



# Washago Community Expansion Project

**Virtual Public Information Session**  
**April 14 to April 27, 2025**



# Welcome



This Virtual Public Information Session will be live for two weeks from **Monday, April 14, 2025, to Sunday, April 27, 2025.**

- You can provide your input on the Washago Community Expansion Project by completing the comment form available on the Virtual Public Information Session website at [www.WashagoEA.com](http://www.WashagoEA.com). Please submit your comments by **May 17, 2025.**
- An in-person Public Information Session will be held at the Washago Lions Club on the evening of April 17, 2025, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. If you would like to meet members of the project team in person to discuss the project, please stop by, we would be happy to meet you!
- You can also email the project team at: [WashagoEA@dillon.ca](mailto:WashagoEA@dillon.ca)



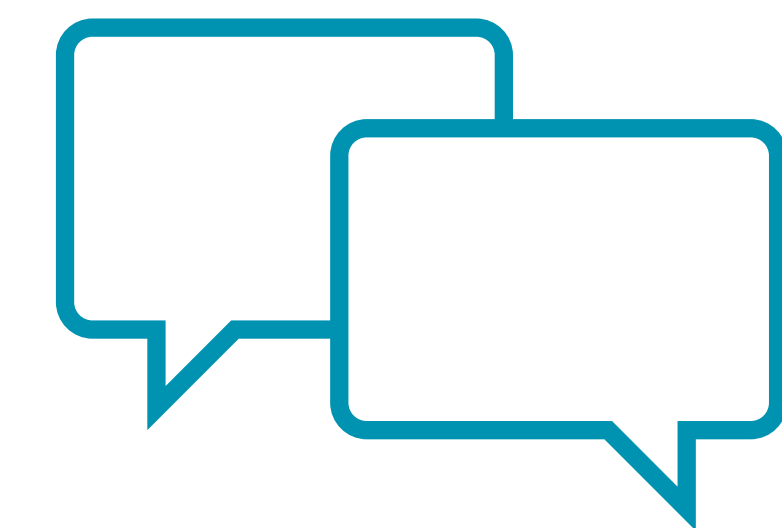
# Enbridge Gas' Commitment



Enbridge Gas is dedicated to engaging with Indigenous communities, agencies, interest groups, and community members. They commit to providing up-to-date information in an open, honest, and respectful manner while carefully considering your input.

With over 3.9 million residential, commercial, and industrial customers, Enbridge Gas is committed to delivering natural gas safely and reliably.

Environmental stewardship is also a top priority for Enbridge Gas, and they conduct their operations in an environmentally responsible manner.





# Purpose of the Information Session



- Consult with Indigenous communities and engage with members of the public and regulatory authorities regarding the proposed pipeline route, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation.
- Provide an opportunity for these individuals and any affected landowners and the public to review the proposed project, and to ask any questions and/or provide comments to representatives from Enbridge Gas and Dillon Consulting Limited.





# Project Overview



The project is divided into three phases:

- **Phase 1** of the project involves the Preliminary Preferred Route (PPR) tying into the existing Enbridge Gas network at Goldstein Road near Highway 11, potential upgrades to an existing station on New Brailey Line and installing a 3 km gas pipeline along Agnew Road from Goldstein to Shoreview Drive, crossing Highway 11. Distribution pipelines will be installed within the Township of Severn, around Lake Saint George, and Shoreview Drive around Highway 11. The Alternative Route follows the same tie-in point but runs adjacent to Highway 11 before ending at the same location as the PPR. Phase 1 is approximately 9 km of 2-inch and 4-inch pipelines.
- **Phase 2** includes the PPR, which proposes installing a new station near Graham Road and Pasture Lane, connecting to TC Energy's pipeline. Approximately 5 km of gas pipeline is proposed along Graham Road, Southwood Road, Severn River Road, Trent Trail, Canal Road, Cooper Falls Road, and Muskoka Street, with a crossing of the Severn River near the Canadian National Railway bridge. An additional 5 km is proposed within the distribution areas. The Alternative Route proposes an alternate crossing of the Severn River at the Ministry of Transportation owned and operated bridge. Phase 2 is approximately 10 km of 2-inch and 4-inch pipelines.
- **Phase 3** (Eastern Section) involves the PPR continuing on Muskoka Street from Phase 2 into the community of Washago and installation of distribution mains within the community. Phase 3 is approximately 4 km of 2-inch and 4-inch pipelines with an additional potential 12 km being assessed within the environmental study. No alternative routes are proposed in this phase, as all piping is for local distribution within the community.



