

Gazoduq Project

Initial Project Description

October 2019

Submitted to:

The Impact Assessment Agency of Canada



gazoduq[®]

GAZODUQ INC.

Gazoduq Project

NOTE TO READERS:

This document is an unofficial translation of the original version in French for information purposes only. In case of a discrepancy, the original official document in French shall prevail.

Glossary of Terms

Énergie Saguenay	The Énergie Saguenay project developed by GNL Québec Inc. is a future natural gas liquefaction, storage, and export facility in Saguenay, Québec.
Initial Project Description	The Initial Project Description is consistent with the original description of the Project submitted by the proponent under the new regulatory regime, which includes the information requirements set out in the <i>Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations</i> about the Project.
LIDAR	Abbreviation for “light detection and ranging.” Active sensor that measures the forward and reverse propagation time of a light beam emitted by a laser to determine the position and distance of a target from the transmitter. The LIDAR is used to measure distances and to detect or locate the components of the media encountered by the light beam.
Preferred Planning Area (PPA)	As part of its preferred route selection process, Gazoduq defined a Preferred Planning Area within the Study Corridor which has an average variable width of approximately 400 metres. The PPA is presented in Appendix G.
Preferred route	The route within the Study Corridor that is preferred from an environmental, social, economic, and technical standpoint.
Pre-Application Project Description (PAPD)	A preliminary document that the proponent submitted on November 20, 2018, under the National Energy Board’s former regulatory regime, that describes the general features of the project in the same manner as the Project Notice submitted to the MELCC on the same date.
Project Notice	A document that the proponent submitted to the ministère de l’Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques on November 20, 2018 that describes the general characteristics of the Project in the same manner as the Pre-Application Project Description submitted to the National Energy Board on the same date.
Shapefiles	A file format that contains geometric location information and attributes of geographic features.
Study Corridor	The proposed delineated area within which several route alternatives have been analyzed. The Study Corridor is presented in Appendix G.

Abbreviations

BAPE	Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement
BAT	Implementation of Best Available Technology
CER	Canada Energy Regulator
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CPTAQ	Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec
EPP	Environmental Protection Plan
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
GNLQ	GNL Québec
IAAC	Impact Assessment Agency of Canada
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MELCC	Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
NEB	National Energy Board
NOx	Nitrogen Oxides
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
PAPD	Pre-Application Project Description
PM	Particulate Matter
PPA	Preferred Planning Area
RCM	Regional County Municipality
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SO ₂	Sulphur Dioxide
TLRU	Traditional Land and Resource Use
UPA	Union des producteurs agricoles du Québec

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Preamble

Gazoduq Inc. proposes to build a new natural gas transmission line linking the existing TC Energy (previously TransCanada Corporation) mainline in northeastern Ontario to a future natural gas liquefaction, storage and export facility in Saguenay, Québec (Énergie Saguenay), that could also potentially provide transportation services to local distribution companies (Gazoduq Project or Project).

The first feasibility assessments for the natural gas transmission line began in 2014. Three alternative alignments were subsequently identified. In late 2017, Project leaders decided to supply the future gas transmission line with 100% Canadian natural gas. This led to the selection of one of the alignments in early 2018. Subsequently, a Study Corridor was determined within that alignment. The Study Corridor, which has a width that varies between 30 km to 60 km, was delineated, among other things, in order to avoid the distribution ranges of woodland caribou, Lake Abitibi, the Gouin Reservoir, and Lac St-Jean.

In November 2018, Gazoduq publicly announced the Project and also commenced the formal regulatory approval process by submitting a Pre-Application Project Description (PAPD)¹ to the National Energy Board (NEB) on November 20, 2018, in accordance with the guidelines of the NEB and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) that was publicly available at the time of the submission.² Gazoduq also submitted, at the same time, a Project Notice to the Québec *ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques* (MELCC) to initiate the provincial environmental impact assessment and review procedure for the Project in Québec.

In April 2019, Gazoduq announced that a Preferred Planning Area (PPA) had been defined within Study Corridor. Information about the PPA was submitted to the NEB on April 23, 2019 as an update to the PAPD provided in November 2018.³ The PPA avoids the vast majority of potentially sensitive areas in the Study Corridor, including, in particular, lakes, parks, known municipal drinking water supply protection areas, federally and provincially designated wildlife habitats, and designated protected areas.

In June 2019, Gazoduq specified the location of the link between the transmission line to the TC Energy mainline. It will be about 4 km south of TC Energy's compressor station in Ramore, Ontario. A letter to this effect was submitted to the NEB on June 27, 2018.⁴

Gazoduq will continue to refine the natural gas transmission line route based on its consultations with Indigenous groups, stakeholders and government authorities, on the results of its fieldwork, environmental and socio-economic assessments, as well as the evolution of the Project's technical design.

This Initial Project Description is hereby submitted under the new regulations in effect since August 28, 2019⁵ and complies with the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*. In addition, it includes information already provided in the PAPD that was part of the November 2018 filing with the NEB under the previous regulatory regime. It also includes updates of some of this information due to the Project's progress.

As part of the joint review by the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) and the Canada Energy Regulator, Gazoduq will submit the information required by applicable laws and regulations in

¹ See submission A95939 to the NEB.

² As of November 2018, the timeline for ratification and applicability of Bill C-69 had not yet been confirmed. (Bill C-69 - *An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*).

³ See submission A99015 to the NEB.

⁴ See submission C00168 to the NEB.

⁵ *An Act to enact the Impact Assessment Act and the Canadian Energy Regulator Act, to amend the Navigation Protection Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts* received Royal Assent on June 21, 2019 and came into force on August 28, 2019.

force in French (official version). Gazoduq will also provide an English translation; however, in the event of any discrepancy between the two versions, the French version will prevail.

In accordance with recently adopted new legislation and its' related regulations, Gazoduq plans to submit the impact assessment of its Project to the IAAC for review in the first quarter of 2020.

Subject to obtaining the required regulatory approvals by the third quarter of 2021, Gazoduq expects to make a final investment decision and begin construction in late 2021 / early 2022. The start of the construction phase cannot be delayed without significantly affecting the Project schedule. The success of the Project is based on the commissioning of the natural gas transmission line and compressor stations in the fourth quarter of 2024. This will require a strictly controlled but achievable approval schedule and Project execution.

A General Information

The Project proponent, Gazoduq Inc. (Gazoduq), is a company incorporated in the province of Québec whose shareholder is a limited partnership formed of investors who have extensive worldwide experience in the design, development, building and operation of natural gas transmission lines, as well as strong expertise in financing.

A.1 Project Name, Sector and Projected Location

Project name	Gazoduq Project
Type/sector	Interprovincial Natural Gas Transmission Line / Linear Transportation Project
Projected location	Northeastern Ontario to Saguenay, Québec (see Section C for more information about the location of the Project)

A.2 Proponent Information

Name	Gazoduq Inc.
Contact Information	info@gazoduq.com 1 833 228-6382
Legal Address	1 Place Ville-Marie, suite 4000 Montréal, QC, H3B 4M4
Primary Contact	Carolina Rinfret Senior Director Legal and Regulatory Affairs
Contact Information	crinfret@gazoduq.com 438 320-2946

A.3 Information and Stakeholder Consultation

The team adheres to strong values and fundamental ethical principles, with respect being at the core of Gazoduq's values. It encourages transparent, ongoing and constructive dialogue that takes into consideration the impact on local communities. The team strives for fairness in its decision-making processes with regards to stakeholders.

A.3.1 General Objectives of the Information and Consultation Process

Gazoduq's information and consultation process has been designed to achieve objectives that align with its values and its approach. This involves:

- carrying out consultation activities, from the onset of the Project's preliminary stages, to gather comments, questions and concerns from communities and be able to take these into consideration in designing facilities, in decisions concerning the location of the facilities, and in identifying mitigation measures where required;
- identifying stakeholders that are likely to be affected by the Project;
- providing factual, clear information on the Project to facilitate informed stakeholder participation;
- establishing and providing various channels of communication to make information readily available to stakeholders and to facilitate the latter's participation in the information and consultation process;

- being receptive to comments and issues raised and taking them into consideration, particularly with respect to the following:
 - preferred routing of the underground natural gas line and the location of the Project's various components;
 - potential environmental and socio-economic impacts;
 - identification of mitigation measures for the Project's potential negative impacts;
 - identification of support measures, where needed, to promote positive social and economic impacts.
- developing and maintaining an ongoing dialogue with stakeholders throughout all phases of the Project's development to increase their knowledge of the Project and find solutions to issues raised, where practicable;
- allowing any person, directly or indirectly concerned by the Project, to meet with a representative of Gazoduq in order to discuss their questions or concerns and/or receive additional information;
- exploring ways in which the Project could make positive contributions to surrounding communities;
- providing stakeholders with the opportunity to help develop the information and consultation process and adapting it based on their feedback, wherever possible.

A.3.2 Design of Information and Consultation Process

In the fall of 2018, the Gazoduq team-initiated reflection to design its information and consultation process to align it with its principles, values and objectives. Gazoduq's approach to the information and consultation process was intended to reflect its commitment to rigorous, transparent and diligent communication with all stakeholders concerned, and to work together to address all factors related to the building of an underground natural gas transmission line between northeastern Ontario and Saguenay. The approach was designed to take into account and adapt to the regional, social, political, economic and cultural characteristics of the communities consulted, and the stakeholders concerned. To this end, Gazoduq has ensured that it conducts its consultations in the language of choice of its stakeholders and will continue to do so throughout the upcoming consultations. Particular attention was also paid to sharing information with stakeholders in their preferred language.

Gazoduq's process has evolved and will continue to do so based on comments shared by the stakeholders concerned. To this end, Gazoduq has and will continue to proactively solicit feedback to adapt and improve its process to better meet stakeholders' needs.

This approach will also help improve various aspects of the Project. Comments and concerns are relayed to the Project's team leaders to be considered, studied and integrated into the Project where practicable. This was the case, for example, when determining the Preferred Planning Area (PPA). The main comments and concerns brought forward so far during this process are described in Appendix A.

Throughout the entire process, stakeholders have been and will continue to be informed about the Project's progress and about consultation activities through various means of communication (e.g. press releases, newsletters, public announcements, website and social media).

In addition, the interactions with stakeholders are rigorously recorded and related follow-ups are carried out.

A.3.3 Geographical Scope of the Process

The Gazoduq team is sensitive to the fact that the Project extends over a large geographical area, stretching over two provinces and through four distinct regions:

- Québec:
 - Abitibi-Témiscamingue
 - Mauricie
 - Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean
- Ontario:
 - Northeastern Ontario

Sensitive to the Project's specific needs for the Québec and Ontario regions involved, the Gazoduq team is committed to adopting a consistent and respectful approach throughout the information and consultation process for the Project.

The Gazoduq team also ensures that its information is accessible to the general public, not only in both official languages but also through multiple communication channels such as its website, phone line and email address.

A.3.4 Identification of Stakeholders

The task of identifying stakeholders is an evolving process that involves the contribution of the stakeholders themselves, who can, for example, help identify individuals or groups that may be interested in participating in the information and consultation process. Gazoduq regularly updates its list of stakeholders based on the feedback it receives. The main stakeholder categories include, but are not limited to, government authorities, landowners and occupants, interest groups, environmental groups and non-governmental organizations, socio-economic groups, post-secondary educational institutions, and the general public. A comprehensive summary is presented in Appendix B. Stakeholders can also self-identify by sending Gazoduq an email at info@gazoduq.com or calling the Project's toll-free number 1 833 228-6382.

A.3.5 Information and Consultation Activities to Date

To facilitate understanding of the Project and encourage active participation in its development, Gazoduq has taken a gradual, structured approach to implementing its information and consultation activities. These activities have been designed so that stakeholder comments can be considered and integrated where practicable as the Project develops.

In the weeks leading up to the Project's public announcement in November 2018, Gazoduq contacted a variety of local, regional and national representatives to inform them on the Project. The main goal of this initial step was to establish a communication channel with stakeholders who might be affected by the Project. Subsequently, at each major step of the Project, Gazoduq initiated personalized communications with stakeholders for information and consultation purposes.

On November 15, 2018, Gazoduq announced the Project publicly and unveiled the information and consultation process pertaining to the Study Corridor. A press release was distributed on the same day and at the same time as the Gazoduq website (www.gazoduq.com) went online. Interested parties can also learn about the Project by emailing Gazoduq (info@gazoduq.com) or by calling the toll-free number that has been active since November 2018.

Following the Project's public announcement, Gazoduq held a series of meetings with local stakeholders. Individual and group meetings with political, economic, environmental and recreational tourism stakeholders have been ongoing since November 2018 and will continue throughout the Project's development.

In December 2018, the MELCC initiated a period of consultations, inviting the public to submit comments regarding the issues they felt should be addressed by the Project's environmental Impact Statement. The Gazoduq team promoted these consultations through public engagements and in meetings with various stakeholders, using feedback from host communities to gain a better understanding of the issues of concern and to continue to improve its own consultation process.

In February and March 2019, Gazoduq held 17 public information and consultation meetings in each region impacted by the Project and attracting close to 600 participants. Participants were invited to ask questions and express their comments and concerns about the Project and in particular, with regards to the proposed Study Corridor.

Following the public meetings, the Gazoduq team analyzed the comments gathered throughout the preceding phases of its information and consultation process. This analysis enabled Gazoduq to fine-tune the Project and present a PPA which aims to reduce social and environmental impacts. The PPA was made public on April 23, 2019.

Technical briefings were held on April 22 and 23, 2019 with interested municipal and regional stakeholders to present the specifics of the PPA.

Beginning in May 2019, individual and group meetings have been held to present details of the PPA to interested stakeholders, including municipalities as well as recreational tourism, socio-economic and environmental groups. These meetings will continue with a view to consulting with all stakeholders.

Additional group meetings had been scheduled to communicate and inform landowners of Gazoduq's process and respond to any questions. Based on feedback from the first meeting and to fulfil its objectives, Gazoduq scheduled individual meetings with landowners in Abitibi-Témiscamingue and took part in meetings organized by the *Fédération Régionale de l'Union des producteurs agricoles* (UPA) in Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean. These meetings began in June 2019 and are ongoing.

In June 2019, in the various regions of the PPA in Québec, new meetings were held with interested stakeholders, including municipalities and recreational tourism, socio-economic and environmental groups, to consult them on the format and discuss the continuation of the consultation process and test activity ideas with them.

Subsequently, in September 2019, Gazoduq made an initial announcement regarding economic benefits related to the Project, in the order of \$36 million per year in Québec and Ontario (see Appendix C).⁶ As part of this announcement, meetings were held with all stakeholders directly concerned by the announcement in Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Haute-Mauricie and Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean to share details on how Gazoduq intends to maximize these economic and social benefits in a responsible and respectful manner. Meetings will also be held in Ontario in the coming weeks.

In addition, Gazoduq took advantage of this announcement to indicate that a 60-day consultation period was opening so that the stakeholders concerned could provide their comments on the proposed formula.

Also, in September 2019, Gazoduq announced the next steps in the information and consultation process, which are detailed in section A.3.8.

In addition to these steps, other meetings on an individual basis were held to discuss the Project as well as the information and consultation process.

