



MEDIA STATEMENT

CEPA responds to phase two of B.C. government's spill response regulations

January 30, 2018

The Canadian Energy Pipeline Association (CEPA) has been collaborating with the B.C. government and other stakeholders on land-based spill preparedness and response since 2012. The industry is committed to regulations that enhance safety and the protection of the environment and will continue to participate in consultations moving forward.

In its announcement today, the Government of British Columbia is proposing to move to phase two of its land-based spill preparedness and response regulations, which includes regulatory intentions that are consistent with what has been discussed with industry. However, CEPA is extremely concerned about the sudden introduction of restrictions that would halt the increased flow of diluted bitumen through the province until further studies are completed. These restrictions have never been part of the five-year consultation process and come as a surprise to industry.

Extensive research has already been conducted into the behaviour of diluted bitumen and the nature of the product is well-understood. Everything – from its properties, to how it's transported and cleaned up in the case of a spill – has been thoroughly studied and the information is known and available to the government of British Columbia.

CEPA's members already meet the highest safety and environmental standards, and adhere to world-leading spill preparedness and response practices. Pipeline operators and their projects are subject to rigorous NEB and provincial regulations, which in recent months and years have been supplemented by additional conditions and processes set out by the Government of British Columbia.

The facts and evidence that have been gathered through a rigorous and lengthy regulatory process have not changed. This is yet another transparent attempt to frustrate a major energy infrastructure project, which has been deemed to be in the national interest by both the federal regulator and the prime minister.

An ongoing lack of regulatory clarity in Canada – both provincially and federally – has become a severe impediment for major project development. Canada needs certainty and consistency in its regulatory processes in order to be competitive on the world stage.

Please attribute this statement to the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association.

For more information, please contact:

*Carla Beynon
Senior Media Relations Advisor, CEPA
403-221-8756
CBeynon@cepa.com*