# Enbridge Gas' Engagement with Indigenous Peoples



Enbridge recognizes the diversity of Indigenous peoples who live where we work and operate. We understand that certain laws and policies have had destructive impacts on Indigenous cultures, languages, and the social and economic well-being of Indigenous peoples. We also recognize the importance of reconciliation between Indigenous peoples and broader society. We are committed to building positive and sustainable relationships with Indigenous peoples, based on trust and respect, and focused on finding common goals through open dialogue.

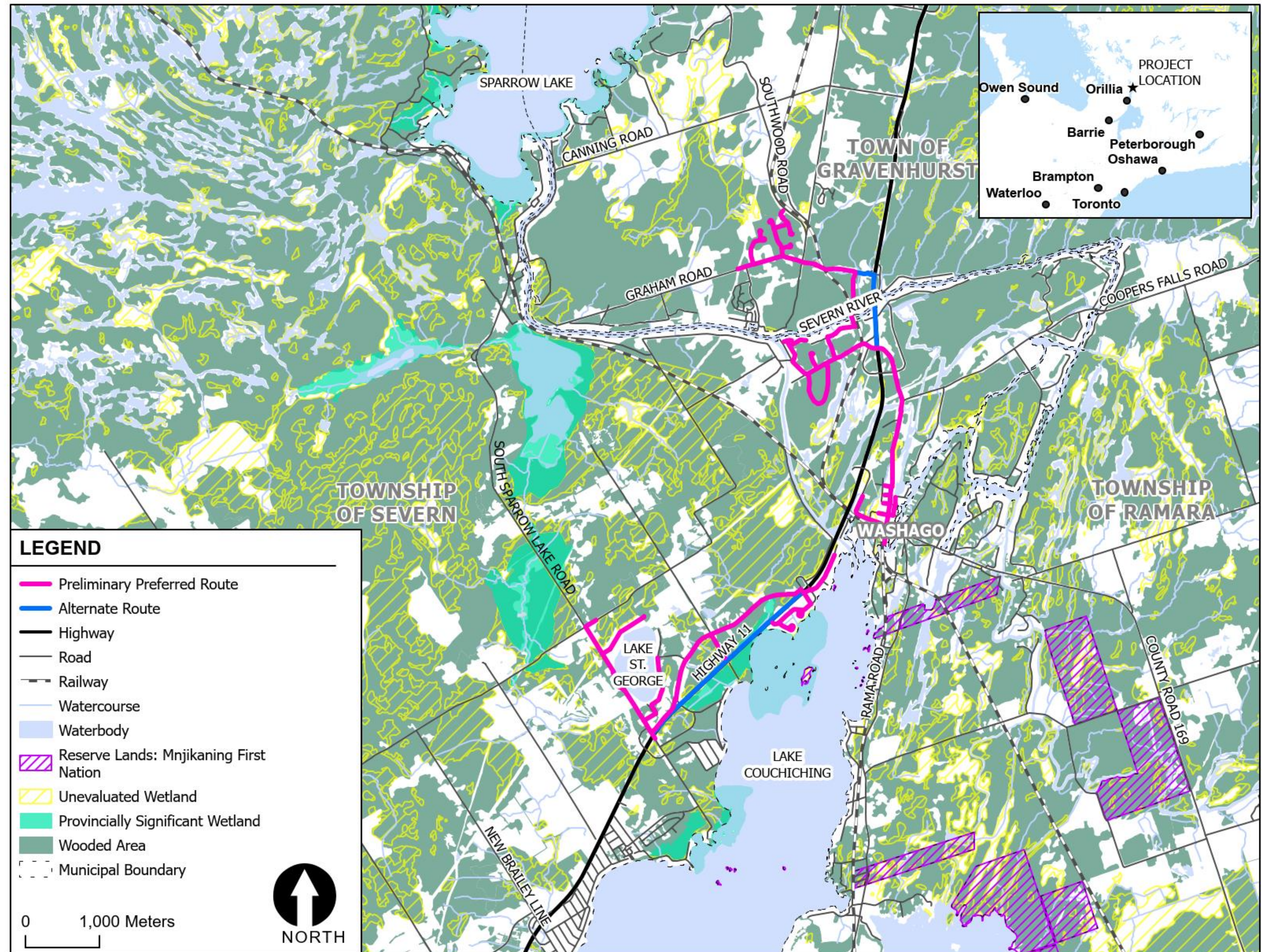
The Indigenous engagement program is based on adherence to the Ontario Energy Board Guidelines and Enbridge Inc.'s company-wide Indigenous Peoples Policy, which Enbridge Gas follows. Enbridge's Indigenous Peoples Policy lays out key principles for establishing relationships with Indigenous groups, including:

- Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous peoples in the context of existing Canadian law.
- Recognizing the legal and constitutional rights possessed by Indigenous peoples in Canada and the importance of the relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional lands and resources.
- Engaging early to achieve meaningful relationships with Indigenous groups by providing timely exchanges of information, understanding and addressing Indigenous project-specific concerns, and ensuring ongoing dialogue regarding its projects, their potential impacts and benefits.
- Aligning Enbridge's interests with those of Indigenous communities through meaningful, direct Indigenous economic activity in projects corresponding to community capacity and project needs, where possible.



# Project Distribution System

- The Preliminary Preferred Route and Alternate Route has been developed for the purpose of an assessment of potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- This map does not represent the final project scope/design.



Document Path: K:\2004\248034\Project\StudyArea\ProjectStudyArea.aprx



# Environmental Study Process



As part of the planning process, Enbridge Gas has retained Dillon Consulting Limited to undertake an Environmental Study for the project. The Environmental Study will fulfill the requirements of the Ontario Energy Board's **Environmental Guidelines for the Location, Construction, and Operation of Hydrocarbon Projects and Facilities in Ontario, 8th Edition (2023)**.

The study will:

- Undertake engagement to understand the views of interested and potentially affected parties.
- Consult with Indigenous communities to understand interests and potential impacts.
- Be conducted during the earliest phase of the project.
- Identify potential impacts of the project.
- Develop environmental mitigation and protective measures to avoid or reduce potential impacts.
- Develop an appropriate environmental inspection, monitoring, and follow-up program.



# OEB Review and Approval Process



It is anticipated that the Environmental Report for the study will be completed in June 2025. Once complete, Enbridge Gas plans to file a Leave-to-Construct (LTC) application for the project with the Ontario Energy Board. The application to the Ontario Energy Board will include the following information on the project:

- The need for the project
- The Preliminary Preferred Route and Route Alternatives
- Environmental report and mitigation measures
- Project costs and economics
- Pipeline design and construction
- Land requirements
- Consultation with Indigenous communities

The Ontario Energy Board's review and approval are required before the proposed project can proceed. If approved, construction could begin in late 2026.

Additional information about the Ontario Energy Board process can be found online at: <https://www.oeb.ca/>.



# Consultation and Engagement



- Consultation and engagement are key components of the Environmental Report.
- At the outset of the project, Enbridge Gas submits a Project Description to the Ministry of Energy and Electrification (MOEE). Upon review, the MOEE determines potential impacts on Aboriginal or treaty rights and identifies Indigenous communities that Enbridge Gas will consult with during the entirety of the project.
- The consultation and engagement program helps identify and address Indigenous community and stakeholder concerns and issues, provides information about the project to the stakeholders and allows for participation in the project review and development process.
- Input during engagement and consultation will be used to help finalize the pipeline route and mitigation plans for the project.
- Once the LTC application is made to the Ontario Energy Board, any party with an interest in the project, including members of the public, can participate in the process.