A.3.6 Main Issues Raised

The information and consultation activities carried out to date have enabled Gazoduq to identify key issues of concern to stakeholders in different targeted regions. The main themes that have emerged are generally related to water and wetlands, compatibility with economic, tourism and leisure activities, the environment, land use, safety and accident risk, and the relationship with Indigenous communities. A comprehensive summary of the issues raised during the information and consultation process is presented in Appendix A.

⁶ In Ontario, the use of public land is taxed by the provincial government. In Québec, there is no equivalent provincial tax for such use. Annual taxes for public and private land (municipal and school taxes) in Ontario are estimated at \$2 million.

A.3.7 Consultation with Government and Institutional Actors

This section presents a summary of the information and consultation activities conducted with government and institutional actors in the regions impacted by the Project, as well as activities scheduled for the coming months.

In general, consultation activities have taken the form of personalized communications, meetings and inter-ministerial round tables.

The objectives of the consultations with government and institutional actors include, but are not limited to, the mutual sharing of information, identification of potential environmental or socio-economic issues and potential mitigation measures.

For example, information provided by various government agencies, as listed in this section, has enabled the Gazoduq team to better understand the Project area being studied and to develop a PPA that avoids the vast majority of sensitive areas. Furthermore, steps undertaken with the agencies responsible for the transitional procedures regarding the federal assessment process were also made to understand the new steps, deadlines, structures and processes that are planned.

Gazoduq intends to initiate or continue dialogue with all government and institutional actors listed below by establishing special working groups.

Federal

- Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (previously Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency)
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat
- Rural Economic Development
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Agriculture and Agri-food Canada
- Infrastructure Canada
- Employment and Social Development Canada
- Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Health Canada
- Intergovernmental Affairs Secretariat
- Department of Finance Canada
- Public Services and Procurement Canada
- Transport Canada
- Canadian Heritage
- Department of Tourism, Official Languages and La Francophonie
- Canada Energy Regulator (previously National Energy Board)
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
- Natural Resources Canada

Québec

- Office of the Premier of Québec
- Commission de protection du territoire agricole du Québec (CPTAQ)
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation
- Ministère de l'Économie et de l'Innovation
- Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles
- Ministère de l'Environnement et de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques
- Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation
- Ministère des Finances

- Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs
- Ministère du Conseil exécutif
- Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones

Ontario

- Office of the Premier of Ontario
- Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee, Ontario Energy Board
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines
- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- Ministry of Infrastructure
- Ministry of Indigenous Affairs
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- Executive Council of Ontario
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
- Treasury Board Secretariat

A.3.8 Next Steps

In the next few months, Gazoduq intends to continue and expand its efforts to inform and consult the population and stakeholders on the PPA and the Project in general while keeping in mind the objective of being attentive and working actively and continuously to minimize the negative impacts of the Project and maximize its positive results. Gazoduq will pursue its approach in each of the regions concerned by the Project in order to reach a wide range of stakeholders, including the population, neighbours (riparian residents of the PPA), landowners, interest groups, socio-economic stakeholders and municipal policies, to name just a few.

More specifically, Gazoduq will continue to meet with landowners located along the preliminary route of the PPA. To date, Gazoduq has met with the vast majority of potentially affected landowners and is continuing discussions with them with the objective of finalizing the agreements authorizing field surveys on their property. In addition, the information and consultation process will continue in the fall of 2019 and winter of 2020.

In the fall of 2019, several information and consultation activities will take place. Regional working tables will be organized, with the objective of exchanging information with individuals and groups that will interact more closely with the Project, including those from the forest industry, hunters and fishers, and the recreational tourism industry. Exchanges will also take place with the mining industry through the sectoral associations, the *Association minière du Québec* (AMQ) and the *Association de l'exploration minière du Québec* (AEMQ).

In parallel, meetings with public safety stakeholders will be held throughout all regions covered by the Project. In addition, a tour of Ontario municipalities will be organized. Finally, the 60-day consultation on the community fund with stakeholders will end in the fall of 2019.

In winter 2020, broad-based thematic public consultation activities will take place in all potentially affected regions. The purpose of these consultations will be to present the results of the studies conducted to date and to gather comments and proposals from citizens in order to improve the Project.

Finally, Gazoduq will continue to meet with potentially affected groups or organizations on an ongoing basis.

In addition, in line with the approach developed for its consultations, Gazoduq intends to develop an accessible and rigorous mechanism for managing concerns, comments, complaints and questions during the construction phases of the Project, which is described in detail in Section G.5.

A.4 Engagement and Consultation Approach with Indigenous Groups

Drawing on the values, principles, and objectives that serve as the basis for the general information and stakeholder consultation approach presented in Sections A.3.1 to A.3.4, Gazoduq has adopted a collaborative approach to engaging Indigenous groups throughout all phases of the Project. Gazoduq believes that their participation enhances understanding of the Project and contributes to its planning, improvement, development and success by identifying the Project's impacts on their rights with a view to avoiding, minimizing or compensate effects. Gazoduq is committed to continuing the dialogue with Indigenous groups throughout the duration of the Project.

At the outset of the Project, Gazoduq retained the services of Indigenous consulting firms specialized in community relations. With their assistance, and including that of an experienced strategic advisor, who is also a member of a local Indigenous group, Gazoduq developed its engagement and consultation approach with Indigenous groups, which has been adapted over time to the needs and interests of each group involved. To date, this approach has taken place over four periods corresponding to the major steps in the Project's progress, namely, the planning phase (summer and fall 2018), the filing of the PAPD with the NEB (November 2018), the period following receipt of the preliminary list from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) regarding potentially impacted Indigenous groups (February and May 2019), and when the PPA was identified, field surveys were conducted and exchanges were held with the IAAC (spring and summer 2019). It should be recalled that this new Agency was created as part of the application of the new *Impact Assessment Act*.

A.4.1 Project Planning Phase

In accordance with the approach developed by Gazoduq and its consultants, the company identified, early on in the Project's planning phase, Indigenous groups near the Project that could potentially be impacted by it or that were part of an RCM within the Study Corridor.

Gazoduq met with the following Indigenous groups⁷ in the summer of 2018:

- Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni (Pikogan) (Québec)
- Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe du Lac Simon (Lac Simon) (Québec)
- Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemotaci (Québec)
- Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan (Québec)

Gazoduq initiated a dialogue with the Band Councils of these Indigenous groups in the summer of 2018, introducing the company, the Project and the Study Corridor between northeastern Ontario and the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region in Québec (Appendix G illustrates the Study Corridor). Gazoduq sought to evaluate the receptivity of Indigenous groups located near or within the Study Corridor to such a project.

The objectives being pursued were the following:

- create forums for mutual sharing of information and concerns, early on in the Project;
- foster active involvement of Indigenous groups in the Project's development and progress;
- mitigate potential Project effects on the rights of Indigenous people;
- promote and maximize events and situations likely to result in benefits for neighbouring Indigenous groups.

In fall 2018, similar meetings took place with the following Indigenous groups:

- Wahgoshig First Nation;
- Première Nation des Essipiunnuat (Essipit)

⁷ When Indigenous groups are referenced, the nomenclature used by NRCan to designate them is used, respecting the language spoken by each group.

- Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit
- Première Nation des Pekuakamiulnuatsh (Mashteuiatsh)

It should be noted that the last three Indigenous groups have been consulted since 2015 as part of the Énergie Saguenay project, which would be supplied by the Gazoduq Project. Accordingly, they already had an understanding of the need for the natural gas transmission line and the related supply which the Gazoduq Project is proposing to transport.

During the course of these meetings with representatives from each of the previously identified communities, and despite the concerns raised, no formal opposition was expressed regarding the possibility of a natural gas transmission line within the Study Corridor. Gazoduq also proposed developing an agreement to govern and support their eventual collaboration and engagement in the consultation process.

A.4.2 Filing of the Pre-Application Project Description

At the time of the Project's public announcement on November 15, 2018, and along with the filing of the PAPD with the NEB on November 20, 2018 (as well as the filing of the Project Notice with the MELCC for Québec, on November 19, 2018), which included a Study Corridor, Gazoduq considered it appropriate at this stage of the Project, to expand the list of Indigenous groups with which it was communicating. Therefore, a copy of the PAPD as well as a letter expressing Gazoduq's desire to engage in a dialogue with Indigenous groups to provide them with information and opportunity for discussion were sent to six additional Indigenous groups in Québec and three Indigenous groups in Ontario. The following groups who were located farther from the Study Corridor were contacted:

Québec:

- Communauté anicinape de Kitcisakik
- Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan
- Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government
- Long Point First Nation
- Nation huronne-wendat
- Timiskaming First Nation

Ontario:

- Beaverhouse Indigenous Community⁸
- Matachewan First Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario

The eight communities previously mentioned (Section A.4.1) with which Gazoduq had already begun discussions also received a copy of the PAPD filed with the NEB; those located in Québec also received the Project Notice filed with the MELCC.

A.4.3 Preliminary Lists of Indigenous Groups from the Crown

In February 2019, NRCan issued an initial list of Indigenous groups potentially impacted by the Project. In addition to the 17 groups with which Gazoduq had already shared information, this list included seven other Indigenous groups in Ontario and Québec. In May 2019, another group, Temagami First Nation, was added to the list, bringing the total number of Indigenous groups to 25.

⁸ According to information provided by the community, the community prefers to use the Beaverhouse First Nation designation, however, the nomenclature provided by NRCan is used for all Indigenous groups in this text.

During this time, Gazoduq began communicating with the Indigenous groups on NRCan's preliminary list that had not yet been contacted. These groups are:

- Algonquins de Barriere Lake (Rapid Lake) (Québec)
- Kebaowek First Nation (Kipawa) (Québec)
- Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg (Québec)
- Wolf Lake First Nation (Hunter's Point) (Québec)
- Flying Post First Nation (Ontario)
- Mattagami First Nation (Ontario);
- Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post) (Ontario)
- Temagami First Nation (Ontario)⁹

As with the letters sent to the previously contacted Indigenous communities, the letters included the Pre-Application Project Description filed with the NEB and a cover letter offering to meet with them to provide information and discuss the Project.

In January 2019, shortly before NRCan issued the list of Indigenous groups, the Band Council of the Wahgoshig First Nation expressed a desire to join the discussions that Gazoduq had already initiated with a grouping of seven Indigenous groups during the Project planning phase (Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni, Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe du Lac Simon (Lac Simon), Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemotaci, Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan, Première Nation des Essipiunnuat (Essipit), Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit, Première Nation des Pekuakamiulnuatsh). Gazoduq was receptive to the request. Gazoduq and the First Nations of Québec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI) agreed that the latter would coordinate discussions and offer logistical support to this group.

A.4.4 Identification of the PPA and Field Surveys

In spring 2019, a PPA was defined within the Study Corridor. This new phase of the Project provided an opportunity for Gazoduq to once again communicate with the Indigenous groups and keep them informed. Letters were sent on April 24, 2019 (April 30, 2019 for the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government).

During the spring and summer of 2019, the Indigenous groups were also informed of the types of field surveys that were planned,¹⁰ as well as the schedule for each one. To enable the Indigenous groups to benefit from this work, Gazoduq offered health and safety training and data gathering techniques to 20 candidates from the Indigenous groups located along the PPA so that they could participate in the surveys. Of that group, 11 workers were hired by Gazoduq to participate in the fieldwork carried out in 2019.

Gazoduq also informed Indigenous groups that the gathering of information about the traditional land and resource use (TLRU) of each of those Indigenous groups would be part of the Impact Statement. Gazoduq also indicated its desire to reach an agreement regarding the objectives and the means necessary for the Indigenous groups to conduct their own TLRU studies.

Shapefiles were sent to each community to enable a better understanding of the PPA, along with a map illustrating the PPA in relation to each Indigenous group.

Within the context of these communications, Gazoduq reiterated that a team of professionals dedicated to communications with Indigenous groups was available to organize meetings in communities regarding the Project.

⁹ This Indigenous community was added in May 2019.

¹⁰ With the exception of the caribou study, which was conducted early in the winter of 2019.

A.4.5 Identification and Preliminary Overview of Indigenous Groups

As mentioned in Section A.4.3, and in accordance with the preliminary lists provided by the Crown, the Indigenous groups potentially impacted by the Project are:

Québec:

- Algonquins of Barriere Lake
- Communauté anicinape de Kitcisakik
- Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe du Lac Simon (Lac Simon)
- Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni
- Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan
- Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemotaci
- Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan
- Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government
- Kebaowek First Nation
- Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg
- Long Point First Nation
- Nation huronne-wendat
- Première Nation des Essipiunnuat (Essipit)
- Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit
- Première Nation des Pekuakamiunnuatsh (Mashteuiatsh)
- Timiskaming First Nation
- Wolf Lake First Nation (Hunter's Point)

Ontario:

- Beaverhouse Indigenous Community
- Flying Post First Nation
- Matachewan First Nation
- Mattagami First Nation
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post)
- Temagami First Nation
- Wahgoshig First Nation

It should be noted that these preliminary lists are likely to change as new information is obtained, particularly from Indigenous groups. Brief overviews for each potentially impacted Indigenous group based on publicly available information are presented in Appendix E. Socio-economic profiles of Indigenous groups will be updated with project-related information received from groups during Gazoduq's ongoing consultation process. Consequently, the level of information contained in Annexes may not be the same for all Indigenous groups.

A.4.6 Engagement Activities Conducted to Date

Sections A.4.1 to A.4.4 summarize the engagement and consultation approach used thus far with Indigenous groups, for each stage of the Project's development.

The following section summarizes the key information sent by Gazoduq to Indigenous groups potentially impacted by the Project, along with highlights of communications with each group.

A.4.6.1 Information Sent by Gazoduq to Indigenous Groups

As the Project details became clearer, key information was sent to Indigenous groups potentially impacted by the Project and those identified from preliminary lists received by NRCan. The information, sent by mail or email, consisted of the following:

Consultation on the Planning Phase of the Project

- In summer 2018, before the PAPD was filed, meetings were held, and explanatory documents were shared with the Indigenous groups located near the corridor.
- An offer to conclude a collaboration agreement was also made to each of these groups.

Pre-Application Project Description

- In fall 2018, a Pre-application Project description, in accordance with publicly available guidance from the NEB, CEAA and MELCC, was sent to groups. Gazoduq identified a Study Corridor between 30 and 60 km wide in order to select the most acceptable route for the Project from an environmental, social, economic and technical perspective.

Unveiling of the PPA

- In spring 2019, maps were sent, showing that from the Project’s initial Study Corridor, and with the help of available data, a 400-metre wide PPA was established.

Field Surveys

- In spring and summer 2019, an announcement was made, stating that field surveys would be conducted in the field in 2019 along the PPA (which included a timetable for each discipline). The data gathered will make it possible to validate the information required for the Impact Statement and establish a more precise route for the natural gas transmission line.

TLRU Studies and Offers of Technical and Financial Support

- In spring and summer 2019, Gazoduq invited Indigenous groups to develop their own TLRU study and, to this end, offered financial and technical support.

PPA Shapefiles

- In spring and summer 2019, these files, containing the PPA, the connection point in Ontario, and the preliminary compressor station locations, were sent to all Indigenous groups to ensure all have access to similar information.

PPA Map Relative to Indigenous Groups

- In summer 2019, a customized map was sent to each Indigenous group, providing groups with information to gain a better understanding of the Project and evaluate its potential impacts on their rights.

Appendix F illustrates key information sent by Gazoduq to each Indigenous group.

