

Minister
of Natural Resources



Ministre
des Ressources naturelles

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0E4

AVR 19 2016
APR 19 2016

Mr. Peter Watson
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
National Energy Board
517 Tenth Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T2R 0A8

Dear Mr. Watson:

I am writing to you in follow-up to correspondence sent to you by my predecessor in February 2015. In his letter, my predecessor requested that you study and provide a report on the application of best available technology used in federally-regulated pipeline projects.

I am writing to convey my interest in this study and report. As you are aware, part of our Government's platform is a commitment to modernize the National Energy Board. We have also committed to review Canada's environmental assessment processes and introduce a requirement for project advocates to choose the best technologies available, with the goal of reducing the environmental impacts associated with resource projects. I consider that the study you are currently undertaking on the application of best available technology will support both of these commitments, ensuring safer pipelines, environmental protection, and increased public confidence in regulatory processes.

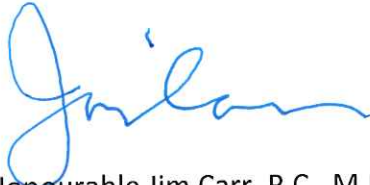
In the original letter, it was requested that you submit your report by March 31, 2016. I would like to offer the Board an additional six months (i.e., to September 30, 2016) to work on the study and report, to ensure both adequate time to engage with stakeholders as well as a more robust study of best available technologies for pipelines including:

- Construction methods;
- Materials;
- Emergency management techniques;
- Emerging technology developments; and
- Environmental considerations.

I look forward to receiving the Board's assessment of how new technologies are being developed, assessed and implemented to achieve the objective of safer pipeline operations. Economic considerations that may influence industry's development and use of best available technology will also be an important consideration.

Thank you for your continued work on this important file.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Carr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

The Honourable Jim Carr, P.C., M.P.