# Environmental Assessment Process and Timeline

Winter 2024	Determine need for project
March 2025	Early Engagement and Notice of Upcoming Project
March 2025	Issue of Notice Commencement
March to April 2025	Collect baseline data and conduct routing analysis
April 17, 2025	Conduct Public Information Session
April-May 2025	Review consultation feedback and incorporate results into routing analysis
May 2025	Confirm Preferred Route
May 2025	Conduct a second Public Information Session
May/June 2025	Conduct effects assessment on the Preferred Route and identify mitigation measures
June 2025	Submit draft Environmental Report to Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee for 42-day review period
August 2025	Incorporate results of the Ontario Pipeline Coordinating Committee review into the Environmental Report
September 2025	Submit final Environmental Report to the OEB





# Environment, Health and Safety Policy



## Our Commitment

- Enbridge Gas is committed to protecting the health and safety of all individuals affected by our activities.
- Enbridge Gas will provide a safe and healthy working environment and will not compromise the health and safety of any individual.
- Our goal is to have no incidents and mitigate impacts on the environment by working with our stakeholders, peers, and others to promote responsible environmental practices and continuous improvement.
- Enbridge Gas is committed to environmental protection and stewardship and recognizes that pollution prevention, biodiversity, and resource conservation are key to a sustainable environment.
- All employees are responsible and accountable for contributing to a safe working environment, for fostering safe working attitudes, and for operating in an environmentally responsible manner.



# Access and Land Requirements



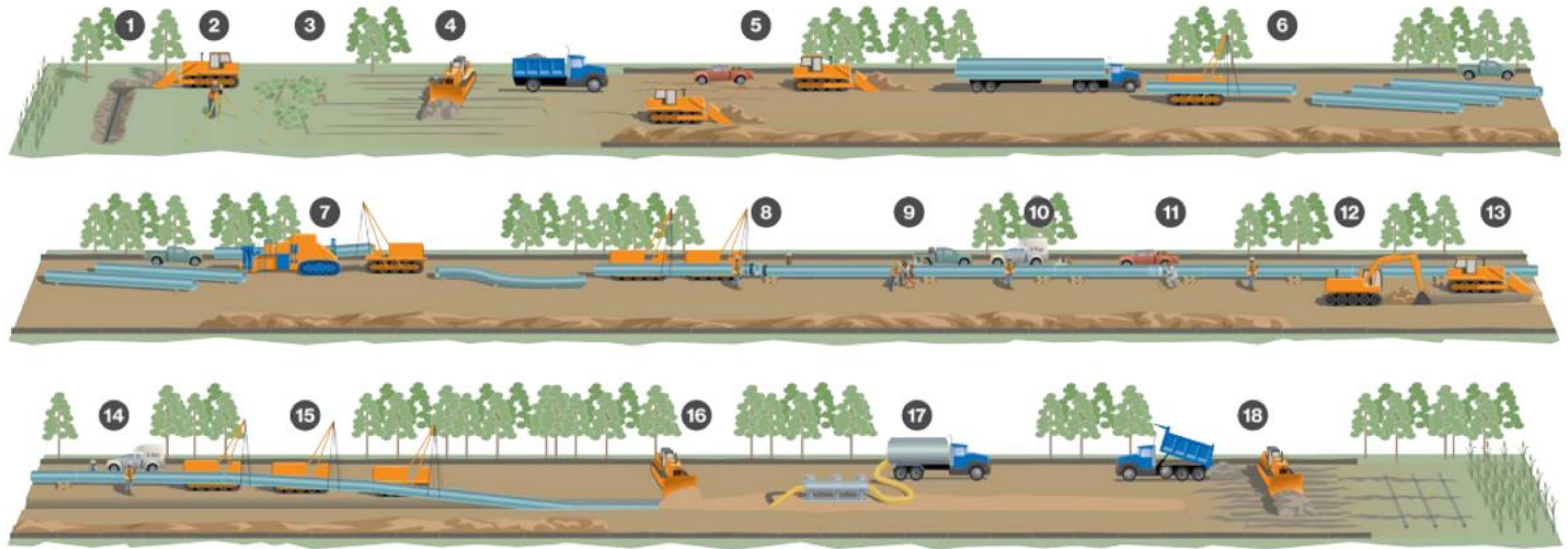
While most of the pipeline route will be constructed within the municipal road right-of-way, some circumstances requiring access agreements, permanent easement or temporary working space during construction could result in the need for additional land outside of the road ROW.