A.4.6.2 Highlights of Discussions with Indigenous Groups

Discussions with Indigenous groups up until August 2019 made it possible to identify a number of issues and concerns related to the Project, which can be summarized as follows:

- risks associated with accidents or incidents;
- impacts on water, soil and animals;
- economic benefits;
- misunderstandings regarding the natural gas industry;
- difficulty in differentiating natural gas from oil and gasoline;
- applicable authorization processes.

Given Gazoduq will undergo the regulatory process under the new federal authorization process and the Crown will undertake its own direct consultation with Indigenous groups in September 2019, discussions between Indigenous groups, Gazoduq and the Crown are expected to increase significantly in the coming months. Consequently, more specific issues and concerns are expected to be identified.

Gazoduq plans to continue its efforts to adapt and distribute information, stimulate and support the exchange of documents, and request information and discussion meetings so as to clearly identify issues and concerns of Indigenous groups. These interactions will include discussions on the methods to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential Project impacts, all of which will be documented by Gazoduq. The means identified and/or agreed to will, insofar as necessary, be integrated into the Project.

A.4.6.2.1 Potentially Impacted Indigenous Groups in Québec

Algonquins of Barriere Lake (Rapid Lake)

Due to communication technical issues between the Algonquins of Barriere Lake and Gazoduq, a letter sent by Chief Ratt on December 20, 2018, which was in response to Gazoduq's filing of the Pre-Application Project Description, was only received by Gazoduq on February 1, 2019. Following receipt of this letter, Gazoduq replied and began communicating with the Algonquins of Barriere Lake in February 2019. The Algonquins of Barriere Lake received information on the various phases of the information and consultation process initiated in November 2018. The Algonquins of Barriere Lake are represented by a legal firm with respect to all communications on the Project. The methods for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for their future collaboration and participation in the consultation process are being discussed. Gazoduq continues to send Project-related information to the Algonquins of Barriere Lake.

Communauté anicinape de Kitcisakik

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Communauté anicinape de Kitcisakik in November 2018. Since that date, Gazoduq has been sending the community information about the Project and reiterating its staff's availability to participate in meetings. Gazoduq met with the Communauté anicinape de Kitcisakik in August 2019 to present the Project and discuss the methods for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including a TLRU study. Gazoduq also indicated its availability to meet with community members, if its Council so wished.

Nation Anishnabe du Lac-Simon

A meeting with representatives of the Conseil de la Nation Anishnabe du Lac-Simon (Lac Simon) was held before the announcement in November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the methods for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies, continued in 2019 within a group of eight communities (see section 4.3).

Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni (Pikogan)

A meeting with representatives of the Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni (Pikogan) was held before the announcement in November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the methods for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies, continued in 2019 within a group of eight communities (see section 4.3).

Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan in November 2018. Since then, Gazoduq has continued to send Project-related information to the Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan and has reiterated its staff's availability to organize and participate in meetings.

Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemotaci

A meeting with representatives of the Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemotaci was held before the announcement in November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the methods for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies, continued in 2019 within a group of eight communities (see section 4.3).

Two information and discussion meetings were held with elected officials, staff and family chiefs in November 2018 and February 2019.

Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan

A meeting with representatives of the Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan was held before the announcement in November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including the TLRU studies, continued in 2019 within a group of eight communities (see Section 4.3).

In April 2019, Gazoduq met with the Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan and a public information and discussion meeting was held in the community in June 2019.

Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee)/Cree Nation Government on November 20, 2018.

In January 2019 the Cree Nation Government sent a letter to Gazoduq and other organizations concerning the application of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement to the Project. Gazoduq replied to this letter and continued to send Project-related information to the Cree Nation Government.

In August 2019, the Cree Nation Government asked Gazoduq to confirm its intention to officially restrict the boundaries of the territory submitted to government authorities in the Project Application to the boundaries of the PPA.

Gazoduq confirmed in September 2019 that it did not intend to locate the underground transmission line within the traditional hunting family territories, sometimes called traplines, located in Québec.

Kebaowek First Nation

Following receipt of the Crown's preliminary list of Indigenous groups to be consulted in February 2019, Gazoduq began communicating with the Kabaowek First Nation in March 2019. Communications began with a letter detailing the various phases of the information and consultation process undertaken in November 2018.

In August 2019, the Kabaowek First Nation informed Gazoduq that it had sent a request to federal Minister Catherine McKenna for clarification concerning the regulatory framework applicable to the Project. In a second letter, Kabaowek First Nation informed Gazoduq that it would be willing to enter into an agreement with Gazoduq regarding TRLU once it had concluded a framework agreement with the Agency.

In September 2019, Gazoduq respectfully replied that it would not stop its Project consultations and that its representatives would be available whenever the Kabaowek First Nation wished to meet with them. In the meantime, Gazoduq will continue sending important Project-related information to the Kabaowek First Nation.

Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg

Following receipt of the Crown's preliminary list of Indigenous groups to be consulted in February 2019, Gazoduq began communicating with the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg band council in March 2019. Communications began with a letter detailing the various phases of the information and consultation process undertaken in November 2018.

Gazoduq has since continued to send the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Project-related information and has reiterated its staff's availability to participate in meetings.

Long Point First Nation (Winneway)

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Long Point First Nation in November 2018 and has since continued to send Project-related information to them and has reiterated its staff's availability to participate in meetings.

In July 2019, Gazoduq received a letter from the Long Point First Nation in which the latter expressed concerns regarding the way consultations were being conducted thus far. Further, the Long Point First Nation requested Gazoduq consult all Algonquin communities as a group. In July 2019, Gazoduq responded that it would be happy to meet all Algonquin communities impacted by the Project as a group and suggested a meeting venue and date. Scheduled for early September 2019, this meeting was postponed by mutual agreement following the Kebaowek First Nation's letter to Minister McKenna.

Nation huronne-wendat

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Nation huronne-wendat in November 2018.

After a first meeting in April 2019 between representatives of the Nation huronne-wendat and Gazoduq, the parties exchanged versions of a collaboration agreement setting out the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies.

A meeting was scheduled in September 2019 to finalize a collaboration agreement and to discuss the next steps.

Première Nation des Essipiunnuat (Essipit)

A meeting was held with the representatives of the Première Nation des Essipiunnuat (Essipit) before the announcement of November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies, continued in 2019 within a group of eight communities (see section 4.3).

Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit

A meeting was held with the representatives of the Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit before the announcement of November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies, continued in 2019 within a group of eight communities (see section 4.3).

Première Nation des Pekuakamiulnuatsh (Mashteuiatsh)

A meeting was held with the Première Nation des Pekuakamiulnuatsh (Mashteuiatsh) before the announcement of November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies, continued in 2019 within a group of eight communities (see section 4.3).

Timiskaming First Nation

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Timiskaming First Nation in November 2018. Since that date, it has continued to send Project-related information and has reiterated its staff's availability to participate in meetings.

Wolf Lake First Nation (Hunter's Point)

Following receipt in February of the Crown's preliminary list of Indigenous groups to be consulted, the first communication with the Wolf Lake First Nation (Hunter's Point) took place in March 2019. Communications began with a letter detailing the various phases of the information and consultation process started in November 2018.

Gazoduq has since continued to send the Wolf Lake First Nation Project-related information and has reiterated its staff's availability to participate in meetings.

A.4.6.2.2 Potentially Impacted Indigenous Groups in Ontario**Beaverhouse Indigenous Community**

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Beaverhouse Indigenous Community in November 2018.

In December 2018, Gazoduq met with Chief Wayne Wabie and the Economic Development Manager to discuss the Project and next steps.

Gazoduq met with the community's elected representatives on two other occasions, and communications are continuing concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies.

Flying Post First Nation

Following receipt in February 2019 of the Crown's preliminary list of Indigenous groups to be consulted, the first communications with Flying Post First Nation took place in March 2019. Communications began with a letter detailing the various phases of the information and consultation process that began in November 2018.

Gazoduq has since continued to send the Flying Post First Nation Project-related information and has reiterated its staff's availability to participate in meetings.

Matachewan First Nation

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Matachewan First Nation in November 2018.

In June 2019, Gazoduq met with the First Nation's Territory and Resources Officer and a project technician from the Wabun Tribal Council. In August, a Matachewan First Nation Council member joined the discussions. Discussions are continuing concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies.

Mattagami First Nation

Following receipt in February 2019 of the Crown's preliminary list of Indigenous groups to be consulted, the first communications with Mattagami First Nation took place in March 2019. Communications began with a letter detailing the various phases of the information and consultation process that began in November 2018.

Gazoduq has since continued to send the Mattagami First Nation Project-related information and has reiterated its staff's availability to participate in meetings.

Métis Nation of Ontario

Gazoduq initiated dialogue with the Métis Nation of Ontario in November 2018.

In April 2019, Gazoduq met with the Métis Nation of Ontario – Region 3 Consultation Committee and in August, Gazoduq had a meeting with its regional manager. Discussions are continuing concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies.

Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post)

Gazoduq received a letter from Chief Bruce Archibald dated January 24, 2019, following Gazoduq's PAPD filing. After receiving this letter in February 2019, Gazoduq began communicating with the Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post). Subsequently, the Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post) received information on the various phases of the information and consultation process initiated in November 2018.

In April 2019, Gazoduq met with the Nation's Chief, Council and legal counsel to discuss and provide an update on the Project and the consultation process. The Taykwa Tagamou Nation (New Post) indicated that Project consultations are key and that Gazoduq needed the Nation's consent. It also made a general statement of its rights. The parties have not yet agreed on the terms of the consultation process and the financial resources required for various activities related to the exchange of information. Gazoduq nevertheless continues to send Project-related information.

Temagami First Nation

Following receipt in May 2019 of the Crown's second list of Indigenous groups to be consulted in May 2019, the first communications with Temagami First Nation took place in May 2019.

Gazoduq has since continued to send the Temagami First Nation Project-related information and has reiterated its staff's availability to participate in meetings.

Wahgoshig First Nation

A meeting was held with the representatives of the Wahgoshig First Nation before the announcement of November 2018. Communications with Gazoduq concerning the terms for the exchange of information and the financial resources required for various activities, including TLRU studies, continued in 2019, at its suggestion, within a group of eight communities (see section 4.3).

A.4.7 Next Steps

Since summer 2018, Gazoduq has been open and transparent in its approach with Indigenous groups in order to adapt the engagement and consultation process to each group's needs, activities, interests and priorities. Gazoduq sent information to potentially impacted Indigenous groups as they were identified and at each important phase of the Project and has made itself available and offered support to engage in or continue the dialogue. Gazoduq plans to maintain this approach.

In light of Indigenous groups' high expectations regarding the Project economic benefits, Gazoduq has been an early adopter of practices that favour Indigenous contractors and suppliers. Gazoduq also intends to maintain active Indigenous involvement in future work planned for the construction and operation phases.

Through ongoing dialogue with Indigenous groups, Gazoduq will be able to continue meeting communication and consultation needs, improve the Project by incorporating traditional Indigenous knowledge and avoiding or mitigating its impacts on their rights, identify employment, training and/or business opportunities, and discuss potential financial participation and other benefits.

During the Project's development, Gazoduq will continue to provide Indigenous groups with useful information allowing them to identify potential Project impacts on their rights and use of resources and land for traditional purposes. Through dialogue, and ideally, meetings with Indigenous groups and their representatives, the issues associated with the Project will be identified.

For each group, issues identified during dialogue with Gazoduq will be discussed and the means to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential Project impacts will be discussed, clarified and to the extent necessary, integrated into the Project.

To better adapt its approach to each group, all or some of the following means will be implemented to allow Gazoduq to better understand the territory in which Indigenous groups have rights and the potential impacts of its Project:

- public, work or technical meetings with Elected Officials, the community or specific members of a group as well as visits to sites of interest (communications and documentation are completed in French or English, depending on the preference expressed by each group);
- letters, presentations, fact sheets, maps, community radio, website (communications and documentation are in French or English, depending on the preference expressed by each group).

Gazoduq will also share with each Indigenous group the part of the Impact Statement that concerns them in order to solicit their comments and take them into account in preparing the Impact Statement before it is submitted.

Gazoduq would like the interactions with Indigenous groups to be governed by one or more agreements that set out, among other things, the terms for the exchange of information, the activities to be carried out, deadlines and the expenses borne by Gazoduq, all with a view to support potential collaboration and involvement in the consultation process.

Gazoduq is also willing to consult with Indigenous groups who wish to do so as part of a grouping.

A.5 Studies and Plans or Regional Assessments

In developing the Project and related regulatory filings, Gazoduq relies on numerous sources, including:

- knowledge and expertise from its team and consultants;
- codes, standards and best industry practices;
- findings from environmental and technical work carried out ;
- feedback from engagement held with stakeholders, Indigenous groups and governmental authorities (regional, municipal, provincial and federal);
- traditional knowledge of Indigenous groups;
- guidance documents, studies and plans published by regulatory and government agencies.

Table A-5-1 features a list of certain federal guidance documents, studies and plans to which the general public has access and are being used, as applicable, in developing the Project and its regulatory filings.

Table A-5-1: Preliminary List of Federal Studies and Plans

Government Agency	Studies and Plans
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporating Climate Change Considerations in Environmental Assessment: General Guidance for Practitioners, 2016
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practitioners' Guide to Federal Impact Assessments under the <i>Impact Assessment Act</i>, 2019
Environment and Climate Change Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal policy on wetland conservation, 1991 • Federal policy on wetland conservation: implementation guide, 1996 • Wetlands environmental assessment guideline, 1998 • Migratory birds environmental assessment guideline, 1998 • Wetland ecological functions assessment: an overview of approaches, 2006 • Wetland ecological functions assessment: an overview of approaches, 2008 • Environmental assessment guideline for forest habitat of migratory birds, 2013 • Environmental assessment best practice guide for wildlife at risk in Canada, 2013 • National communications and biannual reports for Canada under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2017 • Recovery strategies potentially applicable, species at risk: action plan and management plan¹¹ • Technical guidance on reporting greenhouse gas emission, 2019
Health Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in environmental assessment: noise., 2017 • Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in environmental assessment: air quality, 2016 • Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in environmental assessment: drinking and recreational water quality, 2016 • Guidance for evaluating human health impacts in environmental assessment: country foods, 2018
National Energy Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Available Technologies in Federally-Regulated Pipelines, 2016

Gazoduq is not aware of any regional assessment being prepared under Sections 92 or 93 of the *Impact Assessment Act* that would apply to the Project. While preparing this Initial Project Description, Gazoduq communicated with the IAAC to find out whether such a Project-related regional assessment existed. According to the information received from IAAC, no such Project-related assessment has been or is in the process of being prepared.

A.6 Strategic Assessments Under Section 95 of the *Impact Assessment Act*

Gazoduq understands that Environment and Climate Change Canada is presently consulting on a draft *Strategic Assessment of Climate Change* document and that it would only apply to projects assessed under the *Impact Assessment Act*. Gazoduq is also aware that the strategic assessment

¹¹ See list available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/recovery-strategies.html>

would include requirements regarding greenhouse gas (GHG) and climate change information, and that it is expected to be published in early 2020.

B Project Information

B.7 Purpose, Necessity and Potential Benefits of the Project

The purpose of the Project is to build and operate an underground natural gas transmission line, from an interconnection point with the TC Energy mainline near Ramore, Ontario, to supply the future gas liquefaction, storage and export facility in Saguenay, Québec (Énergie Saguenay).

