

**Ministry of the Environment
and Climate Change**

Operations Integration Branch
and Spills Action Centre
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**Ministère de l'Environnement
et de l'Action en matière de
changement climatique**

Direction de l'Intégration des
Opérations et Centre d'Intervention
en cas de Déversement
135, avenue St. Clair ouest
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March 17, 2015

Louissette Lanteigne
700 Star Flower Ave.
Waterloo, Ontario
N2V 2L2

Dear Ms. Lanteigne,

Thank you for your March 11, 2015 email to the Honourable Glen Murray, Ontario Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), inquiring about reporting responsibilities to the National Energy Board should a fuel spill occur in proximity to high pressure pipelines. The Minister has requested that I respond on his behalf and I am pleased to do so.

Provincial law requires that all pollutants spilled into the natural environment must be reported forthwith to MOECC's Spills Action Centre (SAC). The duty to report a spill applies to both the person who causes or permits a spill and the person who has control of the pollutant immediately before the spill. In addition, a member of a public agency must report a spill if they have reason to believe the spill has not already been reported to the Ministry.

Through a provincial-federal notification agreement, all spills impacting federal land within Ontario must also be reported to SAC. SAC is the 'one window' for reporting spills to the MOECC and as such, a SAC Environmental Officer will notify Environment Canada about spills of this nature.

For more information on the provincial reporting legislation and the provincial-federal notification agreement, please refer to the links below:

[Environmental Protection Act, Part X, Section 92 \(1\)](#)

[Environmental Protection Act, Regulation 675/98 Classification and Exemption of Spills and Reporting of Discharges](#)

[Canada-Ontario Environmental Occurrences Notification Agreement](#)

In the event of a spill from a federally regulated pipeline that threatens public health and safety or the environment, SAC would notify Environment Canada and consistent with internal SAC procedures, would also notify the Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB). The TSB would in-turn notify the National Energy Board (NEB).

I trust this information address your questions from a provincial perspective. Any questions regarding federal legislation/policies/notification agreements should be directed to the Transportation Safety Board of Canada and the National Energy Board. To contact them, please refer to the links below:

<http://www.tsb.gc.ca/eng/contactez-contact/index.asp>.

<https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/cntcts/index-eng.html>

Should you have any further questions about the notification procedures of the Spills Action Centre, please do not hesitate to contact the Manager of SAC, Jan Woelfle at jan.woelfle@ontario.ca or 416-314-6370. Thank you once again for your email.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Raeburn-Gibson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Richard Raeburn-Gibson
Director, Operations Integration Branch/Spills Action Centre

Cc: Linda Cioffi, Senior Environmental Officer
Toronto District Office
MOECC

Kevin Webster, District Manager
Toronto District Office
MOECC