



Request for Information (RFI)

For abandonment work, including studies and assessments

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION

1 Purpose and Nature of the Request for Information (RFI)

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to request that interested companies provide detailed information, feedback and recommendations regarding the requirement as well as to answer the related question posed herein.

In order to assess the potential abandonment costs associated with the Strategic Oil and Gas Cameron Hills Pipeline, the Canadian Energy Regulator CER requires a qualified third-party contractor(s) to provide the approximate costs associated in undertaking the required tasks, including studies and abandonment work.

2 The main objectives of this Request for Information (RFI) are to

Allow suppliers to:

Assess and comment on the adequacy and clarity of the requirements as currently expressed;

Offer suggestions regarding potential alternative solutions that would meet requirements;

Comment on the basis of payment elements and timelines for the project;

Provide information to assist CER to

Determine whether to proceed with requirements /strategy as planned and if so further developing internal planning, approval and solicitation documents that may potentially lead to a solicitation;

Refine the procurement strategy, project structure, cost estimate timelines, requirement definition and other aspects of the requirements;

Assess potential alternatives solution concepts that would meet its requirement.

Note to Respondents

This RFI is neither a call for tender nor a Request for Proposal (RFP). No agreement or contract will be entered into based on this RFI. The issuance of this RFI is not to be considered in any way a commitment by the Government of Canada, nor as authority to potential respondents to undertake any work that could be charged to Canada. This RFI is not to be considered as a commitment to issue a subsequent solicitation or award contract(s) for the work described herein.

Participation in this RFI is encouraged, but is not mandatory. There will be no short-listing of potential suppliers for the purposes of undertaking any future work as a result of this RFI. Similarly, participation in this RFI is not a condition or prerequisite for the participation in any potential subsequent solicitation.

Respondents will not be reimbursed for any cost incurred by participating in this RFI.

Participation

In these sections below you will find questions for each task that we request you consider and respond to by 17 August, 2020. This RFI will officially close as of that date, however, we welcome any information that you wish to share afterwards.



Interested Respondents may submit their responses to:

Nafissa Diop
Procurement Technical Analyst
Canadian Energy Regulator
nafissa.diop@cer-rec.gc.ca

The Crown retains the right to negotiate with suppliers on any procurement.

Documents may be submitted in either official language of Canada

PART 2 – DESCRIPTION OF REQUIREMENT AND QUESTIONS

1 Context

The Canada Energy Regulator (CER) regulates pipelines, energy development and trade in the Canadian public interest. The CER is committed to protecting the environment and the public from adverse effects resulting from CER-regulated facilities.

The CER regulates Strategic's Cameron Hills transborder pipeline (Pipeline) which runs from Alberta to the Northwest Territories (H-03 60-10N 117.30W to LSD 5-24-126-22W5M). The 12 inch sour two phase (sour oil and gas) Pipeline is located on territorial lands within the Decho Region of the Northwest Territories. The NEB (now the CER) issued a Deactivation Order on 23 May 2019 (MO-021-2019) to maintain the Pipeline in a deactivated status in accordance with the specifications, standards and commitments made in its Application ([A97701](#)).

On 28 January 2020, the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta granted a Receivership Order for Strategic. The CER Act provides the CER with the authority to designate a pipeline as an orphan pipeline if a company is subject to a receivership (section 243(1) of the CER Act). It also provides the CER with the authority to designate an abandoned pipeline as an orphan abandoned pipeline (section 244 of the CER Act).

In order to assess the potential abandonment costs associated with this Pipeline, the CER requires a qualified third-party contractor to provide the approximate costs associated in undertaking the required tasks, including studies and abandonment work as outlined in section 4.

2 Reference Documents

Below are the links to the documents the contractor could use, as appropriate, in providing an estimate of the costs for conducting the studies and in undertaking the abandonment work.

- NEB's Order granting construction approval ([XO-P097-002-2002](#))
- Change of name from Paramount Transmission Ltd to Strategic Transmission Ltd. ([AO-003-XO-P097-002-2002](#))
- Leave to Open for the Cameron Hills Pipeline ([OPLO-P097-01-2002](#))
- Application to deactivate the Cameron Hills Sour Two Phase Oil pipeline (AB/NWT) ([A97701](#)); and
- NEB's Deactivation Order ([A99561](#))

The limited desktop Phase I ESA report will be made available to the participants of this RFI process upon request. Please contact:

Usha Mulukutla,
Technical Specialist, Environment
Energy Adjudication
Canada Energy Regulator
Usha.mulukutla@cer-rec.gc.ca



3 Description of Request

The CER is seeking estimates for the work required to remediate (if contamination found) and abandon the Pipeline. The CER will use the information collected from the RFI to inform a claim estimate for a court process. At a later date, the CER will be undertaking a Request for Proposal Process, where contractors can bid for the individual tasks described below.