Enbridge Gas has a comprehensive Landowner Relations Program that uses a dedicated Lands Advisor who would:

- Provide direct contact and liaison between affected landowners and Enbridge Gas.
- Be available to the affected landowner during the length of the project and throughout construction activities.
- Act as a singular point of contact for all affected landowners, and address concerns and questions.
- Address any land matters relating to the temporary use of property, access agreements, permanent easements, and impacts or remedies to property.



# Constructing an Enbridge Gas Pipeline



**Step 1:** Pre-construction tiling;  
**Step 2:** Surveying and staking;  
**Step 3:** Clearing;  
**Step 4:** Right-of-way topsoil stripping;

**Step 5:** Front-end grading;  
**Step 6:** Stringing pipe;  
**Step 7:** Field bending pipe;  
**Step 8:** Lining-up pipe;

**Step 9:** Welding process;  
**Step 10:** X-ray or ultrasonic inspection, weld repair;  
**Step 11:** Field coating;  
**Step 12:** Digging the trench;

**Step 13:** Padding trench bottom;  
**Step 14:** Final inspection and coating repair;  
**Step 15:** Lowering pipe;  
**Step 16:** Backfilling;

**Step 17:** Hydrostatic testing; and  
**Step 18:** Site restoration and post-construction tiling.

Note: The construction infographic is specifically for open-cut steel pipe installation and serves for reference purposes only.



# Constructing an Enbridge Gas Pipeline

The pipeline construction process includes various procedures, as described in the previous slide.

- **Photo 1:** Shows a typical Enbridge Gas natural gas pipeline. The Washago Community Expansion Project will involve the installation of 4-inch and 2-inch pipelines which will be smaller than the pipeline shown in Photo 1.
- **Photo 2:** Represents a typical trench that is created during the installation process.
- **Photo 3:** Represents a typical trench after backfilling.
- **Photo 4:** Represents final clean-up and restoration. Once the pipeline has been installed, clean-up will involve the restoration of the right-of-way and other work areas.





# Pipeline Design



The polyethylene (plastic) pipeline is designed to meet and/or exceed the regulations of the Canadian Standards Association (Z662 Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems) and the applicable public safety regulations administered by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA).

## Pipeline safety and integrity

Enbridge Gas takes many steps to ensure the safe, reliable operation of our network of natural gas pipelines, including:

- Designing, constructing, and testing our pipelines to meet or exceed requirements set by industry standards and regulatory authorities.
- Continuously monitoring the entire network.
- Performing regular field surveys to detect leaks and confirm that corrosion prevention methods are working as intended.



# Horizontal Directional Drilling Procedures



Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is the proposed construction method for watercourse crossings, where feasible.

- A geotechnical assessment and enhanced designs will be completed by a qualified consulting service with expertise in HDD drilling technology and practices. The geotechnical assessment and enhanced designs will mitigate potential disruption to the watercourse by identifying favourable ground conditions and determining an appropriate HDD depth under the watercourse.
- Permits will be obtained from the required regulatory authorities. Required permits will be determined and documented in the Environmental Report for the project

Mitigation measures for watercourse crossings typically include:

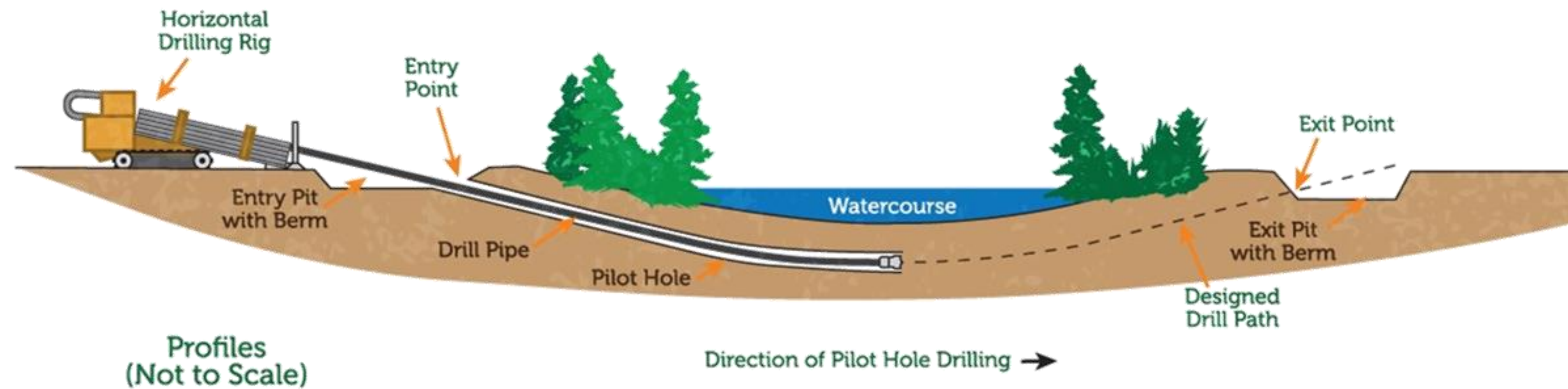
- Obtaining and abiding by all required permits and approvals and their associated conditions.
- Limiting in-water works, where possible, and conforming to fishery timing windows.
- Preparing and following an HDD contingency plan.
- Conducting regular monitoring of the watercourse during drilling activities.

Note: watercourse crossing(s) will be constructed using HDD, other portions of the pipeline will be constructed using a combination of open cut and trenchless construction methods.

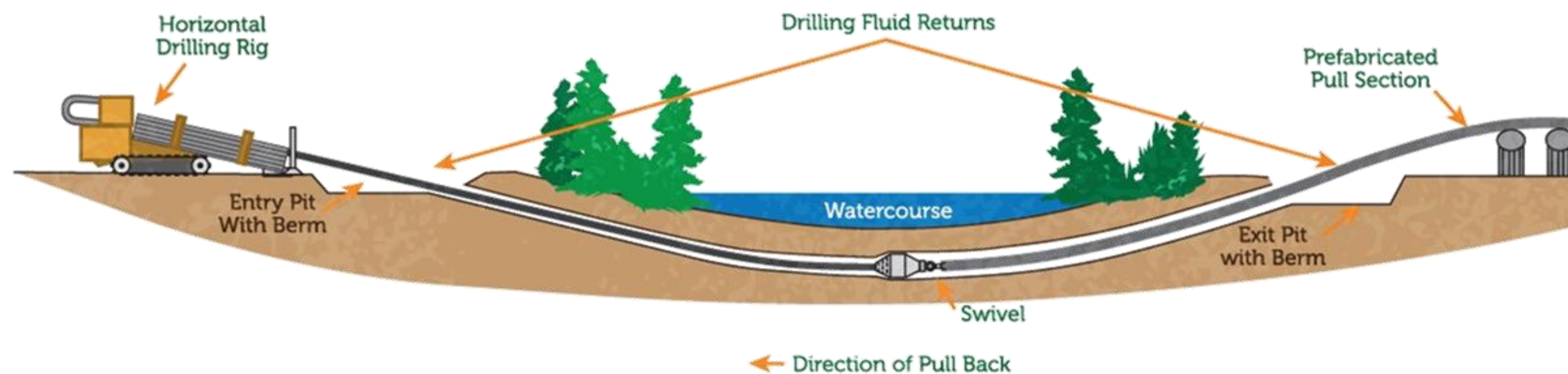
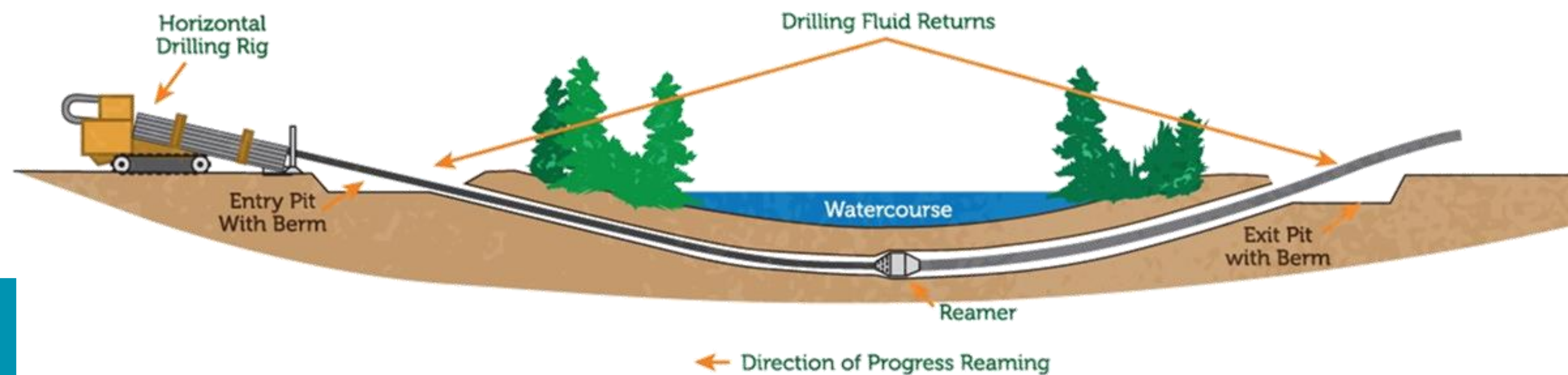


