

Citizen group *Citoyens au Courant* are once more asking the NEB to respect its own safety regulations for pipeline Enbridge 9B.

Vaudreuil-Soulanges, 30 September 2015 – Citoyens au Courant (CaC) wrote to the National Energy Board (NEB) to show that its July 24th decision to reduce the pressure for the hydrostatic tests that were conducted on the three selected segments of pipeline 9B goes against the interests of public safety. This conclusion is supported in correspondence between **CaC** and pipeline safety expert Richard Kuprewicz, as well as by guidelines of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

"There were several pipeline ruptures in recent years, including the Enbridge 6B rupture in Marshall, Michigan in 2010. As a result of these disasters, the PHMSA provided new guidance in September 2014 for pipeline projects involving transport of crude from the tar sands and flow reversal (like Enbridge 9B), and that includes a spike (100% SMYS and over) hydrostatic test" says Christian Foisy, member of **CaC**.

In three letters sent to the NEB, **CaC** asks for (French): 1) [Annulment of the results of the three reduced-pressure tests](#); 2) [Explanation from the NEB as to why on June 18th it asked for rigorous spike hydrostatic tests \(100% SMYS\)](#); and 3) [Enforcement by the NEB of its own Onshore Pipeline Regulations concerning pipelines that have not been operated for 12 months or more](#) (9B has been inactive for 20 months).

[Last July, Enbridge was granted permission from the NEB to carry out hydrostatic tests at a lower pressure than that ordered on June 18th: 125% MOP instead of 100% SMYS.](#) The NEB lowered its standards knowing full well that there are approximately 250 cracks in the pipeline with an estimated pressure failure between 125% MOP and 100% SMYS. Thus, Enbridge was able to carry out its tests on the three ordered segments between August 22nd and September 11th, without having to check and repair cracks that would have leaked.

In August, **CaC** sent a letter to Mayor Denis Coderre about the NEB U-turn. **CaC** then sent a [complete analysis of the situation](#) to the mayors of the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM), after studying the lower time-to-failure resulting from lower pressure hydrostatic tests. To date, no response or official action has been forthcoming from the CMM, except its approval for Enbridge to use 33 million litres of water from Montreal-East for the tests. For this reason, members of **CaC** will be present at the CMM meeting on October 1st to ask its president, Mayor Coderre, for the position of the CMM on this issue.

Since June 18th, the regional councils (MRCs) of Argenteuil and Laval voted motions requesting hydrostatic tests on the pipeline segments that cross the Ottawa, Mille-Iles and Des Prairies rivers. Vaudreuil-Soulanges MRC voted a motion asking for tests on the entire pipeline at 100% SMYS.

"We did everything in our power to make the NEB revise its decision, but they are beyond repair. We told our mayors about the dangers. Now, it's up to our politicians to take responsibility. The CMM seems to have dropped the ball since June 18th" concludes Lorraine Caron, spokesperson for **CaC**.

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