blow-down on the pipeline.

Company representative adds that in terms of activities on the pipeline, there was a fair amount of environmental cleanup conducted in rural areas of southwest NB. These activities involved tending to some washouts, slope failures, or stream banks that needed to be cleaned up.

### **▪ Mowing**

Company representative explains that there are also mowing activities on the pipeline RoW: the section that is currently being mowed stretches from the Red Head Meter Station to KP 27.

Committee member inquires whether Hurricane Arthur and fallen trees impacted the Pipeline. Company representative explained that there were not a lot of trees down on the RoW, but there were power outages at our stations.

Committee member asks why Brunswick Pipeline and Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline do not mow at the same time. Company representative explains that the permits for mowing on the Brunswick Pipeline differ from the mowing permits on the Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline. Brunswick Pipeline is not allowed to mow during a migratory bird period. Maritimes & Northeast does not have this restriction on its permit. This is why the two companies are not able to mow their RoWs at the same time.

Committee member asks whether the entire route of the pipeline is mowed or if it occurs in sections. Company representative responds that one third of the Brunswick Pipeline is mowed per year.

- **Mock emergency exercise**

Company representative explains that Brunswick Pipeline conducts a mock emergency exercise every year, rotating between rural and urban communities. This year, the mock will take place in Saint John. A key finding at the last exercise was NB Power's involvement so they are participating again. Saint John Energy and other partners are involved as well.

Committee member asks what the other findings were in the Oak Bay mock emergency exercise of the previous year. Company representative explains that better identification of other, compound hazards was a takeaway from the exercise. The exercise in Saint John will be very complex, and it will simulate a situation of multiple hazards for mock exercise participants to respond to.

Committee member asks whether lessons learned from past mock emergency exercises can be shared with the group. Company representative suggests that the group be provided a presentation on past emergency exercises at the next CLC meeting. Committee members accepted the suggestion.

#### **PRESENTATION: NATURAL GAS MARKET OVERVIEW**

Company representative commenced a presentation on natural gas markets.

Committee member asks whether Brunswick Pipeline has any information about reports that shale gas being extracted is causing earth quakes. Company representative responds that Brunswick Pipeline does not have information about those reports, explains that Brunswick Pipeline and Emera are primarily in the pipeline and electricity industry, and not in oil and gas exploration, so company representative is not aware of any reports about earth quakes tied to shale gas extraction.

Committee member asks about the rate of natural gas for industrial customers, noting that because of delivery and add-on charges, the rates seem to be high. Company representative explains that Enbridge Gas, the local distribution company (LDC) in our province, set up a price structure in New Brunswick that needs to recover the LDC's initial investment in the construction of the pipeline distribution system. The issue in NB is that the local distribution company has not signed up enough customers to recover the cost of the infrastructure it invested in, so industrial customers are paying above-market natural gas rates.

Committee member asks whether natural disasters have an impact on the price of natural gas. Company representative responds that whether has had an impact on rates. Hurricane Katrina, in 2005, for instance, had an impact on the natural gas market.

Committee member asks how big the shale gas reserves are that are being explored in New Brunswick. Company representative responds that they are significant, 76 to 78 trillion cubic feet.

Committee member asks about the implications of potential shale gas exploration in NB for Emera. Company representative explains that Emera has two business interests when it considers the natural gas market: Emera wants a stable supply of natural gas for its customers given the company's interests in electricity. Emera is also a pipeline company so it looks for opportunities to move gas. Company representative adds that our region needs a stable supply of natural gas and that no matter where the gas ends up coming from, Emera will look for the best way to serve its shareholders and meet the mentioned business interests.

Committee member asks whether the presentation can be shared with the committee. Company representative offers to include links to the information in the meeting minutes:

For information about the market we serve in the US - <http://www.eia.gov/naturalgas/>

For information about the distribution market in NB - <http://www.nbeub.ca/index.php/en/natural-gas>

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Committee members did not have new business items to add.

#### **MEETING CLOSED**

Members set the next meeting date for December 2014. Meeting closed.