

Slide 1: Welcome

Welcome to the virtual open house for the Almonte Reinforcement Project. Thank you for joining us!

Slide 2: Navigating the virtual open house

This presentation will provide information about the Project. You can pause or stop the presentation at any time. In addition to this presentation, the following materials have been uploaded to the virtual open house website at almontereinforcement.ca:

- The slides presented in this presentation (in [English](#) and in [French](#)).
- The transcript of this presentation.
- A high-resolution map of the Project (in [English](#) and in [French](#)).
- A [comment form](#).

You can find the links to download these materials on the virtual open house website.

The virtual open house website contains a link to an [online comment form](#) that we encourage you to fill out with feedback or questions and submit through the website once you have reviewed the virtual open house materials. A PDF file of the comment form is also provided on the website. You can download it, fill it out and send to us by e-mail if you prefer providing your comments and feedback through this format.

Should you need to submit the comment form by a mode other than email, or would like a French copy, please contact the project team. We will provide contact information for the project team at the end of this presentation.

The virtual open house will be available until July 26, 2020; however, you can still provide comments, feedback and questions about the Project after July 26, 2020 up until August 3, 2020. Copies of the presentation, transcript and comment form will be made available on the Project website at enbridgegas.com/almontereinforcement after the virtual open houses ends.

Slide 3: Purpose of the project and virtual open house

Enbridge Gas Inc. (Enbridge Gas) provides safe and reliable delivery of natural gas to more than 3.7 million customers across Ontario. Enbridge Gas has identified the need to reinforce part of its natural gas distribution network in the village of Almonte, in the Town of Mississippi Mills, Ontario. The reinforcement is required to increase system reliability and flexibility and to support current and projected growth in natural gas demand in the area.

Consultation with Indigenous communities and engagement with government agencies and officials, property owners and interest groups are fundamental components of the planning and environmental study that Enbridge Gas is completing for the Project.

Enbridge Gas is hosting the open house for the Project through a virtual format due to the government restrictions and guidance on public gatherings as a result of COVID-19. This provides a safe alternative to the in-person open house that would otherwise be hosted for the Project under normal circumstances.

The purpose of the virtual open house is to provide information about the Project and to present an opportunity for interested parties to ask questions and provide feedback about the Project.

All feedback and input gathered throughout the engagement and consultation process for the Project will be used to inform the selection of the preferred route and to identify potential issues and site-specific mitigation for the Project, where required.

Slide 4: Enbridge Gas Indigenous Peoples Policy (part 1)

Enbridge Gas recognizes the diversity of Indigenous peoples who live where we work and operate. We understand from history the destructive impacts on the social and economic wellbeing of Indigenous peoples. Enbridge Gas recognizes and realizes the importance of reconciliation between Indigenous communities and the broader society. Positive relationships with Indigenous peoples, based on mutual respect and focused on achieving common goals, will create positive outcomes for Indigenous communities. Enbridge Gas commits to pursue sustainable relationships with Indigenous Nations in proximity to where Enbridge Gas conducts business. To achieve this, Enbridge Gas will govern itself by the following principles as seen on this slide.

Slide 5: Enbridge Gas Indigenous Peoples Policy (part 2)

Enbridge Gas Indigenous Peoples Policy continues on this slide.

Slide 6: Project overview

Enbridge Gas has identified the need to reinforce part of its natural gas distribution network in Almonte, in the Town of Mississippi Mills, Ontario. The reinforcement is required to increase system reliability and flexibility and to support current and projected growth in natural gas demand in the area.

The Project will require the construction of up to approximately 2.5 kilometres of 4-inch extra high-pressure steel natural gas pipeline and 4-inch intermediate pressure polyethylene natural gas pipeline. A district regulation station will also be built.

The pipeline will be located within existing road allowances, where possible. Temporary working space and laydown areas may also be required adjacent to the road allowances, to facilitate the movement and storage of equipment for construction.

Enbridge Gas will work with regulators and landowners to identify and secure appropriate working space and easements as required.

