



DRAFT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF THE GAZODUQ PROJECT

January 30, 2020

1. Introduction

This document is a draft version of the public participation plan for the impact assessment of the Gazoduq Project (the Project). During the comment period on this document, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) invites the public, Indigenous groups and Nations, the Proponent, federal authorities and other participants to submit their comments on the draft public participation plan. To assist participants, the passages in this plan where your comments would be appreciated are highlighted in blue. However, comments on the entirety of the plan will also be accepted.

On January 22nd, 2020, the Agency determined that an impact assessment was required for the Project, in accordance with section 16 of Canada's *Impact Assessment Act* (IAA). Since the Project is subject to the IAA and the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* (CERA), the impact assessment will automatically be referred to a review panel and must meet the legal requirements of both these acts. A review panel whose mandate covers both the IAA and the CERA is an "integrated review panel" (the Panel). The Agency will coordinate the impact assessment process with the Canada Energy Regulator (the CER). Upon completion of the impact assessment, the CER will be responsible for the Project's follow-up phase, as the regulator of the life cycle of gas pipeline projects.

This public participation plan was developed by the Agency in collaboration with the CER to present the various opportunities for public participation offered during the impact assessment process. The plan is also designed to be flexible, so that the Agency or the Panel can modify the approaches described in it to take into account the evolution of the impact assessment process, or to accommodate comments and requests received from participants.

For more information on public participation, please consult the following: [Interim Framework: Public Participation Under the *Impact Assessment Act*](#) and [Interim Guidance: Public Participation Under the *Impact Assessment Act*](#)¹. A separate plan for [engagement and partnership with Indigenous groups and nations](#) has also been developed². It describes opportunities for Indigenous engagement and related approaches.

2. Project Description

Gazoduq Inc. (the Proponent) is proposing to construct and operate a natural gas pipeline approximately 780 kilometres long between northeastern Ontario and Saguenay, Quebec. This Project would connect TC Energy Limited's existing main natural gas transmission system in northeastern Ontario to the proposed Énergie Saguenay Project, a natural gas liquefaction facility by GNL Québec in Saguenay, Quebec. The Project would also include three compressor

¹Consult the Interim Framework: Public Participation Under the *Impact Assessment Act* (policy) at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/framework-public-participation.html> and Interim Guidance: Public Participation Under the *Impact Assessment Act* at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/practitioners-guide-impact-assessment-act/interim-guidance-public-participation-impact.html>.

²Consult the draft Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan for the Impact Assessment of the Gazoduq Project at: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/133759?culture=en-CA>.



stations, one metering station, approximately 25 block valves and a dedicated control centre.

For more information on the impact assessment of the Gazoduq Project or to view the information and comments received, consult the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80264/>.

3. Objectives of Public Participation

The public participation plan was developed to describe the ways in which a participant can provide input and take part in the impact assessment process. The Agency targets the following objectives for public participation:

- The public is engaged early and often including at each key phase of the impact assessment process.
 - The public is engaged on the development or revision of key documents, including this plan, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the Panel Terms of Reference, the Proponent's Impact Statement, the draft potential conditions and potential changes to the Decision Statement, if applicable.
 - In the case of an impact assessment conducted by a Panel, the impact assessment report, including the proposed conditions, is prepared by the Panel, and public participation is done through comments and participation in public hearings.
- Public engagement events held in person take place in the communities most likely to be affected by the proposed Project.
- Engagement opportunities and mechanisms are selected taking into account the needs and interests of the public, which may include, but are not limited to: comment periods, public hearings, and information or consultative events held in person or remotely, at each key phase in the process.
- Public comments heard during participation events are documented and inform decision making.

The objectives of the public participation plan will be incorporated into the Panel's mandate. However, the Panel will have the same flexibility as the Agency and will be able to adapt this plan to meet the needs of participants and to ensure efficient execution of the impact assessment.

4. Distribution List

Throughout the impact assessment, the Agency or the Panel secretariat will develop and maintain a distribution list for the impact assessment. Individuals and organizations on the distribution list will receive updates and notices on the impact assessment of the Project as the process unfolds.

→If you wish to be on the distribution list, please send an email to iaac.gazoduq.aeic@canada.ca with your full name and email address.

Those who have already checked off that they would like to be added to the distribution list by registering on the online Registry or during an information session do not need to write to us again.



During the first consultation period, the Agency received more than 600 comments on the Project, including more than 30 briefs. Issues raised related to the potential effects of the Project on greenhouse gas emissions and its contribution to climate change, the social acceptability of the Project, the effects on indigenous peoples and their rights, the socio-economic impacts, the effects on species, biodiversity and the immediate biophysical environment and the risks associated with accidents and malfunctions. To view all comments received to date, please visit the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80264/>.