# Horizontal Directional Drilling Procedures

## Stage 1: Pilot Hole Directional Drilling



## Stage 2: Reaming and Pulling Back





# Socio-economic Features



The project Study Area is varied in nature with a broad variety of land uses including rural, greenlands/open space, residential, commercial, agricultural, and recreational uses. Commercial activities, such as retail shops, grocery stores, and food services, as well as Washago's Settlement Area and residential uses occur along Muskoka Street and County Road 169. Greenlands/open space land uses are associated with the majority of the Study Area. Areas with natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, watercourses and natural hazards also occur in the Study Area. The project will mainly be constructed within the existing municipal road right-of-way.

## Examples of potential effects

- Temporary increase in nuisance noise during construction.
- Temporary traffic disruptions and increased traffic volumes from construction traffic.
- Temporary disruption to residential and/or commercial property driveway access.
- Temporary increase in wastes during construction.

## Examples of mitigation measures

- Construction activities will be carried out in compliance with municipal noise by-laws with respect to noise and construction equipment usage. Applicable noise by-law exemptions will be sought if construction activities cannot be avoided on Statutory Holidays, Sundays or at night.
- An appropriate Traffic Control Plan will be developed and implemented in accordance with Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 7 – Temporary Conditions.
- Traffic access will be maintained, where possible, during construction. Good management and best practices will be implemented during construction. If required, temporary detour routes will be provided to reduce potential impacts to commuters.
- Solid waste will be collected and disposed of appropriately in accordance with applicable regulations at a licensed waste facility.



# Cultural Heritage Resources



During construction, cultural heritage features such as archaeological finds, and heritage properties, and landscapes may be encountered. The completion of a Cultural Heritage Report: Existing Conditions and Preliminary Impact Assessment has been recommended once the preferred route has been selected. Detailed field surveys will be conducted by independent, third-party archaeologists and cultural heritage professionals prior to construction.

## Examples of potential effects

- Disturbance of previously undiscovered heritage resources (i.e., archaeological resources, built heritage resources, or cultural heritage landscapes).

## Examples of mitigation measures

- Complete an archaeological assessment(s) of the construction footprint, with review from the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism (MCM).
- Complete a cultural heritage assessment (for built heritage features and cultural heritage landscapes) of the construction footprint, with review from the MCM.
- Should previously undocumented (i.e., unknown or deeply buried) archaeological resources be discovered, a stop-work procedure will be implemented to immediately cease alteration of the site, and a licensed archaeologist will be engaged to carry out archaeological fieldwork in compliance with Section 48(1) of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.



# Aquatic Resources



The project Study Area includes portions of the Black River, Severn River, Trent Severn Waterway, Lake St. George, Lake Couchiching, the Green Island Bay Marsh Provincially Significant Wetland, watercourses, and unevaluated wetlands.

