



ACEC-NB supports pipeline development in New Brunswick

Strict engineering codes and principles play fundamental role in pipeline projects

(New Brunswick) April 2, 2014 - The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-New Brunswick (ACEC-NB) says its member firms have the professional experience and technical expertise required to work on pipelines and energy related projects, effectively supporting the development of a 'Energy East Pipeline Project'. Following strict codes and engineering principles, engineers hold paramount the safety, health and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment at the forefront all decision making.

“Pipelines are highly regulated by the National Energy Board, where codes are very stringent and prescriptive, taking into account safety and the environment first,” says Mike Cormier, P.Eng., ACEC-NB President. “Engineers working on these types of projects rigorously analyse all aspects of design and take into consideration all environmental, safety and technical constraints. For instance, while getting a pipeline from A to B, engineers attempt to minimize the amount of topographic elevation change and pipeline length while choosing paths that are accessible for construction and maintenance access. At the same time, for example, design engineers ensure safety and mitigate impacts by choosing routes that minimize contact with municipal water systems, densely populated areas, and environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands or rivers”.

Many ACEC-NB member firms are involved in pipeline development along with companies from across Canada, where they are consulted or play a role in every stage of the planning, design, construction, monitoring and decommissioning of pipelines. Pipelines remain the safest form to transport hydrocarbons over long distances and have an excellent track record for safety and protection of the environment in Canada due to the systems in place that monitor pipeline activity on a 24/hour basis. These systems include operators who regularly walk the pipeline routes to perform physical inspections, fly the pipeline corridors, monitor conditions at pumping stations to respond quickly to unexpected changes in pressure in transporting the resource, and maintain existing infrastructure.

“There is a lot of data, safety wise, that supports pipelines as the best means of transporting a hydrocarbon liquid,” continued Cormier “Pipeline standards are regulated from the time a project is first designed to the decommissioning stage. Engineering firms in New Brunswick feel comfortable that any pipeline constructed in the province would preserve public safety, protect the environment, and is a proven means to transport oil and gas across the country and to the region.”



The Association of Consulting Engineering Companies- New Brunswick represents engineering companies in New Brunswick (ACEC-NB) that provide professional engineering services and expertise to the public and private sector. Member firms are responsible for the planning, designing and executing of all types of engineering projects. On April 9th, 2014, ACEC-NB will host a conference on “Engineering New Brunswick’s Energy & Natural Resources” at the Delta Brunswick, Saint John.

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