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Regulator

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File 6503130
27 March 2026

Kenneth Pountney
Regulatory Project Manager
NGTL GP Ltd., as general partner on behalf of NGTL Limited Partnership
450 – 1 Street SW
Calgary, AB T2P 5H1
Email kenneth_pountney@tcenergy.com

Dear Kenneth Pountney:

**NGTL GP Ltd., as general partner on behalf of NGTL Limited Partnership
Application for Approval to Decommission Pipelines and Associated Facilities
on the NGTL System under section 45.1 of the *Canadian Energy Regulator
Onshore Pipeline Regulations***

NGTL GP Ltd. (**NGTL GP**), as general partner on behalf of NGTL Limited Partnership filed an application for approval to decommission pipelines and associated facilities on the NGTL system (**Project**) with the Canada Energy Regulator (**CER**) on 23 July 2025 ([C35698](#)) (**Application**). NGTL GP applied for approval to decommission 17 lateral pipelines, loops and the producer tie-ins (collectively, **Facilities**), all of which are part of the NGTL system. NGTL GP determined that the Facilities are not necessary to meet customers' future natural gas transportation demands. Although the Facilities to be decommissioned will cease operation, service will continue to be provided through adjacent NGTL GP pipelines.

The Commission of the CER approves the Application and issues Order MO-014-2026 (**Order**), granting NGTL GP approval to decommission the pipelines and associated facilities. The Order sets out the conditions that the Commission imposes on NGTL GP in relation to the Project.

Appropriateness of decommissioning methods

NGTL GP submitted, for the majority of the lateral pipelines, that the most appropriate method was to physically isolate and decommission approximately 186.41 kilometres of the Project's lateral pipelines in-place and remove approximately 355 metres of lateral pipelines. NGTL GP also submitted that removing lateral pipelines rather than decommissioning them in-place could disrupt land use activities, result in potential temporary adverse effects to the environment, introduce safety risks, and be more costly.

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Decommissioning work for the lateral pipelines will include physically isolating the Facilities from the NGTL system. The isolation of the lateral pipelines will involve cutting, purging (emptied of service fluids and left without any internal pressure), the cleaning of liquids or debris, and capping. Lastly, cathodic protection systems will be maintained by installing a continuity bond across the cut points. This will mitigate corrosion of the laterals and ensure the structural integrity of the pipeline is maintained for road and/or rail crossings. NGTL GP stated that decommissioning activities will be carried out in accordance with the *Canadian Energy Regulator Onshore Pipeline Regulations (OPR)* and CSA Z662.

The Commission finds that NGTL GP's proposed decommissioning methods are appropriate for the Project. The Commission is satisfied that the methods, including physical isolation, purging, cleaning, and the maintenance of cathodic protection, are appropriate to ensure the continued integrity of the decommissioned Facilities. The Commission finds that these measures, combined with the implementation of NGTL GP's Pipeline Monitoring Plan, provide adequate assurance that risks to public safety and the environment will be effectively managed during and after decommissioning.

The Commission is further satisfied that NGTL GP's commitment to carry out decommissioning activities in accordance with the OPR and CSA Z662 meets applicable regulatory requirements and industry standards.

Environment matters

The Project has the potential to interact with 30 wildlife species at risk listed federally on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* and their habitats. As well, one of the Project's pipeline laterals overlaps with Environment and Climate Change Canada-identified critical habitat for woodland caribou (boreal population, listed as Threatened). Further, many of the Project Facilities are located within provincially identified sensitive ranges for burrowing owls, amphibians, raptors, sharp-tailed grouse, snakes, and grizzly bears.

Two Project areas along the Kirby B Lateral are within critical habitat for the woodland caribou. These sites are located within existing anthropogenic disturbances that do not currently provide the biophysical attributes of critical habitat for the species. NGTL GP stated that the Project's decommissioning activities within critical habitat for woodland caribou are scheduled for Q4 2026 and will avoid the caribou restricted activity period of 15 February to 15 July.

NGTL GP's Environmental Protection Plan for the Project includes species-specific mitigation measures to be implemented during the decommissioning activities, including a Breeding Bird and Nest Management Plan, a Wildlife Species of Concern Discovery Contingency Plan and a Snake Protection Plan. For Project areas where there was potential to encounter species at risk or species of special concern, NGTL GP conducted targeted wildlife and vegetation species-specific surveys in spring/summer 2025.