5. Public Participation Tools

In order to ensure meaningful public participation during the impact assessment process, the following communication and participation tools will be used:

- Public notices issued on the Registry, published in newspapers and broadcast on the radio,
- Emails to the distribution list,
- Updates on the impact assessment of the Project on social media (e.g., tweets on the Agency's Twitter account),
- Printed copies of key documents placed in viewing centres in Matheson, Virginiatown, Kirkland Lake, Timmins, Rouyn-Noranda, Amos, La Sarre, Senneterre, Val d'Or, La Tuque, Roberval, Alma and Saguenay (see Appendix 1 for viewing centre addresses),
- Interactive community sessions during the planning phase to inform participants about the impact assessment process and opportunities for participation and collect public comments, and
- Training on the impact assessment process and how to participate effectively during the process.³

Comment periods will also be used to solicit comments from participants on key documents, such as this plan, the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the Panel Terms of Reference, the Proponent's Impact Statement, the draft potential conditions and potential changes to the Decision Statement, if applicable. In addition, the Panel has a legal obligation to hold public hearings. These tools are explained in more detail in Table 6.1 below.

Other communication and participation tools may also be used, including:

- Interactive information sessions to discuss various key documents, such as the Proponent's Impact Statement,
- Pre-scheduled remote sessions with a public presentation and a question-and-answer period,
- Focus groups, and
- Technical workshops.

³Level 1 and 2 training courses are available on the Agency's website at: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/014/index-eng.aspx>.



Note that this list is not exhaustive and may be adjusted during the course of the impact assessment to facilitate public participation and to ensure efficient execution of the impact assessment.

→The Agency is seeking your opinion on the communication tools listed above. Please tell us your preferences and your suggestions for other communication tools that could facilitate your participation.

→The Agency would also like to know if there are any challenges that could prevent you or your community or organization from accessing participation opportunities for this Project, including language barriers, economic or technical challenges, or other factors.

6. Activities and Public Participation Approach

The following table provides a description of the main phases in the impact assessment process, and an outline of engagement opportunities in each phase, including events led by the Agency or the Panel. The table describes the objectives of each phase, the anticipated engagement activities, and the public participation tools that support the engagement activities.



Table 6.1 – Table of Public Participation Approaches and Activities

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tools	Timelines
Phase 1: Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain participant feedback on documents related to the planning phase. Share information on the impact assessment process and on opportunities for participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On October 10, 2019, the Agency accepted an initial description of the Project. From October 22 to November 22, the Agency invited comments on the initial Project description. These comments were used to prepare the summary of issues. On November 29, the Agency submitted the summary of issues to Gazoduq. On January 30, 2020, the Agency published the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines and the public participation plan and invited the public to provide comments from January 30 to March 10, 2020. From February 11 to February 20, the Agency will hold interactive community sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online comments on the initial Project description the Tailored Guidelines, and the Public Participation Plan. Interactive community sessions in the communities most likely to be affected by the proposed Project. 	✓ Current phase
Phase 2: Impact Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share information on the impact assessment process and on opportunities for participation. Obtain comments from participants on the draft version of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Agency will issue a public notice (Registry, website, newspapers, radio) and send an email to the distribution list to advise participants of the opportunity to submit an application for funding to encourage their participation in the impact assessment process. The Agency will provide instructions to help participants complete the application. The Agency will issue a public notice (Registry, website, newspapers, radio) and send an email 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online comments on the draft version of the Terms of Reference and on the Joint Review Panel Agreement, if applicable. Online comments on the Proponent's Impact Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments from the public on the effects of the Project, mitigation measures and necessary follow-up programs submitted through the registry or by email will be accepted

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tools	Timelines
	<p>Review Panel Terms of Reference and the Joint Review Panel Agreement, if applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain feedback from participants on the Impact Statement to determine whether it contains all the studies and information requested in the Tailored Guidelines. Obtain participants' views on the Project's effects, and any necessary mitigation measures and follow-up program. 	<p>to the distribution list to notify participants of the comment period on the Panel's draft Terms of Reference and the Joint Review Panel Agreement, if applicable. The Agency will provide links to key documents and instructions for participation. Public comments will be considered when the Agency finalizes the Terms of Reference and the Agreement, if applicable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will issue a public notice on the Registry and send an email to the distribution list to notify participants that the Panel has been appointed. • The Agency will issue a public notice (Registry, website, newspapers, radio) and send an email to the distribution list to notify participants of the impact statement comment period and will provide links to key documents and instructions for participation. The comments will assist the Agency in determining whether the impact statement contains all the studies and information requested in the Tailored Guidelines. Participants will also be able to share their opinions on the effects of the Project, and any necessary mitigation measures and follow-up program. In the event that the impact statement does not comply with the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines, the comments will help determine what information is missing or what revisions the Agency should require from the Proponent. 		<p>throughout the impact statement phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The online comment period on the Panel's draft Terms of Reference and the Joint Review Panel Agreement will begin early in the impact assessment phase. The comment period will last a minimum of 30 days. • The online comment period on the Proponent's Impact Statement will begin when the Proponent submits it. The comment period will last a minimum of 60 days.

