October 18, 2007
Telegraph Journal

Preparatory work for gas pipeline will begin today

John Mazerolle

SAINT JOHN - Brunswick Pipeline is beginning three projects in preparation for constructing its natural gas line through Saint John and New Brunswick, and the company wants to be sure citizens are well aware of them.

"We don't like surprises and landowners don't like surprises," said Susan Harris, community relations manager for Brunswick Pipeline.

The Emera Inc. subsidiary is building a 145-kilometre pipeline that will deliver natural gas from the planned Canaport LNG terminal at Mispec Point to markets in Canada and the U.S. northeast. Several geotechnical and survey projects will take place in advance of the construction, with the first beginning today.

Harris said a specially outfitted vehicle will travel the route of the pipeline and take a narrow, four-metre deep sample once every 25 metres, including through Rockwood Park. The sampling results help the construction team plan for any blasting needed.

It also tells the company how much sulphur is in the rock. Harris explained that if an area with too much sulphur is disturbed it can create an acidic environment, which could be bad for the soil and the pipe. "We'll develop a plan around those areas if we find any," she said.

The company will also be carrying out urban road-crossing assessments soon. Samples will be taken at the shoulders of the road to confirm the type, quantity, and hardness of the bedrock at each location. All road crossings are being planned in conjunction with either the City of Saint John or the New Brunswick Department of Transportation.

"Of course, it's their roads," she said.

Harris said the current sampling work should not affect traffic, although the actual construction of the pipe may in a few locations. She did not know how many roads the pipeline will cross.

Finally, in the next several weeks survey crews will begin marking the limits of the 30-metre right-of-way for the pipeline. Harris said the flagging will not be done on areas where land negotiations have not yet been settled.

The company or survey crews will also warn landowners when they need to enter private property. For the most part, citizens won't even notice the work, she said.

Brunswick Pipeline says it is committed to ongoing communication with the public and has two ways they can be reached - by phone at 1-888-491-3222, or through email at brunswickpipeline@emera.com