



Ms. Sheri Young
Secretary to the Joint Review Panel
Joint Review Panel – Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline Project
444 Seventh Avenue SW
Calgary AB T2P 0X8

Dear Ms. Young:

As signatories to the Joint Review Panel (the Panel) Agreement (the Agreement) and Terms of Reference for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project, the Minister of the Environment and the National Energy Board (the NEB) have amended the Agreement, including establishing a time limit within which the Panel has to submit its report. These amendments are required in order to adjust the Panel's mandate to comply with section 126 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* (CEAA 2012) and section 104 of the *Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act* (transition provisions for the *National Energy Board Act*). The amended Agreement is attached to this letter.

Please note that the amended Agreement clarifies the reporting requirements to ensure the Panel's report identifies those conclusions and recommended mitigation measures that relate to the "environmental effects" to be taken into account under section 5 of CEAA 2012. As well, it makes a number of house-keeping adjustments to the Agreement to reflect the provisions of CEAA 2012.

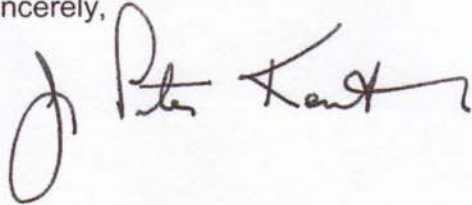
Furthermore, paragraph 38(3)(b) and subsection 126(4) of CEAA 2012 require that the Minister of the Environment, jointly with the NEB, establish a time limit from the day CEAA 2012 comes into force within which the environmental assessment of the Panel must be submitted. In accordance with section 104 of the *Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act*, the time limit established will also be the time limit specified by the Chair of the NEB under subsection 52(4) of the *National Energy Board Act*, as amended, for the submission of the recommendation report under section 52 of the *National Energy Board Act*.

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The Minister of the Environment and the NEB have jointly established the time limits for the submission of the environmental assessment and recommendation report. The Panel must submit its environmental assessment in accordance with CEEA 2012 as part of the recommendation report under section 52 of the *National Energy Board Act* in respect of the application for the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project (the Project) within 543 days of the coming into force of CEEA 2012.

If there are no excluded periods, this would mean the environmental assessment and report must be submitted no later than December 31, 2013. If the Project is approved by the Governor in Council, the NEB will issue the certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Project within seven days of the Governor in Council's order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kent".

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.
Minister of the Environment

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gaétan Caron".

Gaétan Caron, Chair
National Energy Board

Enclosure