Slide 7: Route alternatives

As a result of feedback received through ongoing engagement and consultation, three routes are now being considered for the Project. These include a preliminary preferred route and two alternative routes, which are depicted in the figure presented on this slide. A high-resolution [map](#) showing the preliminary preferred route and route alternatives can also be downloaded from the website.

The preliminary preferred route will start from an existing natural gas pipeline north of the intersection of County Road 29 and Gleeson Road, then travel approximately 1.2 kilometers east and under the Mississippi River to Carss Street, where a new regulation station will be constructed. From there it will travel approximately 300 m east along Carss Street to the intersection of Carss Street and Martin Street North, where it will tie into another existing natural gas pipeline.

The alternative route would start at the intersection of County Road 29 and James Naismith Way, and travel approximately 1.4 kilometers east and under the Mississippi River to Martin Street North, and tie-in to a new district regulating station. From there it will travel south on Martin Street North for approximately 900 m and tie-in to an existing natural gas pipeline.

The new alternative route 2 would start at the intersection of County Road 29 and James Naismith Way, travel east, turn north to follow an existing municipal right-of-way, then turn east to travel under the Mississippi River to the intersection of McPhail Side Road and Martin Street North. It would then turn south on Martin Street North and tie-in to an existing natural gas pipeline.

For all routes, approximately 600 meters (m) of pipeline will be installed under the Mississippi River using horizontal directional drilling.

Slide 8: Ontario Energy Board review and approval process

Enbridge Gas has retained Golder Associates Ltd. to complete an environmental study for the Project.

The study will examine the preliminary preferred route and alternative routes to determine, from an environmental and socio-economic perspective, the preferred route for the Project.

An Environmental Study will be completed for the Project and an Environmental Report will be prepared in accordance with the Ontario Energy Board's (OEB) *Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction and Operation for Hydrocarbon Pipelines and Facilities in Ontario*. These guidelines provide the planning requirements for new projects and the mitigation required for the construction of these projects.

The OEB is the body that regulates the natural gas industry in Ontario to ensure that the public interest is served and protected.

Once the Environmental Report is completed, Enbridge Gas will file an application for a Leave to Construct for the Project with the OEB for approval. The application will contain information about the Project including the purpose and need for the Project, the results of the environmental study and routing assessment (as described in the Environmental Report), construction and project costs, land requirements and agreements, and evidence of Indigenous engagement and public consultation.

The OEB may order a written or oral hearing based upon the complexity of the project and the level of public concern. Members of the public will be invited by the OEB to participate in the hearing.

The OEB will then make a decision on the application.

Construction of the Project can only proceed if the Leave to Construct is approved by the OEB.

The OEB website, oeb.ca, provides additional information about the OEB process.

Slide 9: Environmental study and approvals process

The environmental study and approvals process that is being completed for the Project has three main phases.

- Phase 1 - Planning: involves the identification of feasible pipeline route alternatives, and study areas, and then notifying Indigenous communities and stakeholders that the environmental study is beginning.
- Phase 2 - Evaluation: involves the selection and assessment of the preferred route. Comments received from Indigenous communities and interested stakeholders help inform this decision. Potential environmental effects are identified, mitigation measures are developed, and an Environmental Report is completed.
- Phase 3 – Approvals: involves the submission of the Leave to Construct application, followed by the OEB hearing and decision process, and then obtaining any other necessary permits or other approvals, for example, from the municipality or other regulators.

This slide outlines the different steps within each phase of the process. We are currently at the virtual open house stage, which is the start of Phase 2.

Slide 10: Selection of the preferred route

The selection of the preferred route involves a comparative evaluation of the route alternatives. This evaluation involves the following.

- Collection of information about the existing conditions in the study areas, using both research and site visits.
- Consideration of environmental, socio-economic, financial, and technical routing criteria such as sensitive natural features, cultural heritage features, existing or future land uses, costs, and safety.
- Identification of potential adverse environmental and socio-economic effects associated with the construction and operation of each of the route alternatives.
- Consideration of Indigenous consultation and stakeholder input.

The route evaluation process and rationale for the selection of the preferred route will be documented in the Environmental Report. Ongoing engagement has allowed us to add an additional route to the study and provide a comprehensive route evaluation.

