

October 15, 2008

**Rosaleen Alexis**

Director

Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation IRC

PO Box 7

Glenevis, AB T0E 0X0

Fax: (780) 967-5484

**Re: Northern Gateway Pipeline Project**

Dear Ms. Alexis,

Gateway Pipeline Inc. (Gateway) submitted a preliminary information package (PIP) to the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency) and relevant federal authorities on November 1, 2005. The project as described was subject to a comprehensive study under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEA Act). In its PIP, Gateway requested that the NEB refer the project to the Minister of the Environment for assessment by a Joint Review Panel, given the complexity of the project and anticipated public interest. Gateway recommended that the panel be constituted as a Joint Review Panel to consider the environmental impacts of the project under the CEA Act and to make regulatory decisions required under the *National Energy Board Act* (NEB Act).

On February 9, 2006, the NEB, after consultation with other responsible authorities and expert federal authorities (Environment Canada (EC), Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Transport Canada (TC), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) and Health Canada (HC), wrote to the Minister of the Environment recommending that the project be referred to a review panel. On September 29, 2006, the Minister of the Environment referred the proposed project to a joint review panel with the NEB and released the draft JRP agreement for a 60 day comment period.

On November 2, 2006, Enbridge Inc. announced a delay to the Gateway project. The public 60 day comment period on the draft JRP Agreement was suspended and the EA was put on hold. A number of comments had been submitted when the suspension occurred but it is likely that some groups who were interested in the Project did not provide comments prior to the suspension of the comment period.

On June 18, 2008 Northern Gateway Pipelines (NGP) requested that the National Energy Board (NEB) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency) resume their activities in respect of the environmental assessment (EA) process for the proposed project. NGP also clarified that the project remains as described in the Preliminary Information Package and supporting documentation provided in 2005 and 2006. Prior to resuming the public comment period, likely in early 2009, the Agency will carry out consultations with potentially affected Aboriginal groups in respect of the draft Joint Review Panel Agreement. The Agency and the NEB will also be available to provide information on the Joint Review process.

Capacity funding is available through the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's Aboriginal Funding Envelope (AFE). The AFE program application is attached and can be discussed in greater detail should you wish to apply.

Attached for your information is a copy of the 2006 draft Joint Review Panel Agreement and the comments received before the review process was suspended in 2006. You are invited to comment on the draft Joint Review Panel Agreement. Should the Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation wish to meet with the Agency in respect of the Joint Review Panel Agreement on the NGP project, and/or receive information on the Joint Review process, please contact Brett Maracle at 613-957-0249 or by e-mail at [brett.maracle@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:brett.maracle@ceaa-acee.gc.ca), to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,

Brett Maracle