Gazoduq will enter into a long-term transportation services agreement with GNLQ for natural gas transportation service to their proposed Énergie Saguenay project, requiring that Gazoduq design, build, own and operate its Project.

The Project will provide the necessary link between existing natural gas supplies in western Canada and Énergie Saguenay, which will serve Europe, Asia and other parts of the globe. In addition, the Project intends to be an open access natural gas transmission line that could provide access to natural gas transportation services for local distribution companies in northern Ontario and Québec. Gazoduq plans to hold a non-binding open season in the fourth quarter of 2019 to confirm interest and solicit additional interest in shipping natural gas through the Project, which could then be taken into account in determining capacity needs.

It is anticipated that bringing long-term access to competitively priced Canadian natural gas will allow Énergie Saguenay to provide LNG to international markets and replace more polluting sources of energy such as coal, fuel oil and diesel. Therefore, the Project could have a beneficial impact on public health matters pertaining to air quality, smog and acid rain, as well as on climate change by contributing to a reduction of GHG, sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM) emissions.

In Gazoduq's view, the Project is consistent with provincial, Canadian and international energy and climate policies as it should facilitate an energy transition towards natural gas from higher emitting sources of energy currently used in certain international markets. It could also respond, in some cases, to specific needs in Québec and northern Ontario, also offering users a less polluting energy source and thus supporting the fight against climate change.

As well, the Project will provide a link between Canadian natural gas producers and international LNG markets, not only facilitating the replacement of energy sources that emit more GHGs but also the expansion of international trade for Québec, Ontario, Alberta and Canada.

The Project represents a multi-billion-dollar investment by Gazoduq and as such will create significant economic benefits, including job creation and various sources of additional revenue for Québec, Ontario, and Canada. Project labour requirements and economic benefits will be further defined as the Project planning progresses.

Gazoduq intends to develop long-term relationships with local and Indigenous groups along the natural gas transmission line and create mutually beneficial business partnerships in support of the Project throughout its operating life.

B.8 Project Provisions

The Project is subject to the provisions of section 2 of the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* as it requires the construction of approximately 740 km of new rights-of-way, or about 95% of the approximate 780 km length of a new interprovincial natural gas transmission line. This exceeds the 75-km threshold for a new right-of-way under paragraph 41 of the schedule to the *Physical Activities Regulations* and the Project is therefore a "designated project" under the *Impact Assessment Act*.

Approximately 40 km or 5% of the length of the land is parallel or contiguous to existing rights-of-way.¹²

B.9 Activities, Infrastructure, Permanent or Temporary Structures and Physical Works

The Project will require compressor stations, block valves, in-line inspection facilities, metering stations, appurtenances and permanent access roads. In addition, various temporary storage areas, access roads, and work camps will be required during the construction phase. The construction by local utilities of electrical power lines for the Project is currently being analyzed to facilitate the use of electric compressors and reduce the Project impact on GHG.

The Project will be designed, constructed, operated, and ultimately decommissioned in accordance with all applicable laws, regulations, and industry codes and standards. Management systems and programs will be developed to apply over the entire life cycle of the Project.

The technical aspects of the Project, including the main components and activities outlined below, will be validated during preliminary and detailed engineering phases.

B.9.1 Main Components

For the purposes of this Project, the natural gas transmission line is an underground transmission line of approximately 780 km long that will transport natural gas from the interconnection point with TC Energy's mainline near Ramore, Ontario, to supply Énergie Saguenay.

Table B-9-1-1: Natural Gas Transmission Line

Location with respect to ground level	Buried (including agricultural land, forests, bedrock areas, all watercourses, etc.) ¹³
Length	Approximately 780 km
Outside diameter	42 inches (1,067 mm)
Transmission line material	High tensile steel with fusion bonded epoxy coating
Construction footprint (typical)	Approximately 45 m wide plus temporary workspace at crossings
Width of permanent right-of-way (typical)	Approximately 25 m wide
Land ownership	Servitude to be acquired (private and public land tenures)

A compressor station is a facility that provides the energy necessary to compensate for the pressure loss that occurs along the transmission line and thus allows the natural gas to move to its delivery point. The compression units will be powered by electric motors or gas turbines depending on their location. In Québec, the use of compression units powered by electric turbines, is currently under study.

¹² Paragraph 1(1) of the *Physical Activities Regulations* defines a new right-of-way as: "Land that is to be developed for an international electrical transmission line, a pipeline, as defined in section 2 of the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*, a railway line or an all-season public highway, and that is not alongside and contiguous to an area of land that was developed for an electrical transmission line, oil and gas pipeline, railway line or all-season public highway.

¹³ Exceptions: Within fenced-in areas (block valves, in-line inspection sites, metering station, and compressor stations).

Table B-9-1-2: Compressor Station

Proposed locations (3)	- Near Ramore, Ontario - Near La Corne, Québec - Near Lac Ashuapmushuan, Québec
Surface area	Approximately between 5 and 10 ha per station
Power supply	Electricity or natural gas
Land ownership	Land to be acquired or leased

A metering station is a facility used to measure the gas that is delivered to a customer.

Table B-9-1-3: Metering Station¹⁴

Quantity	One station (metering for the LNG Facility)
Surface area	Approximately 0.5 ha
Land ownership	Land to be acquired or leased

Block valves are used to shut off the flow of natural gas for maintenance purposes or in the event of a transmission line incident, thereby reducing the volume of natural gas that could potentially be released in the atmosphere.

Table B-9-1-4: Block Valves

Quantity	Approximately 25 sites along the natural gas transmission line
Surface area	Approximately 0.03 ha per site
Land ownership	Located within the permanent right-of-way

Transmission line inspection facilities consist of receptacles used to introduce or remove inspection tools used to verify the condition of the transmission line.

Table B-9-1-5: In-line Inspection Facilities

Quantity	4 launchers and 4 receivers
Location	1 independent site will have 1 launcher and 1 receiver. The other launchers and receivers will be inside the compressor and metering stations.
Surface area	Approximately 0.2 ha per station
Land ownership	Located within the permanent right-of-way

Table B-9-1-6: Appurtenances

Appurtenances:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operations Control Centre, including a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) to monitor operating parameters remotely and intervene as required • Cathodic protection system providing protection of the pipe against corrosion • Safety equipment and warning signs

¹⁴ A second metering station between TC Energy's facilities and Gazoduq's facilities is also planned. This station would be under the responsibility of TC Energy.

B.9.2 Planning and Design Phase Activities

During this phase, activities include but are not limited to:

- Project planning and preliminary design;
- consulting with Indigenous groups and stakeholders;
- conducting biophysical and socio-economic assessments, including field surveys;
- undertaking detailed geotechnical design and studies, and related field work;
- consulting with landowners, residents, and other land users;
- consulting with entities responsible for allowing the use of Crown land;
- applying management system components relevant to the planning and design phase;
- preparing regulatory submissions and participating in the regulatory review process.

B.9.3 Construction Phase Activities

Construction activities include but are not limited to:

- applying management systems and programs relevant to the construction phase (e.g. emergency response plans, environmental protection plans, and Project-specific health and safety plans);
- continuing engagement activities;
- installing temporary infrastructure (e.g. worker camps, laydown areas, and access roads);
- preparing work areas (e.g. surveying, clearing, soil stripping and conservation);
- line assembly (stringing, bending, welding, weld inspections, coating of welded joints, and coating inspections);
- staking the centreline, trenching (rock blasting, where required), padding the trench, lowering-in of assembled line in trench, installing buoyancy controls (or others) where required, completing as-built surveys, and backfilling;
- installing watercourse crossings and erosion controls, where required;
- installing related natural gas transmission line facilities (e.g. block valves, compressor stations, metering stations, operations control centre);
- installing cathodic protection system;
- cleaning the interior of the line and hydrostatic pressure testing;
- commissioning;
- clean-up and site restoration.

B.9.4 Operations Phase Activities

Once the natural gas transmission line is constructed, tested and commissioned, and all applicable regulatory authorizations are received, it will be filled with natural gas to start the operations' phase, during which the natural gas transmission line will be remotely monitored 24 hours per day, seven days per week using a SCADA system. The system will provide continuous operational information to the control centre technicians. These highly trained technicians will be alerted if any abnormal event or loss of communication regarding the natural gas transmission line. This will enable them to respond rapidly and take the necessary measures to ensure continued safe operation.

Management systems and prevention programs will be integrated during the operation phase of the Project, which will include, but not be limited to:

- terrestrial and aerial patrols;

- internal integrity inspections;
- monitoring of cathodic protection systems;
- installation and maintenance of natural gas transmission line markers along roads and watercourse crossings;
- preventive maintenance;
- emergency response planning and management;
- integrity maintenance;
- safety and security management;
- environmental protection.

Other operations activities include transitioning from Project-related engagement and consultation programs to ongoing communications and public awareness programs with local and Indigenous groups, landowners, emergency response providers, local officials, and others, as applicable.

B.9.5 Decommissioning and Abandonment

To meet the needs of Gazoduq’s main customer, GNLQ, the Project will be in operation for at least 25 years. However, the Project’s facilities are expected to operate over an economic life of 50 or more years based on the experience of existing natural gas transmission lines of similar length operating in North America.

Decommissioning and abandonment activities will comply with applicable federal and provincial regulatory requirements in force at the time.

B.10 Maximum Production Capacity

The design capacity of the natural gas transmission line is approximately 51 million cubic metres (1.8 billion cubic feet) of natural gas per day. The Project is scheduled to be in-service by the fourth quarter of 2024. The commissioning of Énergie Saguenay is expected to be in 2025.

B.11 Project Schedule

Table B-11-1: Key Milestones in the Project Schedule¹⁵

Selection of Study Corridor	First half of 2018
Project Announcement Submission of PAPD and Notice of Application	November 2018
Announcement of the Preferred Planning Area (PPA)	April 2019
Non-Binding Open Season	Q4 2019
Presentation of Impact Statement (to the IAAC), the Environmental Impact Assessment statement (to the MELCC) and the Agroforestry Study (to the CPTAQ)	Q1 2020
Receipt of Key Regulatory Approvals	Q3 2021
Construction	End of 2021 / beginning of 2022 to 2024
Commissioning	Q4 2024

¹⁵ No expansion is currently planned.

Operations	2025 to 2050 (minimum)
Decommissioning and Abandonment	Post-operations activities (approximately 2 years)
Indigenous and Stakeholder Engagement	2018 to decommissioning/abandonment

B.12 Alternatives and Alternative Means

Different scenarios have been analyzed to deliver the quantities of natural gas that Énergie Saguenay needs to fulfill requirements from the expected GNLQ sales. These scenarios are outlined below.

B.12.1 Alternatives to the Project

First, existing natural gas facilities in the area where Énergie Saguenay will be located were identified and assessed to determine whether they had the capacity to provide Énergie Saguenay with the required quantities of natural gas. The only nearby facilities are those of Énergir, a Québec distributor of natural gas that supplies the Saguenay region through a 40 cm (16 in.) transmission line. The capacity of this transmission line is only a fraction of the volumes that Énergie Saguenay will need. In light of insufficient capacity of existing facilities, a new, larger-diameter natural gas transmission line is required.

To assess the feasibility of a new transmission line and define its key parameters, analyses were undertaken. Three alignments were considered in the analyses, as shown in Figure B-12-1-1.

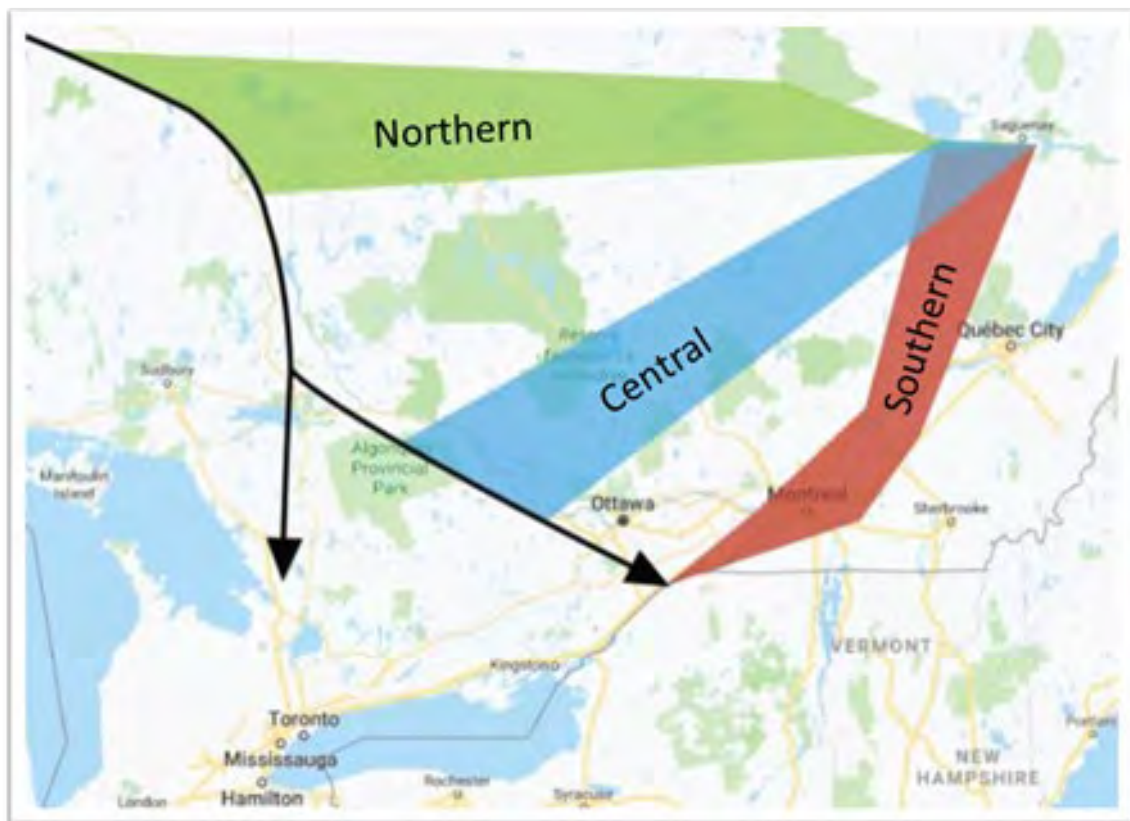


Figure B-12-1-1: Alternative Alignments Considered

The alignments were determined taking into consideration the following key requirements:

- ability to connect to the facilities of GNL Québec Inc. in Saguenay;
- ability to connect to existing natural gas transmission infrastructure that currently provides sufficient capacity or whose capacity can be increased to meet GNL Québec's requirements;
- sufficient capacity to deliver Canadian natural gas to meet the needs of GNL Québec Inc.

The three alternative alignments were analyzed by subject-matter experts from the environment, Indigenous relations, community relations, engineering, construction, legal, regulatory, land and commercial disciplines.

B.12.1.1 Southern Alignment

The Southern Alignment was identified taking into consideration the TC Energy transmission line and Énergir assets along the north and south banks of the St. Lawrence River and then following a path substantially parallel to the existing Énergir transmission line between Trois-Rivières and Saguenay.