Slide 11: Environmental study findings

Desktop research and field studies are being completed to identify the existing environmental conditions in the study areas. The study areas for each route alternative are shown in the map on this slide. The studies consider components of the natural, socio-economic, and cultural environments. The following slides provide a summary of the existing environmental, social and cultural features in the study areas that have been identified to date.

Understanding the existing conditions helps to identify the potential for environmental, social or cultural effects. Some potential effects are outlined on the following slides.

Preliminary mitigation measures that have been identified at this stage of the environmental study are also summarized in the following slides. Avoidance and mitigation measures will be confirmed once the preferred route is selected.

The input received from interested parties through this virtual open house will help to confirm the existing features, the potential for effects, and the mitigation measures that will be required.

Once the effects and mitigation are confirmed, the results of the environmental study will be documented in the Environmental Report.

Slide 12: Natural environment

The natural environment includes features such as vegetation, water, wildlife and potential animal habitat, and air quality. The environmental study will evaluate the potential effects to

these features as a result of the Project. A study of the natural environment in the areas surrounding the three routes was conducted and found the following:

- A key natural feature in the study areas is the Mississippi River, which provides habitat for fish and other species of wildlife.
- There are several smaller tributaries of the Mississippi River in each study area.
- The upland portions of the study areas consist mainly of agricultural lands, with areas of forest along the Mississippi River.
- The study areas contain potential habitat for species at risk, such as monarch butterfly, bobolink (which is a bird), American Eel and butternut tree.

A site visit of the study area is being completed to supplement these findings.

Slide 13: Natural environment (part 2)

Potential effects on the natural environment may include removal of vegetation, temporary alteration of habitat for wildlife species during construction, as well as erosion and sedimentation.

Construction is not expected to affect the Mississippi River as the pipeline will be installed using the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) method. The construction team will monitor for erosion and sedimentation and temporary effects on surface water.

These potential effects should be minimal as the pipeline will be partly installed within existing road allowances, though temporary workspaces may be required outside of these allowances.

Mitigation will be implemented during construction to minimize effects. This mitigation may include:

- Minimizing temporary workspace areas to the extent possible.
- Minimizing clearing of vegetation and avoiding tree clearing where possible.
- Avoiding vegetation clearing during the migratory birds breeding season.
- Avoiding work in the river by using HDD.
- Implementing erosion and sediment control measures.
- Cleaning up and restoring construction areas as soon as possible after construction, including revegetation.

Slide 14: Horizontal directional drilling

The project is planned to cross under the Mississippi River. To do this horizontal directional drilling, or HDD, techniques will be used.

HDD is chosen as a construction technique to reduce or avoid environmental impacts. To place the pipeline under the river, entry and exit pits are dug outside the river and a drilling rod and drilling fluid is used to install the pipeline under the sensitive feature. Using advanced technology and highly trained technicians, the drill head guides the pipe electronically to ensure the angle, depth, and exit point adhere to carefully designed engineering plans. The pipeline segments are also typically made of thicker steel and have a protective first layer of coating and a second abrasion-resistant coating to ensure the pipe is protected through the process.

Slide 15: Socio-economic environment

The study of the socio-economic environment looks at features such as residences, businesses, recreational features and public amenities such as school and hospitals. Within the study area for the preliminary preferred route, the following socio-economic features were noted:

- 38 residences; and
- 3 trails (Ottawa Valley Rail Trail, the Springbank Trail and the Mississippi Valley Trail)

In the study area for the alternative route, the following socio-economic features were noted:

- 37 residences
- 2 trails (Ottawa Valley Rail Trail and the Naismith Trail)
- 1 business has grounds in the study area

In the study area for the alternative route 2, the following socio-economic features were noted:

- 34 residences
- 2 trails (Ottawa Valley Rail Trail and the Naismith Trail)
- 1 business has grounds in the study area

No other business buildings were noted in any of the study areas; however, Evermore Wedding and Events has its grounds located within the study area for the two alternative routes.