The Commission considered the proposed timing, short duration, and limited scope of decommissioning activities and the mitigation measures and contingency plans provided by NGTL GP. Overall, in the Commission's view, the potential residual adverse effects of the Project on the environment, including the Project's contribution to cumulative effects, are expected to be short-term to long-term in duration, range from the Project footprint to the Regional Assessment Area, negligible to low in magnitude, and not likely to be significant.

Based on the information provided, the Commission is satisfied that the Project should not result in the destruction of critical habitat for woodland caribou. With NGTL GP's commitment to schedule the decommissioning activities within critical habitat for caribou outside of the restricted activity period, and the species-specific mitigation measures contained in the Environmental Protection Plan, the Commission finds that the Project's potential adverse effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including federal and provincial species at risk, would be low in magnitude, and not likely to be significant.

Socio-economic and land matters

NGTL GP notified approximately 105 directly affected landowners (including the provincial Crown) and approximately 284 other land rightsholders, including occupants, land users, trappers, guide outfitters, recreational users, and industry parties. NGTL GP provided a Project introduction letter, maps, decommissioning information, stakeholder brochures, and CER resources, and stated that no Project specific issues or concerns have been raised. NGTL GP indicated it remains available to address questions throughout the lifecycle of the Project.

The Facilities are located on provincial Crown lands, public lands managed by the Alberta Special Areas Board (Area No. 2), and freehold lands, including NGTL GP owned parcels. NGTL GP intends to use its existing land rights, and no new permanent land rights are anticipated. Temporary workspace (**TWS**) may be required and, if needed, would be located on or adjacent to existing land rights. Access to decommissioning areas will use existing roads, trails, and utility corridors where possible; however, new temporary access may be required. NGTL GP stated that it will obtain all necessary agreements and/or permits for TWS or temporary access before commencing work.

Regarding heritage and paleontological resources, NGTL GP confirmed it will obtain the necessary approvals under the Alberta *Historical Resources Act* prior to ground disturbance. Mitigation measures include restricting construction activities to the approved Project footprint, avoiding clearing near known archaeological sites unless approved by the responsible regulatory authority, following the Cultural Resource Discovery Contingency Plan, and prohibiting Project personnel from collecting historical or paleontological resources.

The Commission is satisfied that NGTL GP has identified and appropriately addressed the potential socio-economic impacts associated with the Project, including land use, traditional land and resource use, employment and economy, and infrastructure and services. Decommissioning activities are expected to occur over short periods of approximately 14 to 28 days at each Project Development Area (**PDA**) and require a small workforce of up to approximately 20 workers housed in existing commercial accommodations in nearby centres. The Commission finds that, given the short duration of work at each PDA, the limited workforce, and NGTL GP's proposed mitigation measures, any potential adverse socio-economic effects from the Project are expected to be of low significance.

Duty to Consult with Indigenous¹ Peoples

NGTL GP identified 43 Indigenous communities potentially affected by the Project, based in part on a preliminary traditional territory analysis provided by the CER. NGTL GP began engagement on 15 April 2025 by providing an initial Project information package, including a high-level Project map, factsheet, CER brochures, TC Energy Indigenous Relations materials, and digital mapping files for communities that requested them. NGTL GP followed up on 9 May and 26 May 2025 to continue the dialogue. Indigenous communities requested clarification regarding mapping, cumulative effects, invoicing, site visits, and capacity funding, and NGTL GP committed to coordinating site visits and providing capacity funding where appropriate. NGTL GP stated that questions and concerns raised to date have been addressed and that no Project specific issues or concerns remain outstanding.

The CER did not receive any Statements of Concern from Indigenous communities regarding the Project.

The Commission is satisfied that the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate has been met in relation to the Commission's decision about the Project. In reaching this conclusion, the Commission considered NGTL GP's engagement with potentially affected Indigenous communities and the opportunities those communities had to request information, seek clarification, and raise concerns directly with NGTL GP or the Commission. The Commission finds that Indigenous Peoples had sufficient opportunities to participate in the Commission's decision making process.

Potential Impacts on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Commission considered the potential interactions between Project activities and the exercise of rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through temporary vegetation removal, soil stripping, vehicle and equipment movement, short term sensory disturbance, and temporary changes in site access. NGTL GP stated that no outstanding issues or concerns related to Indigenous rights remain unresolved.