In the following, separate components of work are listed. For each task, there are a set of Request for Information (RFI) questions that the contractors must respond to. Note that the contractors have to come up with assumptions for each task in order to provide estimates.

In the event that a contractor identifies additional tasks that are not included below, the contractors can provide a description of those additional tasks along with the responses to the RFI questions.

4 Tasks

4.1 *Field component of the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I ESA) and Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment*

4.1.1 Purpose

Phase I ESA: To complete the field component of the Phase I ESA for the Pipeline as per the guidance provided in the most recent version of CSA Standard Z768-01, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment.

Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment: To identify and assess the potential effects of abandonment activities (pipeline left in place, removal, or a combination of abandonment in place and by removal) on the valued components, and proposes measures to mitigate the adverse environmental effects.

4.1.2 Considerations

Note that the CER contracted a consultant to complete a limited desktop Phase I ESA. This limited desktop Phase I ESA report lists areas of potential environmental concern and items of potential environmental concern that will become the focus of the field work required for the purposes of completing the Phase I ESA.

The Environmental and Socio-economic assessment should allow for a range of abandonment options, such as pipeline abandonment in-place; and pipeline abandonment by removal.

4.1.3 Scope of Work

Field component of the Phase I ESA:

The field component of the Phase I ESA for the Pipeline will be conducted as per the guidance provided in the most recent version of CSA Standard Z768-01, Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. Section 7.2 of the CSA standard provides information that must be considered for a field visit. Section 7.3 of the CSA standard provides information relevant to field interviews, the purpose of which is to corroborate or augment the information gathered in the records review.

The field component of the Phase I ESA report will clearly identify any areas of surficial staining, stressed vegetation, signs of erosion, etc. identified during the field visit, and should provide potential mitigation measures.



Please read the Limited Phase I ESA report for findings and recommendations, which will become the focus for the field component of the Phase I ESA.

Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment:

The assessment would allow for a range of abandonment options, such as pipeline abandonment in-place; and pipeline abandonment by removal. The assessment would include but not limited to the following:

1. Appropriately scaled map(s) or site plan(s) which shows the locations and dimensions of the pipeline right-of-way and facilities to be abandoned.
2. The GPS data coordinates of the locations of pipeline right-of-way and facilities to be abandoned.
3. A description of known temporary workspace required for abandonment activities, including location and dimensions.
4. Photomosaic maps or alignment sheet(s) which show the pipeline right-of-way and facilities overlain on satellite or aerial imagery, water bodies, wetlands, contaminated sites or spill locations, species at risk critical habitat, and archaeological or other historic sites, and any other facilities or infrastructure in the area. If not available, provide photographs showing facilities and at sufficient intervals to show the full length of the right(s)-of-way.
5. Describe the ecological and socio-economic setting found at the project location, including the existing land use. The description should indicate whether or not the proposed pipeline is located on federal lands¹.
6. Description of any regulatory approvals, permits and authorizations that would be required for abandonment.
7. An assessment of the potential effects for both options (abandonment in place and/or removal). This assessment would include the following for both options:
 - a. describe the potential interactions of the proposed abandonment with the surrounding biophysical and socio-economic environment;
 - b. the potential environmental and socio-economic effects of abandonment, including the potential effects of any malfunctions or accidents;
 - c. any cumulative environmental and socio-economic effects;
 - d. provide recommendations for mitigation measures and follow-up monitoring activities that should be implemented to avoid or reduce potential adverse environmental or socio-economic effects of abandonment;
 - e. provide recommendations for environmental protection procedures and measures that should be implemented during the physical abandonment, remediation, and reclamation activities to avoid or minimize potential adverse environmental and socio-economic effects; and
 - f. the significance of the effects.
8. For pipeline segments assumed to be abandoned in place, the following information should be considered in the assessment:
 - the potential environmental and socio-economic effects that may result from the abandonment activities (including reclamation);
 - the potential environmental and socio-economic effects that may result from the abandoned pipeline remaining in place over the long-term;
 - the environmental and socio-economic risks of the abandoned pipeline remaining in place (e.g., water conduit effect, pipeline exposure, ground subsidence) and the recommended mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce those risks (e.g., segmentation, fill),

¹ See definition of “federal lands” in section 2 of the [Impact Assessment Act](#); and refer to sections 81 and 84 of the [Impact Assessment Act](#)



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including an explanation of how those measures could sufficiently reduce the risks identified;
and

- If the cathodic protection systems are assumed to be abandoned in place, the assessment should include consideration of the potential effects that may result from that infrastructure remaining in place over the long term (e.g., soil and groundwater contamination potential).