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tools	Timelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will issue a public notice (Registry, website, newspapers, radio) and send an email to the distribution list to notify participants when it is satisfied that the Proponent has submitted all necessary studies and information. • The Agency will send a printed copy of the impact statement and its summary to the viewing centres in Matheson, Virginiatown, Kirkland Lake, Timmins Rouyn-Noranda, Amos, La Sarre, Senneterre, Val d'Or, La Tuque, Roberval, Alma and Saguenay.⁴ • The Agency will respond to questions received by email or telephone. • The Agency will post Project updates on social media. • The Agency will post documents related to the impact assessment on the Registry, including the Proponent's Impact Statement, the Review Panel Terms of Reference and the Joint Review Panel Agreement, if applicable. All comments from participants will also be posted on the Registry. 		
Phase 3: Impact assessment conducted by the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share information on the impact assessment process and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel will issue a public notice (Registry, website, newspapers, radio) and send an email to the distribution list to announce the start of the comment period on the draft potential conditions. The Panel will provide links to key documents and instructions for participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearings to discuss the Project and its potential positive and negative environmental, health, social and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timelines for participation, dates, location and duration of the public hearings will be

⁴ See Appendix 1 for the addresses of the viewing centres.

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tools	Timelines
<p>Panel Part 1 – Immediately after the Agency issues the notice that it is satisfied that the Proponent has submitted all necessary studies and information</p>	<p>opportunities for participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage participants to take part in the public hearing. • The Panel analyzes the potential positive and negative environmental, health, social and economic effects of the Project, taking into account the Proponent's Impact Statement and the submissions and comments of the Proponent and participants (public, Indigenous groups, federal and provincial authorities and other organizations). 	<p>Participants' comments will be considered by the Panel when drafting the report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Panel will issue a public notice (Registry, website, newspapers, radio) and send an email to the distribution list announcing that it will be holding public hearings and providing instructions for participation, particularly on how to register to participate in the hearings. Public participation will assist the Panel in gathering and verifying the information it needs to prepare its report. • The Panel will hold public hearings in key communities (dates to be determined). The location and dates of the public hearings will be communicated in the public notice. In accordance with the terms established by the Panel, the public hearing will allow: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ participants to present to the Panel, in person or in writing, their expert opinions, comments and views on the Project, the potential positive and negative environmental, health, social and economic effects of the Project, and the mitigation and follow-up measures; ○ the Proponent to explain the Project and respond to questions and concerns raised by other participants; and 	<p>economic effects, as well as mitigation measures and follow-up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants may make a submission and/or register to make an oral presentation. The instructions will be provided by the Panel. 	<p>determined by the Panel and announced in the Notice of Public Hearing at least 45 days prior to the start of the public hearings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comments will be accepted at the impact assessment phase until the file is closed.

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tools	Timelines
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Panel, participants and the Proponent to ask questions about the information presented. ● The Panel could provide additional opportunities for participation in order to encourage participation and conduct an effective impact assessment process. ● Once the hearing is completed and the file is closed, the Panel will prepare its report containing its rationale, findings and recommendations, including recommendations on conditions. ● Under the direction of the Panel, the Panel Secretariat will respond to questions by participants about the process. ● The Agency will continue to post Project updates on social media. ● The Panel will post documents related to the impact assessment on the Registry, including public notices, and submissions, comments and information received that are relevant to the impact assessment. ● The Agency will administer financial assistance to encourage participation in the impact assessment process. 		
Phase 3: Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share information on the impact assessment process and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The public is consulted if conditions are added to the conditions proposed by the Review Panel or if conditions are modified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Online comments on added or modified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The public comment period will last 30 days.

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tools	Timelines
Part 2 – Following the filing of the Review Panel's impact assessment report and potential conditions	<p>opportunities for participation by the Agency for this part of the impact assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain feedback from participants on added or modified conditions, if applicable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will respond to questions received by email or telephone. 	<p>conditions, if applicable.</p>	
Phase 4: Decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the Proponent and the public about the Decision Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Agency will issue a public notice (Registry, website) to announce the release of the Governor in Council's Decision Statement on whether the adverse effects of the Project within federal jurisdiction and the direct or incidental effects are in the public interest. The Decision Statement will include specific reasons concerning the determination of the public interest and all enforceable conditions with which the Proponent must comply. • The Agency will respond to questions received by email or telephone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A response document to comments received on potential conditions prepared by the Agency is developed, if necessary. 	
Phase 5: Post-decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the public of the CER's monitoring and surveillance activities and the results of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CER will conduct verification activities on compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CER is committed to providing the public with information on pipeline safety and the facilities it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CER verifies and enforces regulatory requirements during all phases of the Project,

