



# How pipeline regulations protect Canadians and the environment.

**FAST FACTS**

**Canada's pipeline regulators focus on:**



**PUBLIC INTEREST**  
Evaluating if a pipeline project is in the public interest.



**REGULATION**  
Holding pipeline companies accountable for safe operation over the pipeline's full lifecycle.



**COMPLIANCE**  
Inspecting and auditing pipelines during the full lifecycle of a pipeline.

**Did you know that Canada has had pipeline rules and guidelines in place for almost 40 years longer than it's been required to wear a seat belt in every province?**

In fact, the *Pipelines Act* of 1949 started Canada down the path to having one of the most highly-regulated, safest pipeline industries in the world. Today, Canada has strong provincial and federal regulatory oversight over the 117,800 kilometres of underground transmission pipelines crossing our country. Pipelines in Canada are regulated based on jurisdiction, so if a pipeline crosses provincial or international borders, it's regulated by the National Energy Board (NEB). Pipelines that operate within a province/territory fall under the provincial/territorial regulator's authority. No matter who regulates them, pipelines are held to strict requirements throughout their entire lifecycle – from design and construction to operation and abandonment.

**Ground rules**

Transmission pipelines carry 97 per cent of Canada's daily natural gas and onshore crude oil supplies from producing regions in Western Canada to markets across North America. While pipeline incidents are rare, their consequences can be serious, which is why regulations are so important.

Pipeline regulations allow Canadians to benefit from oil and gas products and their contribution to the economy, while protecting public safety and the environment.

Through regular inspections, audits and incident investigations, regulators and the government make sure pipeline operators follow all the rules for the safety of Canadians and the environment.



**1949 – THE REST IS HISTORY**

The regulatory environment governing pipelines in Canada has continually evolved over the sector's 70 year history.



# About Pipelines REGULATORY OVERSIGHT

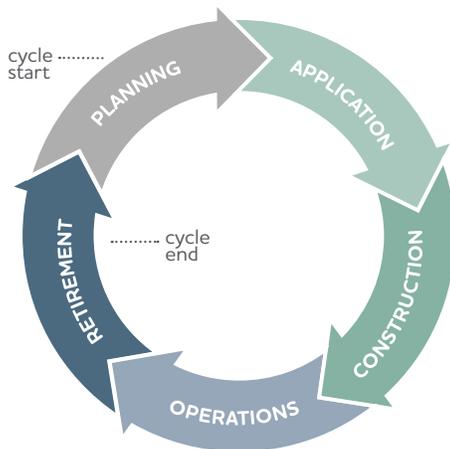
Pipeline regulations rely on, among other things, comprehensive standards, developed by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA). These extensive standards are developed by experts and go through a public review process. They are also subject to frequent review and updates by committees of technical experts to make sure the standards reflect advances in technology and best practices.

Because these standards are part of pipeline regulation, they are the law. If a company doesn't follow the rules, the regulator can:

- Revoke authorization of a pipeline project.
- Issue a fine.
- Stop or restrict the company's operations.
- Press criminal charges.
- Pursue criminal prosecution.

## The pipeline lifecycle

Pipelines are regulated throughout their entire life cycle to ensure that people, communities and the environment are protected.



Regulators are also involved in establishing pipeline tariffs and tolls to make sure they are fair and reasonable.

### Regulation for life

Before a pipeline or facility can be built, an operator must file an application with the regulator. The application includes, among other things, information on how the pipeline will be built and operated and measures the operator proposes to use to minimize environmental impacts.

When considering an application for a new pipeline, regulators assess the pipeline's proposed design, construction and operation to make sure it's focused on safety and the environment and is in the public's best interest.

If a pipeline project is approved, the regulator continues to monitor, assess and review the pipeline's operations as long as it's in service. And if an operator decides to take the pipeline out of service ("abandon it") permanently, the operator must file a request for abandonment with the regulator.

In fact, operators must have pipeline abandonment plans in place, and the process requires pipeline operators to address issues like land use management, ground settling, soil erosion and restoring the land. Even after restoration work is over, pipeline companies have an ongoing responsibility to landowners and the public to ensure the pipeline right-of-way and associated facilities remain safe.

For more information, visit: [aboutpipelines.com/en/safety/regulations-and-approval](http://aboutpipelines.com/en/safety/regulations-and-approval)



## Regulator

Pipeline operations are regulated by pipeline regulators, but operators may also require permits from other federal, provincial or municipal bodies including Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and Transport Canada. The Transportation Safety Board investigates pipeline incidents and makes recommendations for improvements.



## High standards

Developed by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA), Canada's pipeline standards were first established in 1967. Since then, the current CSA Z662 standard has grown from 88 pages to over 500 pages! The CSA Z662 is internationally recognized as a comprehensive standard, covering prescriptive, performance-based and safety management criteria for pipelines.

Learn more on CEPA's blog: [bit.ly/1BIN0mp](http://bit.ly/1BIN0mp)

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