4.1.4 RFI Questions

Note: Please state any assumptions in responding to each question below.

1. Do you have any comments on the scope of the work as defined above? Are there any items missing in the scope of work as identified above? If yes, please describe.
2. How much time will it take to undertake the work from start to finish?
3. What might be the limitations of conducting this work, e.g. access issues?
4. What is the best timing (e.g., which season) for undertaking this work?
5. What will be the approximate cost to undertake the work, including any additional items you have identified in 1) above?
6. What contingency amount should be factored into the total cost estimate? Explain the basis of that contingency amount.

4.2 Phase II ESA and Remediation Action Plan (RAP)

4.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of a Phase II ESA is to confirm the presence of and characterize the substances of concern at the site. It seeks to characterize and/or delineate the concentrations or quantities of substances of concern related to a site and compare those levels to criteria. The RAP is a document which describes how the cleanup of a contaminated site will occur.

4.2.2 Considerations

- Phase II ESA is conducted in accordance with CSA Z769-00
- Phase II ESA will be based on the results of the Limited Phase I ESA and the results of the field component of the Phase I ESA.

4.2.3 Scope of Work

A Phase II ESA, as per the guidance provided in the most recent version of CSA Standard Z769-00, Phase II Environmental Site Assessment, which includes the following:

- i. a detailed description of procedures implemented for investigation of all existing or potential contamination identified pursuant to the Phase I ESA; and
- ii. results of the soil and groundwater analysis, and findings of the Phase II ESA, including applicable provincial and federal criteria that were compared with the results, and rationale for the criteria selected.

A plan to remediate contamination would be in accordance with the CER's *Remediation Process Guide*.



4.2.4 RFI Questions

Note: Please state any assumptions in responding to each question below.

- 1 Do you have any comments on the scope of the work as defined above? Are there any items missing in the scope of work as identified above? If yes, please describe.
- 2 How much time will it take to undertake the work from start to finish?
- 3 What might be the limitations of conducting this work, e.g. access issues?
- 4 What is the best timing (e.g., which season) for undertaking this work?
- 5 What will be the approximate cost to undertake the work, including any additional items you have identified in 1) above?
- 6 What contingency amount should be factored into the total cost estimate? Explain the basis of that contingency amount.

4.3 Remediation of contamination (based on the results of Phase II ESA)

4.3.1 Purpose

To remediate any confirmed areas of contamination along the pipeline right-of-way based on the results of the Phase II ESA.

4.3.2 Considerations

- Assumptions need to be made on the amount of contamination that may be found as a result of Phase II ESA.
- Estimates could be made based on a \$/km by land use category, or any other unit.

4.3.3 Scope of Work

- Remediation work is conducted in accordance with the relevant industry standards and best practices.
- See CER's Remediation Process Guide <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/sftnvrnmnt/nvrnmnt/rmdtnprcssgd/rmdtnprcssgddrft-eng.pdf>
- CCME Federal approach to Contaminated sites <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/federal-contaminated-sites/federal-approach.html>

4.3.4 RFI Questions

Note: Please state any assumptions in responding to each question below.

1. Do you have any comments on the scope of the work as defined above? Are there any items missing in the scope of work as identified above? If yes, please describe.
2. How much time will it take to undertake the work from start to finish?
3. What might be the limitations of conducting this work, e.g. access issues?
4. What is the best timing (e.g., which season) for undertaking this work?
5. What will be the approximate cost to undertake the work, including any additional items you have identified in 1) above?
 - a. What contingency amount should be factored into the total cost estimate? Explain the basis of that contingency amount.



4.4 Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), including contingency plans and Environmental Alignment Sheets, and Pre-abandonment surveys

4.4.1 Purpose

The purpose of the EPP is to describe the environmental protection measures to be carried out prior to, during the physical abandonment activities, and during the reclamation phases of the Project to avoid or minimize potential environmental effects of the Project.

4.4.2 Considerations

1. Assumptions could be made based on 3 scenarios:
 - 100% abandoned in place
 - 100% abandoned by removal
 - A combination of abandonment in place and by removal
2. EPP should consider the timing of the work, and be developed in a manner that takes into account both frozen and non-frozen conditions.

4.4.3 Scope of Work

EPP, Alignment Sheets and contingency and management Plans:

The EPP will include both general and site-specific environmental protection measures. The EPP will contain the contingency and management plans, such as wildlife species of concern discovery management plan, contaminated soils contingency plan, chemical and waste management plan, traffic control management plan, breeding bird and nest management plan, etc. The EPP will also identify relevant approvals/permits that may be required for pipeline abandonment.