The Commission finds that any residual effects on the rights of Indigenous Peoples would be reversible, short-term, and low in magnitude, assuming implementation of standard and sites specific mitigation measures, including restricting activities to the approved footprint, marking sensitive resources, notifying registered trappers at least 10 days before activities, providing cultural awareness and environmental training to all personnel, using noise abatement equipment, minimizing idling, and implementing the Cultural Resource Discovery Contingency Plan if historical or cultural resources are discovered.

Economics and financial matters

NGTL GP estimated the costs for decommissioning activities at approximately \$14 million and confirmed that interim funding is available. Through a future application, NGTL GP plans to seek reimbursement from its Abandonment Trust for all decommissioning costs.

¹ The use of the term "Indigenous" has the meaning assigned by the definition of "aboriginal peoples of Canada" in subsection 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982, being Schedule B to the *Canada Act 1982* (UK), 1982, c 11 which states:

In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

The Commission is satisfied that the Project is expected to have no material impact on pipeline services or rates. The Commission also considered that commercial third parties raised no concerns after being notified of the Project.

NGTL GP's abandonment cost estimate is approximately \$5.2 billion (in 2023 dollars), and it currently holds an Abandonment Trust with a closing balance of approximately \$937 million as of 31 December 2024. Should NGTL GP's subsequent application for reimbursement for the decommissioning costs be approved, the Commission is of the view that there are sufficient funds in the Abandonment Trust to reimburse the costs incurred. To improve the accuracy of abandonment cost estimates over time, the Commission has included **Condition 6**, requiring NGTL GP to file the actual costs of the decommissioning after completion.

Decision

The Commission grants the requested relief through the issuance of attached Order MO-014-2026, pursuant to section 45.1 of the OPR. The Commission reminds NGTL GP that it continues to be responsible for meeting all legislative requirements with respect to the decommissioned Facilities, including those under the OPR.

The Commission directs NGTL GP to serve a copy of this letter and the attached Order to all interested parties.

Yours sincerely,

K. Mcallister for

Ramona Sladic
Secretary of the Commission

Attachments



ORDER MO-014-2026

IN THE MATTER OF the *Canadian Energy Regulator Act* (**CER Act**) and the regulations made thereunder; and

IN THE MATTER OF an application made by NGTL GP Ltd. (**NGTL GP**), as general partner on behalf of NGTL Limited Partnership, pursuant to section 45.1 of the *Canadian Energy Regulator Onshore Pipeline Regulations (OPR)*, dated 23 July 2025 under File 6062081 (**Application**).

BEFORE the Commission of the Canada Energy Regulator on 25 March 2026.

WHEREAS NGTL GP filed for approval to decommission 17 lateral pipelines, loops, and producer tie-ins on the NGTL system on 23 July 2025 (**Project**);

AND WHEREAS the information about the Project is set out in Schedule A, attached to and forming part of this Order;

AND WHEREAS NGTL GP filed a subsequent submission on 22 January 2026;

AND WHEREAS NGTL GP has demonstrated that the decommissioning methods, including in-place decommissioning and selective removal, are appropriate and justified based on technical, safety and environmental considerations, in accordance with section 45.1 of the OPR;

AND WHEREAS the Commission has considered the Application and subsequent submission, and all matters that are directly related and relevant to the Application, including matters under section 56 of the CER Act, and finds it to be in the public interest to grant the relief requested by NGTL GP;

IT IS ORDERED that, pursuant to section 45.1 of the OPR and subsection 68(1) of the CER Act, the Application is approved subject to the following conditions:

1. NGTL GP must comply with all of the conditions contained in this Order unless the Commission otherwise directs.
2. NGTL GP must cause the approved Project to be decommissioned in accordance with the specifications, standards, commitments, and other information referred to in its Application and its related submission;
3. NGTL GP must implement or cause to be implemented all of the policies, practices, programs, mitigation measures, recommendations, procedures, and its commitments for the protection of the environment included in or referred to in its Application and related submissions.

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4. NGTL GP must, **at least 14 days prior to commencing the decommissioning activities**, file with the CER a detailed schedule or schedules identifying major activities and must notify the CER of any modifications to the schedule or schedules as they occur
5. **Within 30 days of the date that the decommissioning activities are completed**, NGTL GP must file with the CER confirmation that the approved Project was completed in compliance with all applicable conditions in this Order. If compliance with any of these conditions cannot be confirmed, NGTL GP must file with the CER details as to why compliance cannot be confirmed. The filing required by this condition must include a statement confirming that the signatory to the filing is the accountable officer of NGTL GP, appointed as Accountable Officer pursuant to section 6.2 of the OPR.
6. NGTL GP must, **within 30 days of the date that the decommissioning activities are completed**, file with the CER a cost report using the reporting form found at <https://www.cer-rec.gc.ca/en/applications-hearings/pipeline-abandonment/forms/tables-reporting-actual-costs-abandonment-decommissioning.pdf>. The cost report must include:
 - a. information about the activities carried out during decommissioning; and
 - b. actual costs associated with those activities, as well as the total of actual costs by cost category to date.
7. This Order will expire on 31 March 2029, unless decommissioning activities of the Project have commenced by that date.