The Southern Alignment was rejected for the following reasons:

- high population density along the shores of the St. Lawrence River;
- potential routes within the alignment were mostly on private land, which would have required disturbing the owner's private use to a certain extent;
- acceptability issues;
- constructability challenges, including number of potential infrastructure crossings (highway, road and rail), associated with the high population density;
- a route south of the St. Lawrence River would involve crossing this major river, which could pose a formidable challenge in many respects;
- connection to the TC Energy mainline would be within a highly utilized and more expensive (from an overall tolling perspective) section of the TC Energy system;
- potential for both Canadian and United States natural gas supply delivery.

B.12.1.2 Central Alignment

The Central Alignment had the benefit of traversing a significantly less urbanized path than the Southern Alignment and provided a more direct route to Énergie Saguenay. However, it was rejected, principally due to the presence of areas of ecological interest (protected areas) and recreational areas (controlled harvesting zone, outfitting, etc.) which would be challenging or impossible to avoid. Further, the connection to the TC Energy mainline would have to be in a highly utilized and more expensive (from an overall tolling perspective) section of the TC Energy system.

B.12.1.3 Northern Alignment

The Northern Alignment was analyzed and ultimately selected as the preferred option, principally for the following reasons:

- preliminary Indigenous group input and feedback was positive for this route;
- significantly lower population density along most of the alignment;
- potential to avoid areas of ecological and recreational interest;
- potential to be predominantly on public lands;
- fewer infrastructure crossings (highway, road and rail);

- potential economic development opportunities, including natural gas supply provided by the applicable local distribution company;
- connection to the TC Energy mainline would be at a highly underutilized and less expensive (from an overall tolling perspective) section of the TC Energy system;
- access to 100% Canadian natural gas supplies.

Because of all the positive attributes listed above, including the transportation toll reduction on the existing TC Energy mainline, the Northern Alignment alternative is the best option for the Project.

A Study Corridor within the Northern Alignment was thus identified for further analysis. The limits of the Study Corridor were established based on the following main criteria:

- **Western limit:** The Project's start point must be connected to the existing TC Energy system and be located near Ramore, Ontario. Discussions with TC Energy representatives have made it possible to confirm the exact location of the connection to their system.¹⁶
- **Eastern limit:** The end point is determined by the planned location of the Énergie Saguenay terminal for the natural gas storage and liquefaction, in Saguenay.
- **Southern limit:** Avoidance of areas of ecological and recreational interest and the range of the Boreal woodland caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*) in Val-d'Or.
- **Northern limit:** Avoidance of woodland caribou ranges in Ontario and Québec and need to remain south of major reservoirs in this area (Abitibi Lake, Gouin Reservoir and Lac Saint-Jean).
- **Most Direct:** Prioritize the most direct possible corridor between the start point and the end point.

The Study Corridor was specifically chosen to be far from densely populated areas and, as noted above, Gazoduq also took into consideration several sensitive areas, such as Lac Saint-Jean, Gouin Reservoir, Lac Abitibi, woodland caribou distribution ranges, as well as protected areas and recreational areas (ZEC, outfitting operations, etc.). The Study Corridor has also been designed to avoid known sensitive areas such as wetlands and those of environmental concern.

B.12.2 Implementation of Best Available Technology (BAT)

According to the NEB's 2016 report "Best Available Technologies in Federally Regulated Pipelines" submitted to the Minister of Natural Resources Canada on September 30, 2016, the definition of BAT is as follows:

- "Best available technology" means the application of the most appropriate or required combination of measures and strategies to ensure the safety of people and mitigation of adverse environmental effects.
- "Best" means effective in achieving a high level of protection of people and the environment.
- "Available" means a commonly adopted or required technology with no excessive costs.
- "Technology" is broadly defined and means a collection of techniques, skills, methods and processes.

The report notes that "best available technology typically affects only the final design stage" and that "BAT seldom go into FEED," which suggests that application of BAT would typically not have been applied at this stage of Gazoduq's development. Gazoduq, however, has commenced application of some key BAT principles, in some cases, very early in the development process. These include but are not limited to:

¹⁶ In June 2019, Gazoduq pinpointed where the transmission line would connect to TC Energy's mainline, approximately 4 km south of the existing compressor station in Ramore, Ontario. A letter to this effect was sent to the NEB on June 27, 2019.

- ensuring that early analysis of the potential alignments and subsequent selection of the Study Corridor were chosen with a focus on safety of people and the environment;
- soliciting early Indigenous, public and government agency input on the broad Study Corridor rather than a specific path, in order to be responsive to input and concerns and adjust the proposed preferred route accordingly;
- undertaking early-stage ground truthing and utilization of LIDAR and high-resolution orthophotos to adjust the proposed preferred route accordingly and to reflect potential environmental constraints and constructability challenges;
- reducing GHG emissions during the operations phase of the Project lifecycle through effective design, including siting of Québec compressor stations, to allow for the use of electric drives rather than natural gas turbines;
- commencing development of site-specific watercourse crossing plans for sensitive watercourses;
- commencing early-stage planning and development of management systems to facilitate a systematic approach to effectively manage and reduce risk and fulfil requirements pertaining to health, safety, security and environmental protection.

Gazoduq will continue implementation of BAT throughout the design, construction, operation and abandonment process. Updates will be provided as applicable and appropriate.

B.12.3 Alternative Means

To supply the large volume of natural gas required by Énergie Saguenay, a new, large-diameter natural gas transmission line must be constructed. Furthermore, the natural gas transmission line must commence at and be connected to a location capable of providing the same volume of natural gas required. There is no other viable alternative means to meet GNLQ's requirements.

C Location Information

C.13 Proposed Location

As mentioned, Gazoduq has undertaken an exhaustive and iterative route selection process to determine the preferred route from an environmental, social, economic and technical perspective for the location of the natural gas transmission line

The Study Corridor was made public in November 2018. Its width ranges from 30 km to 60 km and it covers an area of nearly 2,948,000 hectares. Approximately 93% of the Study Corridor is located in Québec, with the remaining 7% in Ontario. The Study Corridor spans three administrative regions in Québec and two districts in Ontario. The Study Corridor includes, in whole or in part, nine RCMs or equivalent territories, 48 municipalities or unorganized territories (43 in Québec and 5 in Ontario), and one First Nations reserve under the *Indian Act*.

In April 2019, Gazoduq announced that a 780 km long PPA had been identified within the Study Corridor. In unconstrained areas, the PPA was an average width of approximately 400 m on public lands and approximately 200 m on private land. The PPA width was however, more than 400 m in two specific locations, in order to optimize the connection to the TC Energy mainline and for routing through a geotechnically complex area. The PPA includes 21 municipalities (19 in Québec and 2 in Ontario) and no First Nation reserves or federal Crown land.

The PPA continues to evolve as the Project progresses, in conjunction with the various ongoing consultation processes. The PPA presented in Appendix G has been updated to be representative of the current Project location. It can be noted that a few segments have been slightly expanded or even redirected outside the original PPA.

As part of the current public consultations, Gazoduq is presently examining the joint proposition of the *Syndicat des producteurs de bois* and the *Fédération régionale de l'UPA du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean* with regards to the Project location.

Gazoduq will continue to refine the PPA and will determine the route based on its consultations with Indigenous groups, stakeholders and government authorities, taking into account the results of work done in the field, environmental and socio-economic assessments, and the evolution of the Project's technical design, until a preferred route has been determined.

C.13.1 Geographic Coordinates

The approximate coordinates for the proposed interconnections to the TC Energy system and Énergie Saguenay are as follows.

Table C.13-1: Preliminary Coordinates for Main Project Components

Type of Component	Component	Latitude	Longitude
Natural Gas Transmission Line	Start (Interconnection with TC Energy)	48.38679	-80.28952
	End (Interconnection with Énergie Saguenay)	48.38663	-70.80121
Compressor Stations	Ramore Station	48.38703	-80.28779
	La Corne Station	48.34456	-77.95033
	Lac Ashuapmushuan Station	48.51428	-72.72468
Metering Station	Immediately Upstream of Énergie Saguenay	48.38669	-70.80155
Note: 1. The preliminary compressor station coordinates represent the centre point of locations currently under study.			

C.13.2 Site Maps

A general map showing the spatial relationship between the PPA and the Study Corridor, from the Project's starting point to its end point, can be found in Appendix G.

Appendix G also contains larger scale maps of the Project's Ontario portion as well as the three administrative regions located in Québec, i.e. Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Mauricie and Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean. It should be noted that the illustrated compressor station locations correspond to the sectors currently being evaluated and not the proposed surface areas of the compressor stations.

C.13.3 Legal Land Descriptions

No land has been acquired by Gazoduq at this time. It should be noted that the passage of the natural gas transmission line will not necessarily require the acquisition of land, unless a compressor or metering station is located on private land. However, servitudes will be required for the passage of natural gas transmission line.

The table in Appendix H shows a total of 727 private lots in the PPA. It is expected that the number of private lots¹⁷ for which a servitude would be required will be significantly lower than this number. The exact number of private lots requiring a servitude will only be determined once the preferred route is established.

C.13.4 Proximity of Local Communities

Table C.13-4 presents the proximity to the PPA to some of the nearest communities.

Table C.13-4: Proximity of PPA to Local Communities

Community	Approximate distance from the PPA (km)
La Baie	5
Ramore	5
Senneterre	5
Chicoutimi	10
Duparquet	10
Héberville	10
Lac-Bouchette	10
Roberval	10
Barraute	15
Jonquière	15
Rivière-Héva	15
Rouyn-Noranda	15
Clova	20
Kirkland Lake	25
Parent	25
Alma	30
Val-d'Or	30

A photo-interpretation analysis and consultation of the Québec *ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles* database on leases granted on public land made it possible to identify the buildings in the PPA in a preliminary manner. Based on their location and geometry, this preliminary assessment identified residential buildings, of permanent or temporary occupation. That is, 72 single-family homes, 1 multi-residential building and 43 cottages would be present in the PPA.

The actual distances between permanent, seasonal or temporary residences and the Project will be calculated once the preferred route has been determined.

C.13.5 Proximity of Indigenous Groups

Table C-13-5 represents the preliminary list of 25 Indigenous groups, as formulated by NRCan. It represents the approximate distance between the PPA and the reserve or community closest to or

¹⁷ Note: The number of lots is not the same as the number of owners. A single owner may hold several lots and conversely, a single lot can be held by several persons, but only a single legal owner, which may consist of more than one person.

occupied by these groups.¹⁸ A second column shows the approximate distance between the PPA and the boundaries of Indigenous traditional territories, as shown on the federal website of *the Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Information System (ATRIS)*. Most of these territories are covered by treaties or are the subject of claims of Aboriginal rights and/or title to land. The most recent maps available have been considered, and, where available, a brief description is included about the stage of the current negotiation process, if applicable. It's important to note that Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada does not guarantee the accuracy of the information nor that it is complete or up to date.

As shown in the table, some Indigenous groups have grouped together to submit their claims or assertions to the federal and provincial governments. Consequently, the traditional territories discussed here are not subdivided by community.

In fact, although the distances between the Indigenous groups and the PPA vary from 10 km to 190 km, the PPA covers lands that are subject to a comprehensive land claim agreement or self-government agreement by almost every group concerned. However, only the Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemontaci holds First Nation lands within the PPA in accordance with subsection 2(1) of the *First Nations Land Management Act*. Further, the PPA includes lands which are part of Treaty 9, the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and the Robinson-Huron Treaty.

The information available at this stage does not allow for more precise definition of traditional land use in the PPA by different Indigenous groups. This information will be collected as part of the consultations and studies on traditional knowledge and land use that will be undertaken.

The map in Appendix D provides an overview of the location of groups in relation to the PPA.

¹⁸ The distances for the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) / Cree Nation Government and the Métis Nation of Ontario are not represented. In the first instance, the organization represents more than one community, each with its own Category 1 lands and in the second instance, the members are not located on a reserve.

Table C.13-5: Proximity of Indigenous Groups involved

Indigenous Groups involved	Distance Between the PPA and the Closest Community	Distance Between the PPA and the Boundary of the Traditional Territory as shown on the ATRIS Site
Québec		
Algonquins of Barriere Lake	105 km	Section of the PPA within the territory of the Algonquin Nation (assertion of rights and title to land made in 2013).
Conseil des Anicinapek de Kitcisakik	85 km	Section of the PPA within the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation (assertion of rights and title to land made in 2010) territory contemplated by the Comprehensive Claim of the Anishnabek O Takiwan Committee (made in 2013).
Nation Anishnabe du Lac-Simon	25 km	
Conseil de la Première Nation Abitibiwinni	25 km	
Long Point First Nation (Winneway)	90 km	
Kebaowek First Nation	175 km	Section of the PPA within the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation (assertion of rights and title to land made in 2010). territory contemplated by the Algonquin Nation Secretariat (assertion of rights and title to land made in 2013).
Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg	190 km	Section of the PPA within the territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation (assertion of rights and title to land made in 2010).
Conseil des Atikamekw de Manawan	100 km	Section of the PPA within the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> territory of the Conseil de la Nation Atikamekw (comprehensive land claim filed in 1994. Negotiations resumed and an agreement in principle was signed in 2014). territory of the Nitaskinan (assertion of traditional land).
Conseil des Atikamekw de Wemotaci	30 km	
Conseil des Atikamekw d'Opitciwan	50 km	
Grand Cree Council (Eeyou Istchee)	-	Section of the PPA within the territory of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement (1975).
Nation huronne-wendat	150 km	Section of the PPA within the territory contemplated by the Huron-Wendat Nation Consultation and Accommodation Protocol (bilateral federal agreement concluded in 2019).
Première Nation des Innus d'Essipit	105 km	Section of the PPA within the territory of the Regroupement Petapen (agreement in principle signed in 2004).

Indigenous Groups involved	Distance Between the PPA and the Closest Community	Distance Between the PPA and the Boundary of the Traditional Territory as shown on the ATRIS Site
Première Nation des Innus de Pessamit	165 km	Section of the PPA within the territory of the Mamuitun mak Nutashkuan (agreement in principle signed in 2004).
Première Nation des Innus de Pekuakamiulnuatsh	10 km	Section of the PPA within the territory of the Regroupement Petapen (agreement in principle signed in 2004).
Timiskaming First Nation	80 km	Section of the PPA included within the territory of the Algonquin Nation (assertion of rights and title to land made in 2013).
Wolf Lake First Nation	155 km	
Ontario		
Beaverhouse Indigenous Community	25 km	Section of the PPA within the territory of the Wabun First Nation (assertion of traditional territory, undated).
Flying Post First Nation	120 km	
Matachewan First Nation	40 km	
Mattagami First Nation	105 km	
Métis Nation of Ontario	-	Section of the PPA within the territory of the Métis communities in Ontario.
Taykwa Tagamou Nation	75 km	Section of the PPA within the territory of Treaty 9 (1905-1906).
Temagami First Nation	155 km	Section of the PPA within the Robinson-Huron Treaty (1850) and approximately 25 km from the territory of the Temagami First Nation (1974).
Wahgoshig First Nation	15 km	Section of the PPA within the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation (assertion 2010). • Comprehensive land claim of the Anishnabek O Takiwan Committee (made in 2013).

C.13.6 Proximity of Federal Lands

No federally owned or administered lands are located within the PPA.

The closest public lands under federal jurisdiction is the Bagotville Airport, in Saguenay, which is 2.7 km from the PPA, but outside the Study Corridor.

