

**Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of  
NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.**

**Trust Fund Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2017 and 2016**



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Trustees of the Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd., which comprise the Statement of Net Assets as at December 31, 2017, and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets for the year then ended, and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditors' Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

KPMG LLP is a Canadian limited liability partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

*Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. as at December 31, 2017, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

*KPMG LLP*

Chartered Professional Accountants

April 23, 2018  
Calgary, Canada

# Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.

## STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

**At December 31**

*(thousands of dollars)*

**2017**

**2016**

**Assets**

Cash & cash equivalents	<b>8,751</b>	11,624
Contributions receivable (Note 3)	<b>8,524</b>	7,981
Interest receivable	<b>767</b>	551
Investments		
Canadian government bonds (Note 5)	<b>291,287</b>	187,843
	<b>309,329</b>	207,999

**Liabilities**

Accounts payable (Note 6)	<b>10,727</b>	12,730
	<b>10,727</b>	12,730

**Net Assets**

**298,602**      195,269

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

# Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

Year ended December 31 (thousands of dollars)	2017	2016
<b>Income</b>		
Interest income	7,637	4,431
Change in fair value of investments		
Realized (loss)/gain on sale of investments	(596)	326
Unrealized loss on investments	(855)	(10,402)
	6,186	(5,645)
<b>Expenses</b>		
Administrative expense	(94)	(98)
<b>Net Income/(Loss) before tax</b>	6,092	(5,743)
Income tax expense (Note 7)	(2,036)	(1,215)
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	4,056	(6,958)
<b>Contributions</b> (Note 3)	99,277	101,181
<b>Change in Net Assets during the year</b>	103,333	94,223
<b>Net Assets, Beginning of Year</b>	195,269	101,046
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	298,602	195,269

*The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.*

# **Trust Fund for Abandonment of the Pipeline Assets of NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd.**

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **1. DESCRIPTION OF TRUST FUND**

Commencing January 1, 2015, NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL or the Company) is required by the National Energy Board (NEB) to collect funds to cover estimated future pipeline abandonment costs. The requirement to collect funds is in accordance with directions from the NEB's MH-001-2013 Decision that approved set-aside and collection mechanisms for abandonment cost funding for NEB regulated pipeline companies. The NEB approves amounts to be collected by the Company from its shippers in respect of estimated future pipeline abandonment costs. Amounts collected by the Company are used to fund the trust (Trust Fund) that holds and invests these funds.

The Company is the beneficiary of the Trust Fund, however, the Company may only access the funds held by the Trust Fund with approval of the NEB.

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is the trustee and administrator of the Trust Fund.

### **2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### **Basis of Presentation**

These financial statements present the information of the Trust Fund as a separate reporting entity independent of the Company. They are prepared for regulatory purposes only, in accordance with United States generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP). The Trust Fund is considered an investment company under GAAP and follows the accounting and reporting guidance applicable to investment companies. The Trust Fund financial statements do not portray the funding requirements of abandoning the pipeline.

#### **Use of Estimates**

In preparing these financial statements, NGTL is required to make estimates and assumptions that affect both the amount and timing of recording assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses since the determination of these items may be dependent on future events. The Company uses the most current information available and exercises careful judgment in making these estimates and assumptions. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

#### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Trust Fund's Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and highly liquid short-term investments with original maturities of three months or less and are recorded at cost, which approximates fair value.

#### **Financial Instruments**

All of the Trust Fund's investments, receivables and payables are non-derivative financial instruments. Cash and cash equivalents, Contributions receivable, Interest receivable and Accounts payable have carrying amounts that approximate their fair value due to the nature of the item or the short time to maturity. The Trust Fund's investments are classified as available for sale and are recorded at fair value on the Statement of Net Assets. Fair value disclosures relating to these investments are included in Note 8 of these financial statements. Purchases and sales of investments are recorded as of the trade date. Transactions that have not been settled are reflected in the Statement of Net Assets as receivables or payables. Changes in fair value are recognized in the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets.