THE COMMISSION OF THE CANADA ENERGY REGULATOR

K. McAllister for

Ramona Sladic
Secretary of the Commission

SCHEDULE A
Order MO-014-2026

NGTL GP., as general partner, on behalf of NGTL Limited Partnership
Application dated 23 July 2025
assessed pursuant to section 45.1 of the
Canadian Energy Regulator Onshore Pipeline Regulations

Application for approval to decommission pipelines and associated facilities
on the NGTL system
File 6503130

Facilities specifications

Project Type: Decommissioning						
Pipeline Name	Start/End Point	Length (kilometer)	Outside Diameter (millimeter)	Wall Thickness (millimeter)	Coating Type	Product
Atlee Buffalo Lateral	NE 13-021-07 W4M SE 24-020-07 W4M	8.61 (in place)	168.3	5.6	Asphalt Enamel	None
Countess Duchess Lateral	SW 22-021-15 W4M SE 07-022-14 W4M	8.83 (in place) 25 m (removal)	219.1	5.6	Asphalt Enamel	None
Delia Lateral	SE 15-032-18 W4M SE 13-032-19 W4M	6.17 (in place)	168.3	3.2	Extruded Polyethylene	None
Dismal Creek Lateral Extension	SW 06-049-15 W5M SE 23-049-16 W5M	6.10 (in place)	168.3	3.18	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None
	SE 23-049-16 W5M NW 23-049-16 W5M	0.25 (in place)	168.3	3.18	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None
Eastern Alberta System Mainline Loop No. 3	NW 18-020-11 W4M NE 13-020-11 W4M	0.51 (in place) 40 m (removal)	1067	12.79	Asphalt Enamel	None
Gregory Lateral	SW 03-022-14 W4M SE 14-022-14 W4M	4.37 (in place)	114.3	3.18	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None

Kirby B Lateral	NE 25-073-05 W4M SW 29-073-05 W4M	6.90 (in place)	219.1	3.96	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None
Meyer Lateral	SW 02-070-25 W4M SW 24-068-02 W5M	32.57 (in place) 100 m (removal)	219.1	3.58	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None
North Lateral Extension (Flat Lake Relocation)	NE 05-054-14 W4M NE 05-054-14 W4M	0.4 (in place)	323.9	4.78	Unknown	None
North Lateral Extension Relocation (Sheerness Power Plant Section)	NW 05-029-13 W4M SE 05-029-13 W4M	2.10 (in place)	406.4	8.05	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None
	SE 32-028-13 W4M SE 32-028-13 W4M	0.90 (in place)		9.60		
	SE 32-028-13 W4M SE 32-028-13 W4M	0.80 (in place)		8.05		
North Lateral Extension	NE 05-054-14 W4M NE 05-054-14 W4M	0.20 (in place)	406.4	5.99	Asphalt Enamel	None
North Lateral Extension	SW 26-038-16 W4M SW 15-040-16 W4M	16.48 (in place)	406.4	5.99	Asphalt Enamel	None
North Lateral Extension	NE 08-032-14 W4M NW 05-029-13 W4M	32.45 (in place)	406.4	5.99	Asphalt Enamel	None
North Lateral Extension	SE 32-028-13 W4M NW 05-026-12 W4M	28.25 (in place) 160 m (removal)	406.4	5.99	Asphalt Enamel	None
Olds Lateral Extension No. 2	SW 22-030-02 W5M NE 29-030-02 W5M	2.93 (in place)	219.1	4.78	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None
Rainier South Lateral	NW 35-015-16 W4M SW 28-016-16 W4M	8.81 (in place)	168.3	3.18	Polyethylene Tape Single Wrap	None
Western Alberta System Mainline Loop (Westerose Section)	SW 22-042-07 W5M SE 25-040-07 W5M	18.45 (in place) 30 m (removal)	1067	9.5	Asphalt Enamel	None