

From: John and Nhung<contact information removed>
Sent: July 13, 2016 4:34 AM
To: EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)
Cc: <contact information removed>
Subject: Concerns over consultations related to proposed Energy East pipeline

To: Expert Panel, Environmental Assessment Processes

From: John Sollows, Executive Director,
Tusket River Environmental Protection Association,
<contact information removed>

Date: July 11/16

Re.: Concerns over consultations related to proposed Energy East pipeline

First of all, we welcome your consultations aimed at strengthening the federal Environmental Assessment process. This is badly needed, given recent history. Sustainability is crucial to our long-term economic welfare, and as a matter of course, should not be sacrificed for short-term economic gain.

We encourage serious application of the precautionary principle. An absence of evidence of harm from a proposed activity should not by itself justify approval particularly if there are credible concerns that harm may be forthcoming. The burden of proof of no serious harm should be on proponents, not on potentially adversely affected populations, who may not have the means to address some of the arguments proponents raise. Traditional and local knowledge needs to be taken into account, as well. It may not be quantitative, but that does not affect its importance.

Consultations should be on as local a scale as prudent. The best way for advisory panels and decision-makers to understand the potential impacts of a project is to visit the potentially-affected area and have discussions with potentially-affected populations. To do otherwise is not conscionable.

This leads us to comment on consultations related to the proposed Energy East bitumen pipeline.

There are various pro's and con's associated with this project. We do have to minimize our dependence on fossil fuels as rapidly as prudently possible, and if this pipeline is built, it should be constructed to the strictest possible environmental standards and managed with the utmost caution in order to assure no spills.

We understand that Canada's National Energy Review Board will be conducting meetings in communities throughout Canada along the path of the proposed Energy East Pipeline. As we understand it, all provinces affected are to be included.

The pipeline is expected to deliver to tankers near Saint John, which lies on the Bay of Fundy. Please note that Nova Scotia occupies the southeastern shore of said bay, which has extremely strong hydrographical dynamics. Nova Scotia therefore would stand to be severely affected by any major spill.

We understand that Nova Scotia has not been included in the planned meetings. That makes no sense. A spill could have disastrous environmental effects on the marine environment and local economy of southwestern Nova Scotia. The marine fisheries are the long-term mainstay of our economy and way of life, and tourism in the area is an extremely important additional economic pillar.

We therefore consider it imperative that the National Energy Review Board conduct several geographically-separate consultations in southwestern Nova Scotia, in order to assure that the concerns of stakeholders in the region are understood and addressed.

Thank you for considering this request.