Enbridge Gas understands the importance of protecting wetlands, watercourses, and fish and fish habitat during construction and will implement recognized mitigation measures to reduce possible environmental impacts.

## Examples of potential effects

- Alteration of fish habitat or death/injury of fish during construction.
- Temporary reduction in surface water quality, fish habitat and alteration of waterflow during construction.
- Increased erosion, sedimentation, and turbidity resulting from removal of vegetation.

## Examples of mitigation measures

- Install and maintain erosion and sediment control measures.
- Obtain appropriate agency permits and approvals.
- Employ trenchless construction methods where feasible and/or appropriate, including HDD.
- Establish appropriate watercourse crossing techniques (open cut, dam and pump, temporary diversion channels) during open trench construction.
- Maintain the quality and quantity of stream flow during in-stream work.
- Restore banks and riparian areas to original condition if disturbance occurs.



# Terrestrial Resources



Natural environment features such as wildlife habitat, wetlands and vegetated/wooded areas occur adjacent to the project Study Area. There is also potential for species at risk (SAR) to occur in the vicinity of the project. The project will mainly be constructed within the existing municipal road right-of-way.

## Examples of potential effects

- Temporary loss or alteration of vegetation during construction.
- Disturbance and temporary relocation of wildlife during construction.
- Temporary alteration of wildlife habitat and/or disruption of wildlife movement during construction.
- Temporary alteration of SAR habitat and/or disruption of SAR movement during construction.

## Examples of mitigation measures

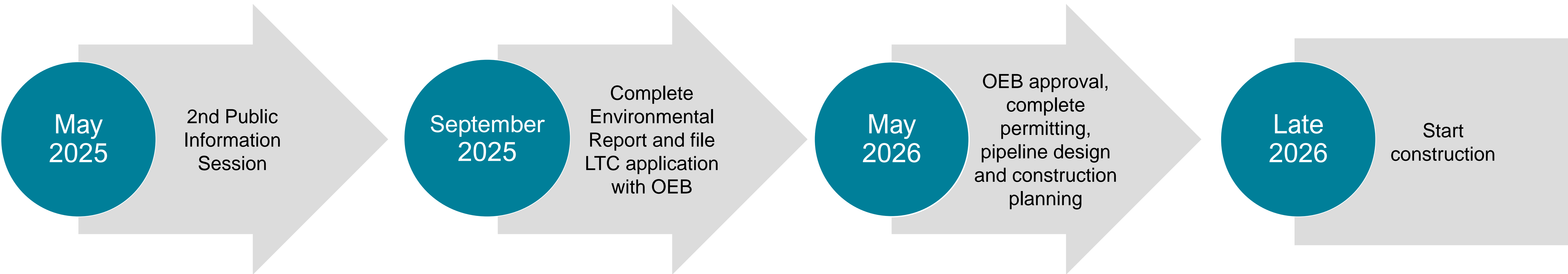
- Conduct surveys and habitat assessments in advance of construction to determine extent of potential or confirmed wildlife habitat, including potential for SAR.
- Complete clearing/brushing outside of sensitive wildlife periods (e.g., migratory bird window, typically from April 1 to August 31), to the extent possible.
- Minimize the width of the construction area to reduce the amount of vegetation affected.
- Flag or fence off environmentally sensitive areas prior to construction.
- Document wildlife and SAR encounters and notify appropriate regulatory authorities, where required.
- Provide SAR identification sheets and environmental orientation to workers to ensure awareness of sensitive species, habitat, and mitigation measures during construction.
- Secure necessary permits and follow conditions of approval.



# Next Steps



After this Virtual Public Information Session, Enbridge Gas intends to pursue the following schedule of activities:





# Thank you!



- We want to hear from you! Please complete the project comment form on the Virtual Public Information Session website at [www.WashagoEA.com](http://www.WashagoEA.com).
- Please submit your feedback by Friday, May 17, 2025, so it can be considered in the Environmental Report that will be submitted to the Ontario Energy Board.
- Project Contacts:

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