



Access to Information Act
Annual Report to Parliament 2019-2020

Northern Pipeline Agency

Report on the Access to Information Act

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1. Introduction

This annual report describes how the Northern Pipeline Agency (NPA) met its responsibilities in administering the *Access to Information Act* (Act) during fiscal year 2019-2020.

The Access to Information Act

The *Access to Information Act* was proclaimed into force on July 1, 1983. The Act gives the public the right of access to information contained in federal government records, subject to certain limited and specific exceptions.

Section 94 of the *Access to Information Act* requires that the head of every government institution prepare an annual report on the administration of the Act during the financial year and table it in Parliament.

The Northern Pipeline Agency

Description

The NPA was created with the proclamation of *the Northern Pipeline Act* in April 1978 to oversee planning and construction of the Canadian portion of the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Project by the Foothills Group of Companies. The Minister of Natural Resources is responsible for the *Northern Pipeline Act*, and for the management and direction of the NPA and reporting to Parliament on its activities. The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources serves as the Commissioner of the NPA.

Mandate

The NPA mandate is twofold. First, it carries out Government of Canada responsibilities in relation to the pipeline and facilitates the efficient and expeditious planning and construction of the pipeline, taking into account local and regional interests, in particular those of Indigenous peoples. Secondly, it maximizes the social and economic benefits from the construction and operation of the pipeline while at the same time minimizing any adverse effect on the social and environmental conditions of the areas most directly affected by the pipeline.

The NPA acts as a single window between federal authorities and the Foothills Group of Companies (now owned completely by TC Energy), and between provincial and territorial governments, and the Government of the United States. In keeping with the *Northern Pipeline Act*, many regulatory powers of other Government of Canada departments and agencies related to the pipeline project are delegated to the NPA. This is not the case for those powers reserved exclusively to the Canada Energy Regulator or shared between the Canada Energy Regulator and the NPA.

2. Organizational Structure

Access to information-related activities for the NPA, such as the processing of requests under the *Access to Information Act*, the preparation of the *Access to Information Act* statistical and Annual Reports for 2019-2020 are handled by Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) Secretariat, as per the NRCan-NPA Service Letter of Agreement. There are 0.08 full-time equivalents dedicated to support the NPA's access to information function during the reporting period.

3. Delegation Order

See Annex A for current delegation order.

4. Highlights of the Statistical Report, 2019-2020

Multi-year trends 2017-18 to 2019-2020

- **Percentage of requests responded to within legislative timelines:**
From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, the NPA received no requests under the *Access to Information Act (ATIA)*. This trend is consistent with the 2018-2019 reporting period where it received no requests under the ATIA. During the 2017-2018 reporting period, the NPA received and completed one request within the legislative timeframe, resulting in a 100% compliance rate.
- **Consultations completed from other institutions:**
From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, the NPA received and completed two consultations from another federal government institution, whereas in 2017-2018, one consultation was completed, and in 2018-2019, no consultations were received.

For more information, the statistical report can be found at Appendix B of the current report.

2019-2020 Supplemental Statistical Report on the *Access to Information Act* – Requests affected by COVID-19 measures

During the 2019-2020 reporting period, no requests were received from March 14, 2020 to March 31, 2020. Furthermore, no requests were closed from March 14, 2020 to March 31, 2020, and no requests were carried over to the 2020-2021 reporting period.

For more information, the statistical report can be found at Appendix C of the current report.

Impact of COVID-19-related measures on NPA's ability to fulfill its *Access to Information Act* responsibilities, and mitigations measures.

No impact to service occurred during the requested period as the NPA did not receive any access to information requests; however, as a result of confinement, access to classified information was limited and some of the infrastructure (software and secured tracking system) was no longer accessible to employees. Due to this, some requests (none of which involved the NPA) were delayed as the NRCan-ATIP Secretariat was using a new tool to assist with the processing.

5. Reporting on Access to Information fees for the purposes of the *Service Fees Act*

The *Service Fees Act* requires a responsible authority to report annually to Parliament on the fees collected by the institution, except fees collected under the *Access to Information Act*. With respect to fees collected under the *Access to Information Act* during 2019-20, the information below is reported in accordance with the requirements of section 20 of the *Service Fees Act*.

- Enabling authority: *Access to Information Act*
- Fee amount: \$5
- Total revenue: \$0
- Fees waived: \$0
- Cost of operating the program: \$800

6. Training and Awareness

No access to information training activities were provided to or requested by NPA personnel in 2019-2020.

7. Policies, Guidelines, Procedures and Initiatives

No new or revised policies, guidelines or procedures were implemented during the reporting period.

Effective January 1, 2015, the NPA started to use the Open Government website to provide its monthly summaries. Until that time, the NPA released its summaries on its own website.

8. Summary of Key Issues and Actions Taken on Complaints and Audits

There were no complaints or investigations initiated during this period or carried forward from the previous reporting period.

9. Monitoring Compliance

No monitoring was conducted during the reporting period.