#### **Interest Income**

Interest income on investments is recorded when earned.

### **Net Realized Gains and Losses on Sale of Investments**

Net realized gains and losses on the sale of investments are the differences between the net proceeds received and the cost of investments sold.

### **Net Unrealized Gains and Losses on Investments**

Net unrealized gains and losses arise from changes in the fair value of investments.

### **Administrative expense**

Administrative expense includes administration fees and audit costs incurred by the Company and paid or payable by the Trust Fund.

### **Income Taxes**

The Trust Fund is a Qualifying Environment Trust as defined in the Income Tax Act and is subject to income taxes on earnings from the Trust pursuant to Part XII.4 of the Income Tax Act. The Trust Fund uses the asset and liability method of accounting for income taxes. This method requires the recognition of deferred income tax assets and liabilities for future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax bases. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are measured using enacted tax rates at the statement of net assets date that are anticipated to apply to taxable income in the years in which temporary differences are expected to be reversed or settled.

## **3. CONTRIBUTIONS AND DISTRIBUTIONS**

The Company contributes amounts to the Trust Fund which are collected from shippers through abandonment surcharges as approved by the NEB. At December 31, 2017, the Trust Fund accrued approximately \$8,524 thousand of Contributions receivable from the Company (2016 - \$7,981 thousand). This represents amounts to be billed for December 2017 (2016) shipping services that will be collected from the shippers and subsequently contributed to the Trust Fund.

Distributions from the Trust Fund are subject to NEB approval and are restricted for use towards abandonment activities. As at December 31, 2017, no funds have been distributed from the Trust Fund.

## **4. CAPITAL DISCLOSURES**

The Trust Fund defines capital as all investments including cash. The Trust Fund's objective is to accumulate assets in a consistent and rational manner over the useful life of the pipeline so that funds are available to meet the pipeline's future pipeline abandonment obligations.

The trustee is responsible for ensuring that the assets of the Trust Fund are managed in accordance with the Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures (SIPP) and the objectives and goals outlined within.

## 5. INVESTMENTS

The following table summarizes the investments held by the Trust Fund:

At December 31 (thousands of dollars)		2017		2016	
		Cost	Fair Value	Cost	Fair Value
Cash & cash equivalents		8,751	8,751	11,624	11,624
Canadian government bonds					
Maturity	Coupon Rate				
2026	1.90%	—	—	3,446	3,353
2027	2.35%	12,435	12,425	—	—
2027	8.00%	—	—	7,143	6,808
2028	2.00%	3,993	3,971	—	—
2028	2.35%	11,501	11,432	—	—
2029	3.63%	2,528	2,404	2,528	2,405
2029	5.75%	26,640	24,904	29,552	28,010
2033	5.75%	40,909	38,896	31,054	29,616
2037	3.83%	3,736	3,786	1,060	1,019
2037	5.00%	46,709	44,795	29,080	27,749
2041	4.00%	49,278	47,215	33,075	31,087
2045	3.50%	43,300	41,761	34,069	32,349
2045	3.86%	3,489	3,524	1,441	1,362
2048	2.75%	32,596	31,013	19,707	18,350
2048	3.86%	1,508	1,433	1,508	1,375
2051	2.00%	5,375	5,338	—	—
2053	3.85%	8,029	8,053	—	—
2064	2.75%	10,696	10,337	4,760	4,360
		302,722	291,287	198,423	187,843
		311,473	300,038	210,047	199,467

## 6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The following table summarizes the Trust Fund's accounts payable:

At December 31 (thousands of dollars)	2017	2016
Securities purchased	8,671	11,497
Income tax expense payable	2,036	1,215
Administrative expense payable	20	18
	10,727	12,730

## 7. INCOME TAXES

The following table presents a reconciliation of income tax expense:

<b>Years ended December 31</b> <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Income/(Loss) before income taxes	<b>6,092</b>	(5,743)
Federal and provincial statutory income tax rate	<b>27%</b>	27%
Expected income tax expense/(recovery)	<b>1,645</b>	(1,551)
Non-taxable loss on investments	<b>276</b>	1,362
Increase in valuation allowance	<b>115</b>	1,404
<b>Income Tax Expense</b>	<b>2,036</b>	1,215

The following table presents the deferred income tax assets and liabilities:

<b>Years ended December 31</b> <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Deferred income tax asset/(liability)		
Unrealized loss on investments	<b>1,543</b>	1,428
Valuation allowance	<b>(1,543)</b>	(1,428)
<b>Net Deferred Tax Asset/(Liability)</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Income tax payments of \$1,214 thousand were made in 2017 (2016 -\$312 thousand).

The Trust is resident in Alberta and pays tax at a rate of 27 per cent (15 per cent Federal, 12 per cent Alberta) on its income earned.

The Trust is not able to carry forward net capital losses as these losses are allocated to the beneficiary in the year sustained. As a result, the Trust cannot recognize a deferred income tax asset related to net capital losses.

## 8. RISK MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Trust Fund's investments are governed by the SIPP which outline investment guidelines and monitoring procedures appropriate to the objectives of the Trust Fund. Trust Fund assets consist of fixed income securities comprised of long-term Canadian government bonds.

### Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The fixed income securities in the Trust Fund are directly exposed to interest rate risk.

The following table summarizes the fair value of investments by maturity dates, as well as average effective yield by class of investment:

<b>At December 31</b> <i>(thousands of dollars)</i>	<b>2017</b>		<b>2016</b>	
	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Average Effective Yield</b>	<b>Fair Value</b>	<b>Average Effective Yield</b>
Canadian government bonds (maturing 5 to 10 years)	<b>12,425</b>	<b>2.35%</b>	3,353	2.22%
Canadian government bonds (maturing after 10 years)	<b>278,862</b>	<b>2.21%</b>	184,490	2.25%
	<b>291,287</b>		187,843	

### **Counterparty Credit Risk**

Counterparty credit risk represents the financial loss the Company would experience if a counterparty to a financial instrument failed to meet its obligations in accordance with the terms and conditions of the related contract or agreement with the Trust Fund. The Trust Fund is exposed to counterparty credit risk through its investments in bonds and money market instruments. This risk is managed through the SIPP that limits the Trust Fund's investments exclusively to debt instruments which have an investment grade rating with a prescribed rating agency at the time of purchase. The Trust Fund's investments in long-term Canadian government bonds minimize its exposure to counterparty credit risk.

### **Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

When fair value measurements are required for the Trust Fund's financial assets and liabilities, they are classified into one of three categories based on the fair value hierarchy below.

In Level I, the fair value of assets and liabilities is determined by reference to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities that the Trust Fund has the ability to access at the measurement date.

In Level II, determination of the fair value of assets and liabilities is based on the extrapolation of inputs, other than quoted prices included within Level I, for which all significant inputs are observable directly or indirectly. Such inputs include published exchange rates, interest rates, interest rate swap curves, yield curves, and broker quotes from external data service providers. Transfers between Level I and Level II would occur when there is a change in market circumstances.

In Level III, the fair value of assets and liabilities is determined using a market approach based on inputs that are unobservable or where observable data does not support a significant portion of the overall fair value measurement. Assets and liabilities measured at fair value can fluctuate between Level II and Level III depending on the proportion of the value of the contract that extends beyond the time frame for which inputs are considered to be observable. As contracts near maturity and observable market data become available, the contracts are transferred out of Level III and into Level II.

The Trust Fund's investments are recorded at fair value which is based on the extrapolation of inputs including interest rates and yield curves, and are classified in Level II of the fair value hierarchy. Credit risk has been taken into consideration when calculating the fair value of these assets.

There were no transfers from Level II to Level I for the year ended December 31, 2017. Furthermore, the Trust Fund has no Level I or Level III financial instruments.

## **9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Subsequent events have been evaluated through April 23, 2018, the date that these financial statements were authorized to be issued.