



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

November 12, 2019

Antoine Vallières
Project Manager, Quebec Regional Office
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
iaac.gazoduq.aeic@canada.ca

Re: Federal Authority Advice Record for the proposed Gazoduc Project

Please see attached Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) response to the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada's October 22, 2019 request to review the Initial Project Description for the Gazoduc Project and to complete the associated Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR).

NRCan is submitting this response in accordance with subsection 13(1) of the *Impact Assessment Act*.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at <email address removed> or by phone at <contact information removed>

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Marie-Eve Lenghan,
Senior Environmental Assessment Officer
Office of the Chief Scientist

Canada 

ATTACHMENT: October 22nd
Federal Authority Advice Record
Response due by November 12th
 Gazoduq Project – Gazoduq inc.
 Agency File: 80264

Department/Agency	Natural Resources Canada
Lead IA Contact	Marie-Eve Lenghan
Full Address	<contact information removed>
Email	
Telephone	
Alternate Departmental Contact	John Clarke

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1. Is it probable that your department or agency may be required to exercise a power or perform a duty or function related to the Project to enable it to proceed?

If yes, specify the Act of Parliament and that power, duty or function.

Under section 61(1) and 61(2) of the *Impact Assessment Act*, NRCan will work with the Impact Assessment Agency to prepare a joint referral of the panel's recommendations to the Governor in Council (GiC) for a public interest determination.

NRCan will also support the Minister of Natural Resources in preparing a recommendation to the GiC for a decision on whether to issue a Certificate under section 186 of the *Canada Energy Regulator Act*.

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2. Is your department or agency in possession of specialist or expert information or knowledge that may be relevant to the conduct of an impact assessment of the Project?

Yes.

- **Forestry expertise: hydrology in forested areas, caribou habitat, and biodiversity (including forest vegetation);**
- **Materials and pipeline integrity management;**
- **Terrain hazards/landslides, seismicity, surficial geology and groundwater quantity;**
- **Fiscal modelling to estimate economic benefits from energy projects, and input to socioeconomic analyses and cost-benefit analysis.**

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3. Has your department or agency considered the Project; exercised a power or performed a duty or function under any Act of Parliament in relation to the Project; or taken any course of action that would allow the Project to proceed in whole or in part?

No.

4. Has your department or agency had previous contact or involvement with the proponent or other party in relation to the Project? (for example, enquiry about methodology, guidance, or data; introduction to the project)

Yes.

The Major Projects Management Office (MPMO) within NRCan was acting as the Crown Consultation Coordinator for the Gazoduq Project from November 20, 2018 (Pre-Application Project Description submitted to the National Energy Board) to August 28, 2019 (coming into force of the *Impact Assessment Act*). The MPMO was responsible for ensuring the Crown's duty to consult was carried out in a way that upholds the Honour of the Crown, with an emphasis on respect and cooperation. As the Crown Consultation Coordinator during the early stages of the Project, the MPMO's role was to:

- Develop a preliminary Crown list for the Project in close collaboration with the NEB, CEAA and OGDs;
 - Undertake a preliminary depth of consultation analysis for each potentially impacted Indigenous group;
 - Participate in interdepartmental working groups to develop an early Indigenous engagement strategy in the context of the *Impact Assessment Act*;
 - Work with Indigenous groups and the Proponent to resolve specific issues related to the Project.
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5. Does your department or agency have additional information or knowledge not specified, above?

No.

6. From the perspective of the mandate and area(s) of expertise of your department or agency, what are the issues that should be addressed in the impact assessment of the Project, should the Agency determine that an impact assessment is required?

For each issue discussed, provide a concise, plain-language summary that is appropriate for inclusion in the Summary of Issues.

Yes.

- **Hydrology in forested areas:** The potential impacts of pipeline construction on the hydrology of surrounding watersheds (i.e. surface water) and description of mitigation measures.
- **Caribou Habitat:** Description of the potential impacts of permanent linear features on caribou habitat and vegetation, changes in predator movements and identification of mitigation measures. Description of impacts of pipeline construction on nearby esker deposits and potential loss of lichen growth which could negatively impact caribou habitat.
- **Forest Vegetation and biodiversity:** Description of the changes in soil quality, loss, compaction, erosion etc. that could result in reduced soil productivity. Description of methods used for tree clearing and clearing maintenance in the project permanent right-of-way and their potential impacts on biodiversity and species with cultural values.
- **Seismicity/landslides:** Description of the potential impacts of seismic events or landslides/terrain hazards within the project activities.
- **Surficial geology:** Description of the nature of the surface formations and depth to which the pipeline will be put in place. Also, because of the orientation of the project corridor, there is a potential to cross eskers every 10-15 km which is more than the eight eskers listed in section C.14 and more information and maps at appropriate scale (1:50,000) will be required.
- **Groundwater quantity:** Description of the potential impacts of the project to groundwater and mitigation measures.

- **Economic:** Detailed description of the economic effects this project will have on the local community, province, and country. Rigorous economic analysis including of the benefits from associated upstream gas extraction and downstream production of LNG both of which would be impacted by the decision on the Gazoduq Project, temporary and long-term job creation, impact on domestic gas supply, and global gas markets.
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Marie-Eve Lenghan

Name of Departmental / Agency Responder

Senior Environmental Assessment Officer

Title of Responder

November 12, 2019

Date