C.14 Physical and Biological Environment of the Project Location

Since the PPA is located within the Study Corridor, its physical and biological environment may be considered representative of the Project's proposed location.

The Study Corridor has eight ecological regions, according to the Québec Ecological Land Classification Hierarchy and the Ontario Ecological Land Classification (MFFP, 2016a; MRNFO, 2012a). They are distinguished by landform, average altitude and by small differences in climate. The characteristics of these regions are presented in Appendix I. Among the eight ecological regions, the Abitibi Plains and the Hills of Upper Saint-Maurice together occupy the greatest proportion in the Study Corridor.

The Study Corridor crosses geological regions whose surface was eroded during the last ice age and exhibits loose glacial deposits. Episodes of the proglacial Barlow-Ojibway lakes and the Laflamme Sea also influenced the type of deposits in some areas of the Study Corridor (Ontario/Abitibi-Témiscamingue and Saguenay) where glaciolacustrine sediments can be found. The Study Corridor also has a number of eskers, the main ones being Vaudray-Joannès, Saint-Mathieu-Berry, Launay, lac Malartic, Barraute, lac Despinassy, Senneterre, and the main moraine is Harricana (Cloutier *et al.*, 2013).

The types of aquifers present in the Study Corridor vary depending on the region. According to the documentation available, the largest aquifers in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region are granular aquifers, particularly due to the numerous eskers and moraines present (Cloutier *et al.*, 2015.). For the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region, two types of aquifers are present, fractured rock aquifers and those made up of granular deposits (CERN-PACES, 2013). Private and community groundwater wells identified in the Study Corridor are shown in a map contained in Appendix J.

The Study Corridor, which straddles the Hudson Bay, the Great Lakes and the Saint-Lawrence River drainage basins, includes the Abitibi (Moose) and Upper Ottawa (Outaouais) river watersheds in Ontario, as well as the Moose, Outaouais, Harricana, Nottaway, Saint-Maurice and Saguenay river watersheds in Québec.

The Study Corridor contains various plant and wildlife habitats. Appendix K lists the species (plants, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) of management concern (i.e. species of interest for conservation) that could be located in the Study Corridor. The species of management concern are those listed under *Ontario Regulation (230-08)* under the *Endangered Species Act, 2007, S.O. 2007, c. 6*,¹⁹ the *Québec Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species (E-12.01)*²⁰ and the federal *Species at Risk Act (S.C. 2002, c.29)*²¹, as well as species likely to be designated as threatened or vulnerable, or assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC).

The Study Corridor does not have any federally designated protected areas, such as wildlife sanctuaries, national wildlife areas, migratory bird sanctuaries or marine protected areas (MELCC, 2018; MERN, 2018c). Legally designated protected areas at the provincial level cover 125,622.26 ha, or 4.26% of the Study Corridor. Since several protected areas may overlap, this area represents the

¹⁹ See <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/080230>

²⁰ See <http://legisquebec.gouv.qc.ca/en/ShowDoc/cs/E-12.01?langCont=fr>

²¹ See <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/s-15.3/page-1.html>

actual footprint of the legally protected area in the Corridor. Appendix L lists these various protected areas in the Study Corridor. The PPA avoids these protected areas. In the Study Corridor are also some projects for protected area still under study and not yet formally recognized. Finally, other sites benefit from a level of protection through a conservation allocation in land-use plans or voluntary conservation initiatives on private or municipal lands.

The Study Corridor is primarily covered by forests (73%), followed by wetlands (16%) and water bodies (7%). Agricultural areas (2%) and man-made environments (1%) represent but a small proportion of the Study Corridor.

Appendix M contains an initial compilation of certain biophysical elements in the PPA. It is important to note that the PPA avoids the vast majority of potentially sensitive areas, such as lakes, parks, designated or proposed protected areas; known municipal drinking water supply intake protection areas; high ecological value forest reserves; forests being used for experimental, research and teaching purposes; wetlands of interest; producing mines and known mining projects; and areas posing more significant geotechnical constraints.

C.15 Health, Social and Economic Context

The following sections provide a general overview of the Study Corridor's health, social and economic context.

C.15.1 Health

Social and health indicators retained for the administrative regions located within the Study Corridor are presented in Table C-15-1 (Statistics Canada (SC), 2018c). The indicators (as a percentage) represent a general overview of the well-being of the population and health perceptions. The indicators presented are as follows:

- **Perceived health:** Refers to a person's perception of their general health, i.e. not only the absence of illness or injury but also physical, mental and social well-being.
- **Perceived mental health:** Refers to a person's perception of their overall mental health. This indicator provides a general overview of the population suffering from any form of mental illness, or mental or emotional distress.
- **Life satisfaction:** Refers to people's general level of satisfaction with their lifestyle and means of subsistence.
- **Perceived stress:** Refers to the level of daily stress felt by a person. This indicator represents the percentage of people whose perception of their stress level is relatively intense for the majority of their days.
- **Sense of belonging to the local community:** Refers to the level of attachment and sentimental pride people feel toward their community. This indicator is strongly correlated with good mental and physical health, according to the Statistics Canada study.

Table C-15-1: Overview of Social Health Indicators (%) by Administrative Region

Social Indicator		Ontario		Québec		
		Timiskaming	Porcupine	Ab.-T	Mauricie	S-Lac-St-Jean
Perceived health	Very good or excellent	50.8	53.4	55.7	61.1	61.2
	Fair or poor	17.7	19.9	12.2	9.9	9.2

Social Indicator		Ontario		Québec		
		Timiskaming	Porcupine	Ab.-T	Mauricie	S-Lac-St-Jean
Perceived mental health	Very good or excellent	70.7	65.3	71.7	74.6	75.3
	Fair or poor	6.6	10.9	4.5	3.3	4.3
Life satisfaction	Satisfactory or very satisfactory	93.1	89.5	92.9	95.4	94.7
Perceived stress	Quite intense	18.2	20.2	18.1	21.1	18.6
Sense of belonging to the local community	Quite strong or very strong	73.4	73.9	66.0	62.7	68.8

Source - Statistics Canada, 2018c
Note: For data regarding Ontario, the divisions are health units.

C.15.2 Social

The Study Corridor is located in a relatively sparsely populated area of Québec and Ontario. It is home to less than 4% of the total population of Québec and less than 1% of Ontario's (Statistics Canada, 2018a). The main urban areas of the Study Corridor are located within the City of Rouyn--Noranda. Some urban areas are located outside the Study Corridor, but within its vicinity, specifically in the municipalities of Val-Or, Amos, Saguenay, and Alma. In Ontario, the urban perimeters are located outside the Study Corridor, except for Virginia Town and Kearns, which are located in the District of McGarry.

In terms of demographic outlook, the population of Northeastern Ontario will grow slightly by 2041 (Ontario Ministry of Finance, 2018). However, the Cochrane and Timiskaming Districts, included in the Study Corridor, will see their population decrease slightly by 2041 (Ontario Ministry of Finance, 2018). In Québec, the demographic outlook indicates that the populations of the RCMs of Abitibi, Vallée-de-l'Or, Fjord-du-Saguenay and the City of Rouyn-Noranda should grow from 2011 to 2036 (by respectively 6.0%, 7.6%, 12.0% and 7.5%), while that of the city of La Tuque and the RCM of Domaine-du-Roy will tend to decline (Institut de la statistique du Québec, 2014).

Nearly 70% of the population in the municipalities or equivalent territories making up the Study Corridor holds a minimum of a secondary school certificate or diploma, according to data from the *National Household Survey* (Statistics Canada, 2016).

Several community and institutional public services are present in the Study Corridor, supporting, among others, vulnerable populations (e.g. school and day care services, services for senior citizens and long-term care). Maps indicating the community and institutional public services, as well as all municipal services located within the Study Corridor, are available in Appendices N and O.

Data available within the Study Corridor on the transport network is presented in Appendix P. The road, rail, maritime and air transportation networks may be used during construction of the Project for the transportation of materials, machinery and/or workers.

The main land-use designations found in the Study Corridor, in both Québec and Ontario, are forestry and agroforestry. Agricultural, tourism, recreational, rural, urban and industrial designations are also present. A few RCMs have dedicated portions of their territory to preservation of the natural environment. In Ontario, most of the Study Corridor (about 158,000 ha) has not been the subject of a

land-use designation by the municipal authorities. Table C-15-2 presents the areas and proportions of major territorial designations for Ontario and Québec respectively.

Table C-15-2: Major Land-Use Designations in the Study Corridor

Land-Use	Ontario		Québec		Total	
	Surface Area (ha)	Proportion (%)	Surface Area (ha)	Proportion (%)	Surface Area (ha)	Proportion (%)
Agricultural	-	-	142,853.66	4.85	142,853.66	4.85
Agroforestry	-	-	77,185.05	2.62	77,185.05	2.62
Commercial	-	-	21.79	0.00	21.79	> 0.01
Conservation	162.03	0.01	95,776.05	3.25	95,938.07	3.25
Mining/aggregate extraction	752.04	0.03	-	-	752.04	0.03
Forest	-	-	2,139,646.15	72.58	2,139,646.15	72.58
Industrial	67.94	0.00	2,849.97	0.10	2,917.91	0.10
Recreational	139.59	0.00	13,802.58	0.47	13,942.17	0.47
Residential	3.02	0.00	151.65	0.01	154.68	0.01
Rural	51,068.21	1.73	25,690.63	0.87	76,758.84	2.60
Public service	66.51	0,00	477.94	0.02	544.45	0,02
Urban	113.24	0,00	11,896.18	0.40	12,009.42	0.41
Resort	-	-	7 984,34	0,27	7 984,34	0,27
Other – Hydrography	7,401.72	0.25	211,525.18	7.18	218,926.90	7.43
No designation	158,352.03	5.37	-	-	158,352.03	5.37
Total (provincial)	218,126.33	7.40	2,729,861.18	92.60	2,947,987.51	100.00

Sources:
Municipalities of Black River-Matheson, 2017; Gauthier, 2011, Kirkland Lake, 2016, Larder Lake, 2017; McGarry, 2011a; 2011b;
RCM of Abitibi, 2010; RCM of Abitibi-Ouest, 2017; RCM LSJE, 2001; RCM DDR, 2015; RCM VO; RCM FDS, 2012.
Ville de La Tuque, 2001; Ville de Rouyn-Noranda, 2010; Ville de Saguenay, 2011
MNRF, 2011; MDDELCC (CRHQ-BDTQ 20K, hydrography) 2013.

The Study Corridor encompasses several areas of recreational and tourism interest, including structured wildlife areas where hunting and fishing are authorized. There are four controlled harvesting zones, nine outfitting operations and a wildlife reserve. Trapping is also allowed in some of the outfitting operations. Two communal wildlife areas where fishing is authorized are also identified in the Study Corridor (MERN, 2018f).

The Study Corridor also includes several recreational trails (hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, snowmobiling and quad trails) and a variety of touristic areas including: outdoor recreation centers, nature interpretation centers, resort centers, museums, arenas, campgrounds, lodgings, and restaurants, etc. Renowned tourist areas are in the Study Corridor, including Parc national Aiguebelle and Ontario provincial parks (Esker Lakes Provincial Park, Thackeray Provincial Park, Gem Lake Maple Bedrock Provincial Park and Pushkin Hills Provincial Park).

According to the information consulted, 167 heritage sites are listed in the Québec Study Corridor and no heritage sites are reported in the Ontario portion of the Study Corridor (Parks Canada, n.d.;

Ministry of Culture and Communications (MCC, 2013); Ontario Heritage Trust, n.d.). Only one known archaeological site is included in the PPA: the DbEs-2 site, near the Rio Tinto plant in Saguenay. This site contains the remains of an 8 m by 8 m fieldstone building that was reportedly occupied from the mid-19th century, during the early settlement efforts. A study of the archaeological potential in the PPA will also be carried out as part of the Project.

C.15.3 Economy

The main sectors of economic activity in the Study Corridor are based on natural resources development. Since the Study Corridor has high proportion of wooded areas, activities related to the forestry industry represent a significant economic pole as well as mining activities.

C.15.3.1 Ontario

The Township of Black River-Matheson, located in the Cochrane District, has always relied on mining and forestry activities. Currently, the two biggest private sector employers are both mining companies, and the three prioritized industries identified to secure the future growth and development of the Township are mining and mineral exploration, residential construction, and farming (Township of Black River-Matheson, 2017).

The townships in the district of Timiskaming—Gauthier, Kirkland Lake, Larder Lake and McGarry—have largely resource-based economies, primarily forestry and mining (Township of Gauthier, 2011; Township of Larder Lake, 2013; Township of Kirkland, 2016; Township of McGarry, 2011). The Township of Larder Lake also lists tourism and recreation among the three pillars of its economy (Township of Larder Lake, 2013).

C.15.3.2 Abitibi-Témiscamingue

The economic generator of the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region is directly related to mining activities, in particular gold and copper mining. Mining is a larger industry than forestry in the region in terms of both jobs and economic spinoffs (MERN, 2006a). In 2003, the value of the region's mineral production was close to (MERN, 2006a). The importance of the forestry industry varies depending on the area in the region, and occupies 77% of its surface area (MERN, 2006a). Recreational tourism activities are also present throughout the region but are limited by a number of factors, including an aging and declining population, the remote locations of the main tourism areas, environmental constraints, and the sharing of land with a range of other resource-based industries.

The RCMs of Abitibi and Abitibi-Ouest are consistent with the general trend observed in the Study Corridor. The economic structure of the Abitibi RCM is geared more toward natural resource development than is typical in Québec (Abitibi RCM, 2010). Between 10% and 20% of the workforce is employed in the primary sector, mainly forestry development, mining and agriculture (Abitibi RCM, 2010). The main employers are in the mining, wood processing, health and social services, and education sectors. The Abitibi-Ouest RCM's economy is oriented toward natural resources development, i.e. activities in the primary sector, which accounts for 18.6% of jobs (Abitibi-Ouest RCM, 2017). Agriculture is another major economic sector, and the RCM's permanent agricultural zone, which is the largest of all RCMs in Québec, covers 72% of its municipalized areas, and 62% of its total area.

With nearly 15% of its jobs in the primary sector, the economy of the Vallée-de-l'Or RCM is also primarily dependent on the development and transformation of natural resources, mainly forestry and mining (Vallée-de-l'Or RCM, 2005). The secondary sector, which is closely tied to the wood processing industry, comes in just behind at 14.6% of jobs (*Ibid*, 2005). However, it is 7.4% below that of the province (*Ibid*, 2005). The tertiary sector (services) represents 70.7% of jobs in this RCM (*Ibid*, 2005).

The same trend holds for the city of Rouyn-Noranda, where natural resource development is the key driver of socio-economic development (City of Rouyn-Noranda, 2015). Retailing, health care and social services, as well as mining, are the largest employment sectors (*Ibid*, 2005).

C.15.3.3 Mauricie

In the Mauricie region, around two thirds of jobs (66.9%) are grouped in the service sector (MERN, 2006b). Natural resources, especially wood substances, have shaped the region's economic development because of their availability and abundance, and are the foundation of the region's main economic activities. In addition to the paper, wood and furniture industries, other key manufacturing industries include metallurgy, chemicals, food, and printing. Close to one third of jobs (33.1%) are related to the production of goods, and most of these jobs are concentrated in construction and manufacturing (*Ibid*, 2006b).

