

6. Pipelines

Pipeline infrastructure is well established in British Columbia. The first pipelines were built in the 1950s. Today in B.C., more than 40,000 kilometres of pipelines transport natural gas, oil, water and other fluids. Natural gas pipelines connect wells in the Northeast to markets across British Columbia.

Additional pipelines will be needed to transport natural gas to liquefied natural gas plants. A few of the pipeline proposals under consideration include:

- Pacific Trail Pipeline: approximately 480 kilometres from north of Prince George to Kitimat.
- Coastal GasLink Pipeline: 650 kilometres from the Dawson Creek area to Kitimat.
- Prince Rupert Gas Transmission Project: 900 kilometres from the Hudson's Hope area to Port Edward.

Safety procedures

The BC Oil and Gas Commission has procedures in place to monitor pipeline conditions and respond to emergencies 24 hours a day. By law, each company must establish and follow safety procedures, including constant monitoring of gas pressure, flow and temperature. There are also internal and external inspections to find corrosion, leaks or other potential hazards to the pipeline.

Natural gas is colourless, odourless, non-toxic and non-corrosive. In the unlikely instance of a leak, natural gas would evaporate into the atmosphere where it would be broken down into carbon dioxide and water.

Points to consider:

- Were you aware that there are more than 40,000 kilometres of pipelines in B.C.?
- Do you know of any pipelines near your home? Where are they located? You can find information online at www.bcogc.ca/
- Is transporting natural gas via pipeline different from transporting other fossil fuels?

Dig a little deeper:

