

NEB Modernization Discussion Paper #3 Energy Information, Reports, and Advice

Question #1 - What energy information are you most interested in? Is there additional information that you would like to see collected and/or made publicly available by the NEB? How should the NEB engage the public to help determine priorities related to energy information and dissemination?

1. Energy information related to demand for energy in Canada. This interest is related to the surplus test under section 118 of the NEB Act. Information related to energy demand under plausible climate mitigation scenarios is important for judging whether the Canadian public interest is served by a project.
2. Information related to how domestic energy prices would change under different plausible energy export scenarios is also important.
3. Detailed information on the surplus test and the information and modeling included in the surplus test for each project under review by the NEB is valuable in that it improves transparency of the process and evaluation of the effect of the project on the Canadian public interest.
4. Energy outlook data – forecasted changes in the Canadian energy market.
5. Renewable energy potential/forecast including considerations of biophysical and technological capacity and the economic viability in local, national, and international markets.

Question #2 - What format would be most useful to you in accessing and using energy information (e.g., raw statistics, graphs and infographics, short and frequent reports, longer detailed reports)?

1. For the purpose of conveying the surplus test models and results, more detailed reports are preferred.
2. Raw statistics and reports containing additional detail would be useful for inventory work and detailed analysis. Graphs, infographics and short reports are useful for higher level analysis/reports/presentations.

Question #3 - What are the other major data sources you rely on to meet your energy information data needs?

1. International Energy Agency information is important for a global perspective.

2. Metro Vancouver conducts detailed emission inventories for all sources in the Metro Vancouver Regional District (MVRD) as well as the Fraser Valley Regional District (FVRD). In addition, Metro Vancouver conducts studies for specific sectors/sources of air emissions including greenhouse gas emissions. The emission inventory work and sector specific studies partly rely on energy data from various organizations. For instance, Metro Vancouver relies on local data from utilities such as BC Hydro (electricity) and Fortis BC (natural gas) for buildings and industrial facilities. Metro Vancouver also uses fuel sales data to estimate GHG emissions for on-road vehicles. Fuel-sales data are provided by the Taxation Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Finance, as well as data collected through market surveys in the region. Metro Vancouver also develops forecasts of emissions 20 years into the future. Emission forecasts partly rely on NRCAN's energy outlook reports.
3. Metro Vancouver uses the BC Community Energy and Emissions inventory to compare and cross check its own inventory of greenhouse gas emissions.

Question #4 - Does Canada need energy information to be coordinated by one entity? If so, what entity would best serve in this role?

1. Modelling of Canada's energy industry and reporting of the modelling results should be coordinated by one entity because of the complex and high cost nature of the modelling. Scenarios and all other assumptions used in modelling should reflect the best available information from all levels of government and the private sector and this will necessitate central coordination.
2. A federal government entity should be responsible for coordinating energy data but Natural Resources Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada may be better suited to this role.

Question #5 - Should the NEB have a role in GHG data collection given ECCC's existing mandate to do this? If so, what should the NEB's role be?

1. The NEB should not take the central role in GHG data collection, but should have a role in considering and communicating GHG emissions from the Canadian energy system, and in particular from approved energy projects.
2. Recently, Metro Vancouver participated as an intervenor in the review of the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion project. Limitations on the scope of the project review did not allow the NEB Review Panel to consider full greenhouse gas impacts of the project. According to Appendix I of Hearing Order OH-001-2014 (NEB 2014), "The (National Energy) Board does not intend to consider the environmental and socio-economic effects associated with upstream activities, the development of oil sands, or the downstream use of the oil transported by the pipeline."

The fundamental nature of a capacity expansion project for fossil fuel infrastructure means that it will facilitate the increase and/or continued use of fossil fuels. The use of those fossil fuels will contribute to climate change and will have associated impacts and costs for Canada, British Columbia, and Metro Vancouver. A full and comprehensive evaluation of the benefits and costs from the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure capacity should take into consideration the full impacts and costs of increased greenhouse gas emissions resulting from continued and expanded fossil fuel use.

In this respect, the NEB process should adequately account for: 1) total greenhouse gas emissions resulting from projects, 2) the contribution of those emissions to global climate change, and 3) the resulting associated costs including reduced economic output, the costs to undertake climate adaptation measures, and other impacts on natural and human systems.

Question #6 - What GHG data and analysis should the NEB publish regardless of who collects the data?

1. The upstream and downstream GHG effects of national energy projects should be published by NEB. Also, to put energy projects in the context of national climate change goals, NEB should publish progress reports on national, provincial and territorial efforts to achieve stated national GHG reduction goals.
2. As described in the discussion paper, the report on *Canadian Pipeline Transportation System* provides an overview of NEB-regulated pipeline systems. In addition to the utilization, tolls and financial information, this report should also include greenhouse gas information such as the carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions associated with total fossil fuels transported in a given pipeline. This would help compare the financial impacts and global climate impacts of commodities transported in the pipelines.
3. On-going monitoring of greenhouse gas and air emissions data from approved energy projects including comparisons of the forecasted emissions used in project applications and measured emissions from projects. The data would preferably come from third party agencies or regulators.
4. Greenhouse gas and air emission intensity of energy produced in Canada, including both energy that is used domestically and energy for the export market.