

January 31, 2022

Canada Energy Regulator  
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To whom it may concern:

**Re: Engineers Canada’s Comments on the Proposed Amendments to the Canadian Energy Regulator Onshore Pipeline Regulations, Orders and Guidance (OPR)**

Engineers Canada is the national organization that represents the 12 provincial and territorial engineering regulators that license the more than 300,000 members of the engineering profession in Canada. As the only national voice for the engineering profession, our organization has a long-standing history of working and collaborating with the federal government to help inform and develop legislation, regulations, and policies. We welcome the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendments to the [Canadian Regulator Onshore Pipeline Regulations, Orders and Guidance \(OPR\)](#).

Engineers Canada has identified points of concern with the proposed amendments made to the OPR under the [Canadian Energy Regulator Act](#). It is our view that the proposed amendments in Section 6 of the OPR do not adequately acknowledge the need for practitioners of engineering services and/or providers of engineering expertise to be licensed in the province or territory where onshore pipeline work is conducted. For example, Section 6(1) contains an amended provision that states: “a company must design, construct, operate and abandon a pipeline in a manner that ensures safety, security, and protection of the environment.”<sup>1</sup> There is no requirement for a licensed engineer to support the lifecycle of an onshore pipeline project as it is currently presented in Section 6(1) of the OPR. Taking into consideration the level of risk that is posed to the natural environment and public safety when onshore pipeline projects are considered, it is Engineers Canada’s view that individuals performing assessments and lifecycle updates for designated onshore projects do so with high levels of technical skills and ethics and should be held publicly accountable for their actions.

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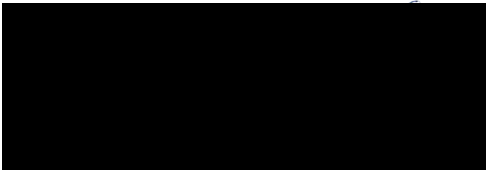
<sup>1</sup> Government of Canada (2021). “Canadian Energy Regulator Onshore Pipeline Regulations (SOR/99-294).” Retrieved November 10, 2021 from: [Canadian Energy Regulator Onshore Pipeline Regulations \(justice.gc.ca\)](#).

Additionally, Section 6.5(1)(e) of the OPR has been amended to require a company to establish and implement a process to evaluate risks of onshore pipeline projects. This section provides explicit steps that are associated with the management of risks once they are evaluated; however, these steps do not explicitly require the expertise of a licensed engineer to manage or evaluate the associated onshore pipeline risks. The self-regulation of the engineering profession in Canada ensures that engineers are held to high professional and ethical standards, and that they practice in the public interest. Regulation minimizes risks to workers, public safety, and the natural environment and ensures that these activities are conducted by licensed engineers who are held to high professional and ethical standards that require them to work in the public interest. The current draft of the OPR needs to be elaborated to require that activities and projects related to onshore pipeline and energy projects be approved by a professional engineer licensed by a Canadian engineering regulator.

The design of onshore pipeline project components with respect to structural integrity, personnel safety, and environmental protection, as well as the fabrication, transportation, installation, and commissioning of onshore project components, requires professional oversight and strong regulations. The federal government's willingness to coordinate and collaborate with key stakeholders, particularly the engineering profession, is essential in supporting onshore pipeline initiatives and regulations. We look forward to working with the government to contribute towards these efforts.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important federal initiative.

Sincerely,



Chief Executive Officer

CC:  Vice-President, Corporate Affairs and  
Strategic Partnerships  
 Manager, Public Affairs