Annex A – Delegation Order

Positions	Sections of the <i>Access to Information Act</i>
Deputy Minister	20(6)
Coordinator	7, 8(1), 9, 11(1) – (6), 12(2), 13 to 20(5), 21(1) to 24(1), 26, 27(1), 27(4), 28(2), 29(1), 33, 35(2)(b), 37(1)(b), 43(1), 44(2), 68, 69

Annex B – Statistical Report

Statistical Report on the Access to Information Act

Name of institution: Northern Pipeline Agency

Reporting period: 2019-04-01 to 2020-03-31

Section 1: Requests Under the Access to Information Act

1.1 Number of requests

	Number of Requests
Received during reporting period	0
Outstanding from previous reporting period	0
Total	0
Closed during reporting period	0
Carried over to next reporting period	0

1.2 Sources of requests

Source	Number of Requests
Media	0
Academia	0
Business (private sector)	0
Organization	0
Public	0
Decline to Identify	0
Total	0

1.3 Informal requests

Completion Time							
1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	More Than 365 Days	Total
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: All requests previously recorded as “treated informally” will now be accounted for in this section only.

Section 2: Decline to act on vexatious, made in bad faith or abuse of right requests

	Number of Requests
Outstanding from previous reporting period	0
Sent during reporting period	0
Total	0
Approved by the Information Commissioner during reporting period	0
Declined by the Information Commissioner during reporting period	0
Carried over to next reporting period	0

Section 3: Requests Closed During the Reporting Period

3.1 Disposition and completion time

Disposition of Requests	Completion Time							Total
	1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	More Than 365 Days	
All disclosed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disclosed in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All exempted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All excluded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No records exist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Request transferred	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neither confirmed nor denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Decline to act with the approval of the Information Commissioner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.2 Exemptions

Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests
13(1)(a)	0	16(2)	0	18(a)	0	20.1	0
13(1)(b)	0	16(2)(a)	0	18(b)	0	20.2	0
13(1)(c)	0	16(2)(b)	0	18(c)	0	20.4	0
13(1)(d)	0	16(2)(c)	0	18(d)	0	21(1)(a)	0
13(1)(e)	0	16(3)	0	18.1(1)(a)	0	21(1)(b)	0
14	0	16.1(1)(a)	0	18.1(1)(b)	0	21(1)(c)	0
14(a)	0	16.1(1)(b)	0	18.1(1)(c)	0	21(1)(d)	0
14(b)	0	16.1(1)(c)	0	18.1(1)(d)	0	22	0
15(1)	0	16.1(1)(d)	0	19(1)	0	22.1(1)	0
15(1) - I.A.*	0	16.2(1)	0	20(1)(a)	0	23	0
15(1) - Def.*	0	16.3	0	20(1)(b)	0	23.1	0
15(1) - S.A.*	0	16.31	0	20(1)(b.1)	0	24(1)	0
16(1)(a)(i)	0	16.4(1)(a)	0	20(1)(c)	0	26	0
16(1)(a)(ii)	0	16.4(1)(b)	0	20(1)(d)	0		
16(1)(a)(iii)	0	16.5	0				
16(1)(b)	0	16.6	0				
16(1)(c)	0	17	0				
16(1)(d)	0						

* I.A.: International Affairs Def.: Defence of Canada S.A.: Subversive Activities

3.3 Exclusions

Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests	Section	Number of Requests
68(a)	0	69(1)	0	69(1)(g) re (a)	0
68(b)	0	69(1)(a)	0	69(1)(g) re (b)	0
68(c)	0	69(1)(b)	0	69(1)(g) re (c)	0
68.1	0	69(1)(c)	0	69(1)(g) re (d)	0
68.2(a)	0	69(1)(d)	0	69(1)(g) re (e)	0
68.2(b)	0	69(1)(e)	0	69(1)(g) re (f)	0
		69(1)(f)	0	69.1(1)	0

3.4 Format of information released

Paper	Electronic	Other
0	0	0

3.5 Complexity

3.5.1 Relevant pages processed and disclosed

Number of Pages Processed	Number of Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests
0	0	0

3.5.2 Relevant pages processed and disclosed by size of requests

Disposition	Less Than 100 Pages Processed		101-500 Pages Processed		501-1000 Pages Processed		1001-5000 Pages Processed		More Than 5000 Pages Processed	
	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed
All disclosed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disclosed in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All exempted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All excluded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Neither confirmed nor denied	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

3.5.3 Other complexities

Disposition	Consultation Required	Assessment of Fees	Legal Advice Sought	Other	Total
All disclosed	0	0	0	0	0
Disclosed in part	0	0	0	0	0
All exempted	0	0	0	0	0
All excluded	0	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0	0
Neither confirmed nor denied	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

3.6 Closed requests

3.6.1 Number of requests closed within legislated timelines

	Requests closed within legislated timelines
Number of requests closed within legislated timelines	0
Percentage of requests closed within legislated timelines (%)	0