C.15.3.4 Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean

In the Saguenay—Lac-Saint-Jean region, forestry plays a vital role in the regional economy. The number of jobs created is almost double that of the aluminium processing industry (MERN, 2006c). The latter, as well as the pulp and paper industry, also play an important role in the economy through a hydrographic network that has been adapted for the production of electricity. Recreational tourism is another major sector, particularly recreational and hunting activities.

Furthermore, forestry is central to the economy of the Domaine-du-Roy RCM. Many businesses specialized in secondary and tertiary wood processing have developed over recent years (Domaine-du-Roy RCM, 2012). The same goes for the agri-food industry, as several new processing initiatives have been launched in recent years (*Ibid*, 2012). With nearly 73% of employers in this RCM, it is the service sector that occupies the majority of jobs (*Ibid*, 2012).

In the Fjord-du-Saguenay RCM, the tertiary sector provides the majority of jobs (Fjord-du-Saguenay RCM, 2012). The main economic activity sectors are, in order, manufacturing (1,300 jobs), construction (925 jobs), agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing (950 jobs), retail (835 jobs) and health care and social assistance (685 jobs).

D Federal, Provincial, Territorial, Indigenous and Municipal Involvement

D.16 Financial Support

To date, no application for federal financial support has been submitted to any federal authority.

D.17 Federal Lands

At this stage, Gazoduq does not plan to use federal lands for the Project.

D.18 Jurisdictions with Powers or Duties Related to the Environmental Impact Assessment

This Project is an approximately 780 km natural gas transmission line that will cross the Québec-Ontario border, thus requiring a multi-jurisdictional environmental assessment and regulatory review process.

D.18.1 Federal

The proposed natural gas transmission line is subject to the *Impact Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*. It meets the prescribed threshold for a project designated under the *Physical Activities Regulations*, as described in section B.8. Thus, as a designated project, the Project is subject to an impact assessment required and conducted by the IAAC. The Project is also subject to life cycle analysis regulations by the Canada Energy Regulator (CER).

For these reasons, the Project will be subject to an integrated review process led by IAAC, which will be supported by the CE. This will require an impact assessment by an integrated review panel, a panel report setting out the conditions that would be required for the issuance of a certificate authorizing the Project's construction and operation, as well as a favourable determination by the Governor in Council that the Project is in the public interest.

Gazoduq understands that the IAAC will issue a permitting plan for the Project in accordance with subsection 5 e) of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*. This plan will describe the permits, licenses, and authorizations required for the Project.

In addition to the IAAC and the CER, other federal authorities, listed below, may have powers, duties or functions related to the assessment of the Project's potential environmental impacts, including:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada;
- Natural Resources Canada;
- Department of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard;
- Transport Canada;
- Health Canada.

D.18.2 Provincial

D.18.2.1 Québec

Gazoduq has already initiated proceedings under the impact assessment and environmental review procedure provided for under the Québec *Environment Quality Act*, by submitting a Project Notice dated November 20, 2018. This procedure is managed by the MELCC and may include a public hearing process conducted by the *Bureau d'audiences publiques sur l'environnement* (BAPE).

Approximately 60 km, or 8% of the 780 km of the natural gas transmission line, is expected to pass through designated farmland. The Project will therefore undergo the review and public hearing process required to obtain and use agricultural land for purposes other than agriculture. This process is managed by the CPTAQ.

In addition to the MELCC/BAPE and the CPTAQ processes, the MELCC and other Québec authorities may have functions related to the assessment of the Project's potential environmental impacts, such as:

- Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l'Habitation;
- Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec;
- Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs;
- Ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles;
- Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux;
- Ministère des Transports du Québec;
- Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones;
- Secrétariat du Québec aux relations canadiennes.

D.18.2.2 Ontario

For the portion of the natural gas transmission line in Ontario, the Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee (OPCC) will coordinate the review by provincial authorities exercising approval and permitting or licensing powers for certain aspects of the Project.

The Ontario authorities that may have functions related to the assessment of the Project's potential environmental impacts are as follows:

- Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks;
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry;
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport;
- Ministry of Transportation;
- Ministry of Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Energy, Northern Development and Mines;
- Ministry of Indigenous Affairs.

D.18.3 Municipal

Various permits and authorizations from regional, municipal and other local authorities may be required for the Project, as well as from public services (e.g. railway, roads, power lines, telecommunications lines, gas transmission lines).

E. Potential Environmental Effects

E.19 Changes Within the Legislative Authority of Parliament

Project execution could result in changes to the following federally regulated environmental components:

- Fish and fish habitat, *Fisheries Act* (2019)
- Aquatic species, *Species at Risk Act* (2002)
- Migratory birds, *Migratory Birds Convention Act* (1994)

Potential changes that may affect fish, fish habitat, and aquatic species would be primarily attributable to the Project construction phase, particularly work carried out on bodies of water and construction on land adjacent to bodies of water. Gazoduq will choose the crossing methods that are best suited to the biophysical conditions of each body of water (e.g. fragile habitats, species present, and characteristics of the body of water being crossed). Hydrostatic tests could also require sampling and disposal of surface water. The mitigation measures generally implemented during construction work are both proven and effective. During the operational phase of the Project, periodic maintenance work will not impact the flow rate or quality of surface water, nor will have repercussions on fish, fish habitat or aquatic species. It may be required that work be carried out in the watercourse itself during operational maintenance activities, but these should be of one-off nature and the magnitude of their environmental impacts will be controlled, as they will be during construction activities.

Construction work will result in potential changes to the habitats of migratory birds, which may extend to the Project's operational phase. Specifically, clearing vegetation will disturb bird habitats for the duration of construction work, but native vegetation will grow back and reclaim the habitat it previously occupied after the Project is commissioned. Vegetation control activities will be structured to maintain the shrubbery and herbaceous vegetation within the permanent right-of-way, and trees will be able to grow within areas subject to temporary work. This change of habitat could deprive certain woodland species of their habitat, while creating new habitats for other species. Essentially, construction and compressor station operations could result in sensory disturbances of varying seriousness (noise and human presence), that will affect certain species. To address these issues, mitigation measures will be implemented to limit their potential impact on the natural environment. Efforts will be made to perform vegetation clearing outside the reproduction periods of birds, to limit potential effects on nests.

Table E-19-1 lists potential changes to federally regulated environmental components and their potential causes (if mitigation measures were not implemented).

Table E-19-1: Potential Changes to Environmental Components

Environmental Component	Potential Change	Potential Cause
Fish, fish habitat, aquatic species	Habitat change	<p>Introduction of deleterious substances that could alter water quality or sediment load and type (construction work near shorelines, banks or bodies of water). The trenched crossing method is anticipated to temporarily alter river vegetation, the stability of the beds and banks of bodies of water, and the aquatic habitat.</p> <p>Excavation work in waterways can result in a temporary or longer-term degradation of water quality in the affected area.</p> <p>Inputs of sediments, fluids and hydrocarbons from accidental discharges from machinery used could potentially harm fish and fish habitats.</p> <p>Sediment deposits could also result in changes to the shoreline habitat of benthic invertebrates, a food source for fish.</p> <p>Sampling and discharge of water used for hydrostatic tests could also impact fish and the aquatic habitat.</p>
	Changes to fish travel and migration paths	<p>Implementing structures designed to isolate the work area, when an isolated trenching method is used, could temporarily disturb fish movement patterns.</p> <p>The presence of suspended matter in the water could contribute to changes in the movement and migration of fish.</p>
	Changed mortality risk	<p>A heightened mortality risk may be attributable to direct causes during construction on water (e.g. contact with machinery, specimens trapped by pump water intake or accidentally removed from water by construction equipment, destruction of eggs).</p> <p>A heightened mortality risk may be attributable to indirect causes such as disturbances (e.g. noise and vibrations) or associated with the introduction of deleterious substances such as suspended sediments.</p>
Migratory birds	Habitat change	<p>Vegetation clearing activities during construction work could result in a temporary loss of bird habitat within the right-of-way and adjacent areas (sensory disturbance).</p> <p>Vegetation control activities will be structured to maintain the shrubbery and herbaceous vegetation within the permanent right-of-way, which could deprive certain forest species of their habitats while creating new habitats for other species.</p> <p>Compressor station construction will result in loss of forest habitat.</p> <p>Noise caused by compressor station operation could result in sensory disturbance for certain delicate species, which will avoid environments that would otherwise be theirs, which translates into a loss of habitat.</p>
	Changed mortality risk	<p>A changed mortality risk could result from direct collisions between birds and construction equipment, or the destruction of occupied nests.</p>

E.20 Changes to Federal, Other Provincial and Foreign Lands

E.20.1 Federal and Other Provincial Lands

Gazoduq does not foresee any direct changes to the environment on federal lands, or on the lands of any province other than Ontario and Québec.

E.20.2 Foreign Lands

Gazoduq does not foresee any harmful direct changes to the environment on foreign lands.

The Project consists of the construction of a new natural gas transmission line connecting sources of surplus natural gas supply in Western Canada with international markets (e.g. Asia and Europe) for future LNG transshipment facilities, while potentially providing transportation services to local distribution companies (LDC) in Northern Ontario and Québec.

Providing to these markets long-term access to Canadian natural gas at competitive prices will promote the replacement of more polluting sources of energy (e.g. coal, fuel oil, and diesel). The Project will thus have a beneficial impact on public health matters such as air quality, smog and acid rain, as well as on climate change, by contributing to reductions in GHG, sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM) emissions, well beyond Gazoduq's right-of-way and even beyond Canada's borders.

E.21 Potential Impacts on Indigenous Peoples

Gazoduq continues to solicit comments and feedback from Indigenous groups that may be impacted by the Project, impacts which may be present on their interests related to the physical environment. Clearly these groups are in the best position to identify the potential effects of the Project on their environment. Although Gazoduq cannot assume the impacts that these groups will identify through their consultation processes, some impacts are identified in this section for information purposes. These impacts have been identified through interactions with Indigenous groups and what might normally be identified at this stage of the Project.

During the construction and operation phases, Project activities, such as deforestation, trenching, construction of associated facilities, maintenance and monitoring, could, among other things, affect the following valued components:

- physical and cultural heritage, owing to:
 - the loss or disturbance of special use zones, including sites and cultural characteristics
 - changes due to sensory disturbance
 - other changes that may be identified by Indigenous groups
- current use of traditional lands and resources, owing to:
 - loss or changes to harvesting methods or possibilities
 - loss or changes to the use or access of traditional harvesting areas
 - loss or change to harvested species
 - other changes that may be identified by Indigenous groups
- any structure, site or other item of historical, archaeological, paleontological or architectural importance, owing to:
 - the loss or disturbance of sites
 - illegal gathering of artifacts
 - other changes that may be identified by Indigenous groups

Significant structures and sites will first be identified through the use of information resources and during consultations with Indigenous groups. Measures will be taken to avoid, protect or minimize the impact of Project activities on these sites and structures. Best practices will be implemented within the work teams to raise awareness of the importance of these sites and structures and to integrate appropriate protection measures into the implementation of works.

The various phases of the Project could thus have effect of varying intensity on individuals and Indigenous groups in the exercise of their activities or in their access to or ability to exercise these activities.

The Project's impacts on these valued components could be primarily related to construction and decommissioning activities. In operation, regular maintenance and monitoring activities are expected to have less impact on Indigenous peoples. Gazoduq's in-depth understanding of the potential effects associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Project will be enhanced by the views and concerns of potentially impacted groups, all of which will be shared during ongoing consultations with these groups.

E.22 Potential Changes to Health, Social or Economic Conditions of Indigenous Peoples

The health, social and economic conditions of potentially impacted Indigenous groups will also be considered in this assessment.

Gazoduq continues to seek input and feedback from potentially impacted Indigenous groups regarding the potential impacts of the Project on their health, social or economic conditions. Clearly, these groups are in the best position to identify the potential impacts of the Project on these conditions. Although Gazoduq cannot assume the impacts that these groups will identify through their consultation processes, some impacts are identified in this section for information purposes. These impacts have been identified through interactions with Indigenous groups and what might normally be identified at this stage of the Project.

Carrying out the Project may cause changes to the health, social and economic conditions of Indigenous groups due to:

- the disruption of subsistence-based livelihoods
- the presence of workers
- the presence of employment or business opportunities
- increased demands on community services
- other changes that may be identified by Indigenous groups

The various phases of the Project could thus have impacts of varying intensity for each of the Indigenous groups and the individuals who compose them.

The Project's impacts on health, social and economic conditions could be primarily related to construction and decommissioning activities. In operation, regular maintenance and monitoring activities are expected to generate fewer impacts. Gazoduq's in-depth understanding of the potential effects of the Project in relation to its various works (construction, operation and decommissioning) on health, social and economic conditions will be enriched by the views and concerns of potentially impacted groups, all of which will be shared during ongoing consultations with these groups.

E.23 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

During construction, the main source of GHG emissions will be from the combustion of diesel fuel in heavy equipment onsite and for transportation activities.

During operations, the use of natural gas-powered turbines for the compressor stations would be the main source of GHG emissions. Based on turbine consumption data sheets and expected annual operating hours, GHG emissions are estimated at approximately 165 kT of CO₂ equivalent per year, per natural gas-powered compressor station. Natural gas purges may occasionally be required during operations for maintenance and safety purposes. Fugitive emissions could also be a contributing factor to GHGs. Mitigating measures to limit these emissions will be implemented.

Gazoduq aims to reduce GHG emissions through effective design. The feasibility of using electric power drive alternatives for compressor stations turbines in Québec is currently being evaluated.

A GHG emissions quantification is currently underway for the construction and operation phases. The results will be presented in the Impact Statement.

E.24 Waste and Emissions

E.24.1 Waste

Gazoduq is committed to carrying out its activities in an environmentally responsible manner. As such, a waste and hazardous materials management plan will be developed and submitted in the Environmental Protection Plan. The following four guiding principles will be an integral part of this plan:

- preventive measures will be taken to avoid releasing waste and hazardous material into the environment;
- any release of waste or hazardous materials will be reported to the relevant authorities;
- any release of waste or hazardous materials will be cleaned up in a timely manner;
- waste or hazardous materials will be recycled, disposed of or transported to an authorized disposal site in accordance with all applicable legislation.

The following section describes the two types of waste likely to be generated during construction and operation of the Project.

E.24.1.1 Non-Hazardous Solid Waste

Non-hazardous solid waste is the debris and trash material resulting from activities carried out by the staff mainly during the Project construction. This non-toxic waste includes but is not limited to:

- kitchen waste;
- tapes and pipe coatings;
- used welding rods/welding electrodes;
- abrasive sanding products;
- styrofoam and plastic;
- wood;
- wires and cables;
- survey stakes and ribbons;
- used geotextile;
- metal strapping

E.24.1.2 Industrial Waste

Industrial waste is the waste and products generated or used mainly during construction and, to a lesser extent, when the transmission line is in operation. These materials may contain a certain amount of potentially hazardous substances in the form of residues. They include but are not limited to:

- used oils (e.g. motor oil, transmission oil, hydraulic oil, lubricating oil, gear oil, lubricating greases);
- used oil filters;
- empty grease cartridges;

- used antifreeze (e.g. bottles or cans of ethylene glycol and ethylene glycol monomethyl);
- soil, vegetation and contaminated absorbent materials that may contain hydraulic fluids, gasoline, diesel or lubricating oils;
- used solvents;
- used batteries (e.g. car or equipment);
- liquid film-processing waste;
- used cleaning products and cloths used with said products.