The most common potential effects to the socio-economic environment are traffic disruption as well as nuisance effects like noise, dust or vibration, which can affect use and enjoyment of private property and outdoor spaces

In order to mitigate the effects to residences and businesses, best management practices will be followed. These include traffic control plans, noise and dust management, adherence to applicable by-laws, and advanced notification to affected residences in the study areas.

Slide 16: Cultural environment

The cultural environment includes built heritage, cultural landscapes and archaeological resources.

Within the study areas, there are no identified, designated or otherwise protected cultural heritage properties on the Town of Mississippi Mill's list of *Designated Properties and Properties of Significance*.

However, based on a review of historic mapping, the study areas have approximately six properties with potential cultural heritage value or interest since they have buildings or structures that are 40 or more years old and one potential cultural heritage landscape, which is the Ottawa Valley Rail Trail.

With regard to archaeological resources, based on a review of the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Culture Industries' (MHSTCI) Archaeological Sites Database, there are no registered archaeological sites within the studies areas for the routes being considered, but there are three registered archaeological sites within 1 km of the project area.

Because the area is known to have archaeological potential, a Stage 1 Archaeological Assessment is being completed as part of the planning for the Project and will determine whether additional archaeological assessment is required.

Slide 17: Cultural environment (continued)

Potential effects as a result of Project construction may include:

- Disturbance of areas with archaeological potential.
- Disturbance of cultural heritage properties and landscapes.

Mitigation measures include:

- Complete further archaeological studies in areas with archaeological potential along the preferred route prior to construction.

- If previously undocumented archaeological resources are discovered during construction, cease construction immediately, engage a licensed archaeologist to carry out further archaeological studies, and report the findings.
- Conduct further studies for cultural heritage to identify effects on cultural heritage properties and landscapes before construction, and implement the recommendations identified through those studies.

Slide 18: Study area features

The map on this slide shows natural environment, cultural and socio-economic features in the study area. This includes Areas of Natural or Scientific Interest, watercourses, woodlands, heritage buildings and trails. These features will be confirmed via field visits.

You can download a copy of the map by clicking on the [link](#) on the home page.

Slide 19: Typical pipeline design and construction

Enbridge Gas pipelines are designed to meet or exceed the regulations of the Canadian Standards Association and the applicable regulations of the Technical Standards & Safety Association.

Construction activities for Enbridge Gas pipelines are temporary and transitory. Once the pipe is lowered into the trench, Enbridge Gas restores the area to pre-construction conditions to the extent possible. The figure on this slide shows the typical pipeline construction sequence.

After construction, Enbridge Gas takes many steps to ensure safe, reliable operation of our network of natural gas pipelines.

Slide 20: Our commitment to environment, health and safety

Enbridge Gas is fully committed to protecting the environment, and to promote and ensure health and safety through our activities. Our commitment to environment, health and safety is summarized in this slide.

Slide 21: Project timeline

The environmental study is currently underway.

It is anticipated that the Environmental Report will be completed in September 2020 and submitted to the Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee for review and comment. The Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee is formed by representatives of the different Ontario ministries.

Enbridge Gas will then file the application for the Leave to Construct for the Project with the OEB for approval.

If approved, construction of the Project is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2021 and is expected to last 4-6 months.

Slide 22: Next steps: submit your comments!

That concludes the presentation portion of our virtual open house.

We would like to hear from you! We encourage you to fill out and submit the [online comment form](#) on the virtual open house website ([almontereinforcement.ca](#)) until July 26, 2020, to provide comments and feedback, and to ask questions about the Project.

You can also provide your input to us by e-mail until August 3, 2020. Please download the [comment form](#) from the virtual open house website, complete the form with your comments, and submit the filled-out form by email to almontereinforcement@golder.com by August 3, 2020.

Should you need to submit the comment form by a mode other than email, or if you require a French version, please contact the project team at the email above or 613 323 1215 and we will be happy to help you.

We will also respond to your questions as quickly as possible.

Slide 23: Thank you

Thank you for participating in the virtual open house for the Almonte Reinforcement Project!

If you want to reach the Project team directly, please use the contact information provided in this slide.

For more information about the Project, please visit the Enbridge Gas Project website at enbridgegas.com/almontereinforcement under "Projects".