In addition, the EPP will also include Environmental Alignment Sheets, and resource- specific mitigation tables.

Pre-abandonment Surveys:

The contractor will be required to conduct any pre-abandonment surveys prior to commencing the abandonment work, for example nest sweeps, migratory and wildlife surveys etc.

4.4.4 RFI Questions

Note: Please state any assumptions in responding to each question below.

1. Do you have any comments on the scope of the work as defined above? Are there any items missing in the scope of work as identified above? If yes, please describe.
2. How much time will it take to undertake the work from start to finish?
3. What might be the limitations of conducting this work, e.g. access issues?
4. What is the best timing (e.g., which season) for undertaking this work?
5. What will be the approximate cost to undertake the work, including any additional items you have identified in 1) above?
6. What contingency amount should be factored into the total cost estimate? Explain the basis of that contingency amount.



4.5 Abandonment Activities

4.5.1 Purpose

The abandonment activities include line of sight clearing, clearing of vegetation, topsoil stripping and stockpiling; excavation, pipe cutting, capping, backfilling of soils and clean up and reclamation.

4.5.2 Considerations

Pipeline is abandoned based on 3 scenarios:

1. 100% abandoned in place
2. 100% abandoned by removal
3. A combination of abandonment in place and by removal

4.5.3 Scope of Work

Per the scenarios above

1. To develop an Abandonment Plan which identifies the numerous activities that must be undertaken and met, where applicable.
2. To enact the activities outlined in the Abandonment Plan, including but not limited to, where applicable,
 - a. landowner consultation,
 - b. land access,
 - c. purging and cleaning to acceptable levels (including a description of cleaning methods),
 - d. a description of the potential soil subsidence, pipe exposure, water conduit, corrosion, and pipe collapse effects for pipelines to be decommissioned in place, and a plan to monitor these potential effects;
 - e. meeting road and railway crossing agreement requirements,
 - f. abandonment of cathodic protection,
 - g. a plan for maintaining adequate depth of cover for existing and future land use, as informed by the company's environmental and socio-economic assessment and engagement activities.
 - h. removal of pipeline (cost to mobilize, remove and dispose),
 - i. excavating and sectionalizing, excavating and capping at depth,
 - j. filling with slurries/special treatment; and
 - k. other miscellaneous activities and tasks (include description).
3. Reclamation and/or restoration plan for each scenario that includes a description of the reclamation criteria that will be applied to restore the disturbed areas to the desired goal, clean-up and reclamation measures that will be applied, including seeding and revegetation or any other vegetation management techniques designed to restore disturbed areas to the desired goal. The work will also include implementation of the reclamation and/or restoration plan.
4. Monitoring Plan that shall include a description of the environmental components or issues to be monitored; monitoring methods for each environmental component or issue; and further corrective actions planned and a schedule for further monitoring and reporting. The work will also include implementation of the monitoring plan.

Note 1: Abandonment shall meet the requirements of CSA Z662, Clause 10.16 Abandonment of pipelines, pipe-type storage vessels, and pipeline related facilities



Note 2: Provide costs on a \$/km basis where feasible.

4.5.4 RFI Questions

Note: Please state any assumptions in responding to each question below.

1. Do you have any comments on the scope of the work as defined above? Are there any items missing in the scope of work as identified above? If yes, please describe.
2. How much time will it take to undertake the work from start to finish?
3. What might be the limitations of conducting this work, e.g. access issues?
4. What is the best timing (e.g., which season) for undertaking this work?
5. What will be the approximate cost to undertake the work, including any additional items you have identified in 1) above?
 - a. What contingency amount should be factored into the total cost estimate? Explain the basis of that contingency amount.

4.6 Routine Maintenance of the abandoned pipeline

4.6.1 Purpose

To conduct periodic surveillance and monitoring of the abandoned pipe left in place.

4.6.2 Considerations

Assumptions could include number of annual unforeseen events (such as contamination, subsidence, corrosion etc. that may require removal of the pipeline), frequency of monitoring and time frame etc.

4.6.3 Scope of Work

- Aerial patrols
- Signage maintenance
- Database maintenance
- Third-party crossing administration

4.6.4 RFI Questions

Note: Please state any assumptions in responding to each question below.

1. Do you have any comments on the scope of the work as defined above? Are there any items missing in the scope of work as identified above? If yes, please describe.
2. How much time will it take to undertake the work from start to finish?
3. What might be the limitations of conducting this work, e.g. access issues?
4. What is the best timing (e.g., which season) for undertaking this work?
5. What will be the approximate cost to undertake the work, including any additional items you have identified in 1) above?
6. What contingency amount should be factored into the total cost estimate? Explain the basis of that contingency amount.