Chemicals likely to be used over the course of the Project include:

- batteries;
- cleaning products;
- fuels (e.g. gasoline, diesel, propane, etc.);
- lubricants (e.g. motor oil, engine oil, transmission oil, hydraulic oil, gear oil, lubricating grease, etc.);
- cooling fluids (ethylene glycol, ethylene glycol monomethyl);
- paints and solvents;
- film-processing chemicals;
- adhesives (including epoxy and urethane-based products) and cements.

E.24.2 Emissions

For more information regarding GHG emissions, refer to Section E.23.

Given the large number of vehicles, equipment and machinery with internal combustion engines that will be used simultaneously, the Project construction will generate atmospheric emissions (SO₂, NO_x, and CO₂) and particulates. In addition, rock blasting will be conducted as part of construction, resulting in temporary dust generation and GHG emissions. During the operations phase, natural-gas-powered compressor stations are expected to release emissions. Careful monitoring and the application of corrective measures will limit any fugitive emissions that may occur during operation.

Project construction will require equipment whose operation may involve a temporary increase in noise levels. The most common noises associated with this phase will be from mobile equipment including trucks, excavators, bulldozers, generators and drilling machines. In certain locations, blasting of rock as well as the use of specialized equipment to drill crossings may also contribute to increased noise levels. During operation, most noise will come from the compressor stations, where the main sources of noise are compressors, motors and electrical substations.

Depending on the method selected, a sediment input may be observed when crossing certain rivers. Measures will be put in place to control this potential occurrence. In general, this sediment input would be temporary and related to the duration of the construction of these crossings.

No emission in water or soil is planned. Best practices, for refueling and equipment maintenance, amongst others, will be applied during construction and operation of the Project.

F Summary

In accordance with Part F of the *Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations*, Gazoduq has prepared a summary in French and in English of the information in this Initial Project Description.

G Additional Information Needs for Projects Regulated Under the Canadian Energy Regulator Act

G.1 Project Design Elements

Gazoduq succeeded in avoiding the vast majority of potentially sensitive areas during the PPA selection process (see Appendix G). Examples include lakes, parks, designated and proposed protected areas, known municipal drinking water supply protection areas, federally and provincially identified wildlife habitat, specific forested areas (e.g. high ecological value, experimental, teaching and research), select high-value wetlands, operating mines and known mining projects, and areas with greater geotechnical constraints. Further, early-stage ground truthing and utilization of optical radars (LIDAR) and high-resolution orthophotos enabled Gazoduq to adjust the proposed route to reflect potential environmental constraints and constructability challenges.

Gazoduq will continue to refine the route based on its consultations with Indigenous groups, stakeholders and government authorities, taking into account the results of additional fieldwork, environmental and socio-economic assessments, and the evolution of the Project's technical design. Accordingly, Gazoduq retains a degree of flexibility to make route adjustments. As an example, as part of current public consultations, Gazoduq is examining a joint proposition by the *Syndicat des Producteurs de Bois* and the *Fédération régionale de l'Union des Producteurs Agricoles du Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean*. This and all proposed adjustments will be evaluated in a pragmatic fashion, with a focus on safety of people and the environment. Further, it will be important to safeguard against undoing past successes (avoiding the vast majority of potentially sensitive areas) and remain aligned with Gazoduq's goal of striving to minimize impacts.

In June 2019, Gazoduq announced that the location of the link to the TC Energy mainline, would be about 4 km south of TC Energy's compressor station in Ramore, Ontario. This location is optimal from a technical, environmental and commercial perspective, and accordingly Gazoduq has very limited flexibility to make adjustments.

In Québec, Gazoduq has selected sites for its compressor stations based on the possibility of using electricity-powered turbines, which significantly reduce GHGs, compared to the results that would be obtained with natural gas turbines. Given the specific electrical requirements of these drives, Gazoduq has limited flexibility for the location of these compressor stations.

G.2 Public Safety and Environmental Stewardship

Public safety and environmental stewardship are top of mind and priority for Gazoduq. The company is committed to the safety of all its employees and those who may be affected by its facilities and is determined to ensure that they are built and operated in a safe and environmentally responsible manner. Through all phases of the Project, Gazoduq will promote a positive safety culture and raise awareness among all its personnel and contractors to eliminate or reduce risk to the public, workers, the environment and its facilities.

Consistent with this commitment, the Project will be designed, built and operated with a focus on managing, mitigating and reducing impacts and risks as per best industry practices.

Public safety and environmental protection measures are being incorporated into the design of the Project to help prevent the potential for accidents, malfunctions and the unintended release of natural gas.²² This design will provide a consistent approach that meets or exceeds industry codes and

²² For example, the natural gas transmission line will be protected against corrosion by a fusion epoxy coating and a cathodic protection system. Other safety measures include: (a) regular inspections of the inside and outside wall for microcracks, corrosion or other anomalies using internal inspection tools; and (b) continuous monitoring, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from a control centre, using automated control units combined with redundant

specifications. It will also incorporate the most recent standards available for the design and construction of natural gas transmission lines in Canada (i.e. CSA Z66219), and the most current practices for quality assurance, environmental risk-mitigation, and operations management.

In preparing for construction, Gazoduq will develop an overarching safety management program that will be supported by a series of site-specific safety plans, including for the natural gas transmission line, compressor stations and appurtenances.

Environmental protection plans (EPP) are also being developed for the construction phase. Preliminary EPPs, based mostly on standard mitigation strategies, will be appended to the Impact Statement for the Project. Final EPPs, including both standard and site-specific mitigation, will be completed prior to construction, in the condition compliance phase of the Project.

During construction, construction-related responsibilities for health, safety, security and environmental performance will be in accordance with Gazoduq's management system. These responsibilities will also apply to selected contractors for the construction.

Daily trained and qualified construction inspectors will be retained to inspect construction activities and help ensure that the natural gas transmission line and facilities are constructed in compliance with:

- the design of the Project;
- the applicable standards, specifications, and procedures;
- Gazoduq's quality management system.

Environmental inspectors will be retained to ensure that environmental mitigation measures are followed during construction, in accordance with the EPPs for the Project. Additional information on construction inspection and monitoring will be provided through the impact assessment process for the Project.

Construction activities will meet the requirements of applicable laws and regulations and will comply with the *National Energy Board Onshore Pipeline Regulations*.

Once the natural gas transmission line is commissioned, Gazoduq will follow the integrated management system, programs and policies for the operations phase.

G.3 Emergency Measures

G.3.1 Emergency Preparedness and Response

Emergency response plans (ERPs) will be developed for the natural gas transmission line, compressor stations and metering stations. These plans will ensure that Gazoduq has sufficient response capabilities and resources in place to coordinate activities and communications in the event of emergencies.

Preliminary ERPs are currently under development and will be included in the Impact Statement for the Project. Gazoduq plans to submit ERPs with its application for the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. These ERPs will be posted on the Gazoduq website and will be distributed to appropriate emergency response agencies before the Project is commissioned, as well as to Gazoduq personnel, contractors and subcontractors involved in the Project. These plans will govern all aspects of emergency communication, planning, preparedness and response. In particular, regardless of who or what caused the emergency, these plans take into consideration all practicable activities to ensure safety and security of emergency responder and the public. Prior to construction, site-specific ERPs will be developed to cover potential worksite emergencies during construction.

instrumentation that will provide uninterrupted monitoring of the gas line to detect any anomaly or drop in pressure or flow; c) a 24/7 control centre operated by technicians with specialized training.

In developing its ERPs, Gazoduq will consult with regional emergency response agencies to ensure that appropriate communications and cooperation protocols are in place during construction and operation. This will ensure that the construction and operation ERPs developed by the main contractors are aligned with the plans of the emergency response agencies concerned.

G.3.2 Risk Identification

As part of the provincial regulatory process in Québec, Gazoduq must conduct a technological risk assessment for the Project. This analysis, which is part of a standard process for any new industrial project, will identify the potential for major accidents to occur, assess their potential consequences for the community and the environment, and plan the necessary protective measures to prevent these potential accidents or reduce their frequency and consequences.

G.3.3 Emergency Response Plan

Gazoduq will implement an emergency response plan (ERP) adapted to the reality of the various regions before the natural gas transmission line is commissioned. This plan will present the measures that will be taken should an emergency occur during the operation of this natural gas transmission line.

In particular, the ERP describes the process and procedures to be followed in case of an emergency, the deployment of required personnel, material and financial resources and the measures to be taken in response to all types of emergency situations.

Thus, the ERP defines the mechanisms to, among other things:

- ensure the protection of the public, the environment and property;
- act quickly with the appropriate equipment in an emergency and control it;
- ensure effective coordination and communication between stakeholders.

At a minimum, the content of the ERP will consist of the following elements:

- a distribution list (cell phone numbers, emails, etc.);
- an update mechanism;
- an alert and mobilization mechanism;
- external resources;
- the chain of command;
- internal and external communications;
- the roles and responsibilities of the organization's internal stakeholders;
- the roles and responsibilities of external organizations involved in an emergency;
- feedback on follow-up

G.3.4 Incident Management System

Gazoduq will implement an intervention mechanism based on the Incident Command System (ICS). This system allows for effective management of interventions by integrating a combination of materials, resources and means of communication into a common organizational structure and will address applicable interactions and responsibilities of Gazoduq and its contractors during an incident. With this system, the intervention can be scaled to the incident. The three main objectives of the ICS are to ensure an orderly division of tasks, overall security at the incident site and that work performed at the incident site is carried out effectively.

G.3.5 Liaison with Organizations Involved in an Emergency

Gazoduq will ensure that appropriate relationships are established with all organizations that may be involved in an emergency response. These could include first responders, municipalities, regional branches of applicable ministries and Indigenous communities. Gazoduq will ensure that communication channels with these organizations and communities are maintained to ensure that a coordinated response to an incident is possible. These discussions will take place prior to the commissioning of the Project, both during the development of the preliminary ERP and subsequent updates.

G.3.6 Communication with Personnel Involved in Emergency Situations

In due course, Gazoduq will transmit to all applicable parties relevant information on the ERP, including the location of its facilities and infrastructures, the natural gas transported by the transmission line, material safety data sheets, the role of each party, as well as the practices and procedures to be followed.

G.3.7 Information Program

Gazoduq will implement an information and awareness program at its facilities for first responders, medical facility personnel, applicable organizations and the population living near the natural gas transmission line. This program will provide information on its location, potential hazards and emergencies, and the safety procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. These may include procedures and methods for informing authorities, agencies and the public, health and safety procedures and protocols, and ways to alert the company in the event of an emergency.

G.3.8 Training and Exercises

The company will implement an emergency and facility security training program for its employees to enable them to acquire and enhance their knowledge and skills. This training program will define the roles of each person in an emergency situation and the skills required to carry out their tasks.

In order to demonstrate its ability to respond to potential incidents, Gazoduq will conduct tabletop and emergency field simulation exercises in which various stakeholders, including first responders, would be invited to participate.

G.4 Transparency in Condition Compliance and Commitment Tracking²³

G.4.1 Condition Compliance

In accordance with current industry practices, Gazoduq will ensure transparency in communicating information and preparing reports throughout the Project's initial condition compliance phase through the electronic submission and posting of Gazoduq's compliance filings on the CER website, and monthly summaries of Gazoduq's progress in satisfying applicable conditions for the certificate to be issued. Gazoduq understands that these summaries will be prepared by the CER and posted on the CER website. Notice of these reports, including a CER website link, will also be posted on Gazoduq's website.

In addition to transparency through website reporting, other mechanisms (e.g. line walks, ride-alongs and site visits) may be used for the monitoring of Gazoduq's performance regarding certificate conditions, if requested by stakeholder groups and municipal or regional authorities. If such mechanisms are used during and after construction, appropriate safety and oversight protocols will have to be developed and implemented. Periodic reports on this monitoring, to the extent that it

²³ Refer to subsection 186(1)(a) and to section 187 of the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*.

occurs, will be posted on Gazoduq's website and, if required by a certificate condition, will be filed electronically and posted on the CER website.

The terms and conditions of tracking program for Indigenous peoples applicable to the construction and post-construction phases of the Project will be discussed during consultations with potentially impacted Indigenous groups. These programs aimed towards Indigenous peoples generally include monitoring of adverse environmental impacts, effects on heritage resources, areas related to traditional land and resource use, and areas of cultural significance. They could include any or all of the other mechanisms above, subject to the safety and oversight protocols. Certificate conditions pertaining to monitoring for Indigenous peoples are standard and anticipated. As a result, Gazoduq's compliance filings will be submitted to the CER and provided directly to the potentially impacted Indigenous groups by electronic mail, courier or both. Updates will be posted on the Gazoduq website.

For transparency in the operations phase, Gazoduq will submit its post-construction compliance filings electronically to the CER and will post periodic notice of these submissions on the Gazoduq website. Potentially impacted parties, including Indigenous groups and government agencies, will also be notified directly. This approach will enable continued monitoring of Gazoduq's performance with respect to post-construction conditions long after the Project is completed and in operation. These conditions can require reports for five to ten years or more.

G.4.2 Commitment Tracking

Gazoduq will prepare a mechanism for tracking commitments and ensure that it is updated in accordance with the requirements of the compliance documents and the conditions established by the REC, which will be available on the REC's website. If applicable, these documents will be produced before construction begins and periodically thereafter during the operational phase.

The tracking mechanism will include all applicable commitments set out in the Gazoduq Impact Statement and related documents in the form of responses to questions submitted or in its documents provided as part of the public hearing process. It will also include commitments found in conditions associated with a permit and in compliance documents.

For regulatory purposes, this monitoring mechanism does not include the following elements:

- statements of intent, goals or objectives;
- action items arising from meetings and other discussions with stakeholders and Indigenous groups;
- site-specific mitigation measures from updated EPPs, environmental alignment sheets, or traditional land and resource use studies.

Gazoduq expects that its commitments tracking mechanism, updated periodically, will be posted on its website and that it will also be available at the Project construction offices.

G.5 Dispute Resolution

Gazoduq intends to address the questions and concerns of stakeholders, landowners and Indigenous groups through open, direct and respectful discussions. If an issue cannot be resolved through discussion, the CER's alternative dispute resolution (ADR) process may be considered. The CER's ADR process is set forth in Section 73 of the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act*.

In addition, Gazoduq intends to develop an accessible and rigorous mechanism for managing concerns, comments, complaints and issues pertaining to the construction and operation phases of the Project.

A liaison committee will be established and will be based on practices recognized by the Québec government's *ministère de l'Énergie et des Ressources naturelles* to foster open, frank and constructive dialogue.

The broad goals of the committee, which are anticipated to evolve based upon community feedback, include:

- encouraging the sharing of information pertaining to community concerns;
- promoting better harmonization of uses and recommend solutions that are acceptable to the community, economically viable for the proponent and compatible with the legal and regulatory framework of the Project;
- promoting good neighbourliness between construction or activity areas and the surrounding community and responding promptly and effectively to concerns raised by the community.

This committee may also include a tailored process for the management and resolution of contentious issues which enables the identification and implementation of functional solutions which could in turn avoid the use of traditional regulatory or legal mechanisms.

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