Process Phase	Objectives of the Phase	Expected Activities	Public Participation Tools	Timelines
	<p>follow-up program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the Project complies with the <i>National Energy Board Onshore Pipeline Regulations</i> and that the conditions to which the Project is subject are met. 		<p>regulates, including on how companies perform and enforcement actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All measures taken concerning the application of laws and regulations are made public. 	<p>from construction to operation and maintenance, as well as during temporary or permanent suspensions of a pipeline, such as deactivation, decommissioning and cessation of operation.</p>



Proponent's engagement approaches

For information on the Proponent's plans for engagement during the impact assessment process, see the Proponent's website at <https://gazoduq.com/en/>.

The Agency expects the Proponent to engage local communities, associations and members of the public to gather information, identify potential effects and appropriate mitigation measures and address concerns throughout the impact assessment process. The Agency also expects the Proponent to prepare the Impact Statement by taking into account Indigenous and community knowledge, and to validate the information contained in the Impact Statement with participants before formally presenting it to the Agency for review. To find out more about the Agency's expectations of the Proponent, please consult the Tailored Impact Statement Guidelines at: <https://www.iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/document/133758?culture=en-CA>.

The Proponent will also be required to participate in the public hearing conducted by the Panel. Among other things, the Panel may request that the Proponent submit information relating to its Project, including potential effects, the assessment of those effects, mitigation and follow-up measures, and the findings of its assessment.

7. Funding

Funding is available to support public participation. For information about the activities that are eligible for funding or to apply for funding using the application form, see the National Program Guidelines on the following page: <https://www.canada.ca/en/impact-assessment-agency/services/policy-guidance/participant-funding-program-national-program-guidelines.html>

8. Contact Information and How to Submit Comments

Until the Panel closes the record, comments may be submitted at any time during the impact assessment by using the "Submit a comment" function accessible on the Project's page on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry (reference number 80264, at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/proj/80264?&culture=en-CA>). Attachments can also be uploaded using this function. If you have any difficulties with the submission, please contact the Agency and, when the Panel is appointed, the Panel Secretariat, using the contact information below. Comments may also be sent by email or mail.

Comments and other documents received by the Agency will form part of the Project's file and will be posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry website. The Agency's submission policy⁵ determines what information can be shared publicly and what information should remain private. For more information on how we protect your privacy, please refer to the Privacy Notice.⁶ If you do not want your comment to be posted on the Registry, please contact the Agency before submitting your comment.

For any questions or information, the contact details to reach a member of this team are listed below:

Impact Assessment Agency of Canada – Gazoduq Project
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor, Ottawa ON K1A 0H3
Telephone: 613-222-3507
Email: iaac.gazoduq.aeic@canada.ca

⁵The Agency's submission policy is available at: <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/participation/conditions?culture=en-CA>.

⁶The Agency's privacy notice is available at <https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca/050/evaluations/protection?culture=en-CA>



Appendix 1: Addresses of viewing centres

City or Town	Address
Alma, Quebec	Alma Municipal Library 500 Collard Street W, Alma, Quebec
Amos, Quebec	Amos Municipal Library 222 1re Avenue E, Amos, Quebec
Kirkland Lake, Ontario	Teak Centennial Public Library 10 Kirkland Street East, Kirkland Lake, Ontario
La Sarre, Quebec	Richelieu Municipal Library 195 Principale Street, La Sarre, Quebec
La Tuque, Quebec	La Tuque Municipal Library 575 Saint Eugène Street, La Tuque, Quebec
Matheson, Ontario	Matheson Public Library 352 Second Street, Matheson, Ontario
Timmins, Ontario	Timmins Public Library 320 2 nd avenue, Timmins, Ontario
Roberval, Quebec	Georges Henri-Lévesque Library 829 St. Joseph Boulevard, Roberval, Quebec
Rouyn-Noranda, Quebec	Rouyn-Noranda Municipal Library 201 Dallaire Avenue, Rouyn--Noranda, Quebec
Saguenay, Quebec	Chicoutimi Municipal Library 155 Racine Street E, Chicoutimi, Quebec
Senneterre, Quebec	Senneterre Intermunicipal Library 121 1re Rue E, Senneterre, Quebec
Val-d'Or, Quebec	Val-d'Or Library 600 7e Rue, Val-d'Or, Quebec
Virginiatown, Ontario	McGarry Public Library 1 27th Street, Virginiatown, Ontario