3.7 Deemed refusals

3.7.1 Reasons for not meeting legislated timelines

Number of Requests Closed Past the Legislated Timelines	Principal Reason			
	Interference with Operations / Workload	External Consultation	Internal Consultation	Other
0	0	0	0	0

3.7.2 Requests closed beyond legislated timelines (including any extension taken)

Number of Days Past Legislated Timelines	Number of Requests Past Legislated Timeline Where No Extension Was Taken	Number of Requests Past Legislated Timeline Where an Extension Was Taken	Total
1 to 15 days	0	0	0
16 to 30 days	0	0	0
31 to 60 days	0	0	0
61 to 120 days	0	0	0
121 to 180 days	0	0	0
181 to 365 days	0	0	0
More than 365 days	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

3.8 Requests for translation

Translation Requests	Accepted	Refused	Total
English to French	0	0	0
French to English	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Section 4: Extensions

4.1 Reasons for extensions and disposition of requests

Disposition of Requests Where an Extension Was Taken	9(1)(a) Interference With Operations	9(1)(b) Consultation		9(1)(c) Third-Party Notice
		Section 69	Other	
All disclosed	0	0	0	0
Disclosed in part	0	0	0	0
All exempted	0	0	0	0
All excluded	0	0	0	0
No records exist	0	0	0	0
Request abandoned	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

4.2 Length of extensions

Length of Extensions	9(1)(a) Interference With Operations	9(1)(b) Consultation		9(1)(c) Third-Party Notice
		Section 69	Other	
30 days or less	0	0	0	0
31 to 60 days	0	0	0	0
61 to 120 days	0	0	0	0
121 to 180 days	0	0	0	0
181 to 365 days	0	0	0	0
365 days or more	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

Section 5: Fees

Fee Type	Fee Collected		Fee Waived or Refunded	
	Number of Requests	Amount	Number of Requests	Amount
Application	0	\$0	0	\$0
Other fees	0	\$0	0	\$0
Total	0	\$0	0	\$0

Section 6: Consultations Received From Other Institutions and Organizations

6.1 Consultations received from other Government of Canada institutions and organizations

Consultations	Other Government of Canada Institutions	Number of Pages to Review	Other Organizations	Number of Pages to Review
Received during reporting period	2	16	0	0
Outstanding from the previous reporting period	0	0	0	0
Total	2	16	0	0
Closed during the reporting period	2	16	0	0
Carried over to next reporting period	0	0	0	0

6.2 Recommendations and completion time for consultations received from other Government of Canada institutions

Recommendation	Number of Days Required to Complete Consultation Requests							
	1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	More Than 365 Days	Total
Disclose entirely	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Disclose in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exempt entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exclude entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consult other institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

6.3 Recommendations and completion time for consultations received from other organizations

Recommendation	Number of Days Required to Complete Consultation Requests							
	1 to 15 Days	16 to 30 Days	31 to 60 Days	61 to 120 Days	121 to 180 Days	181 to 365 Days	More Than 365 Days	Total
Disclose entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disclose in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exempt entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exclude entirely	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Consult other institution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Section 7: Completion Time of Consultations on Cabinet Confidences

7.1 Requests with Legal Services

Number of Days	Fewer Than 100 Pages Processed		101-500 Pages Processed		501-1000 Pages Processed		1001-5000 Pages Processed		More Than 5000 Pages Processed	
	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed
1 to 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 to 30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 to 60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61 to 120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
121 to 180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
181 to 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

7.2 Requests with Privy Council Office

Number of Days	Fewer Than 100 Pages Processed		101-500 Pages Processed		501-1000 Pages Processed		1001-5000 Pages Processed		More Than 5000 Pages Processed	
	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed	Number of Requests	Pages Disclosed
1 to 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16 to 30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31 to 60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
61 to 120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
121 to 180	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
181 to 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
More than 365	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Section 8: Complaints and investigations

Section 32 Notice of intention to investigate	Subsection 30(5) Ceased to investigate	Section 35 Formal representations	Section 37 Reports of finding received	Section 37 Reports of finding containing recommendations issued by the Information Commissioner	Section 37 Reports of finding containing orders issued by the Information Commissioner
0	0	0	0	0	0

Section 9: Court Action

9.1 Court actions on complaints received before June 21, 2019 and on-going

Section 41 (before June 21, 2019)	Section 42	Section 44
0	0	0

9.2 Court actions on complaints received after June 21, 2019

Section 41 (after June 21, 2019)				
Complainant (1)	Institution (2)	Third Party (3)	Privacy Commissioner (4)	Total
0	0	0	0	0

Section 10: Resources Related to the Access to Information Act

10.1 Costs

Expenditures	Amount
Salaries	\$800
Overtime	\$0
Goods and Services	\$0
• Professional services contracts	\$0
• Other	\$0
Total	\$800

10.2 Human Resources

Resources	Person Years Dedicated to Access to Information Activities
Full-time employees	0.08
Part-time and casual employees	0.00
Regional staff	0.00
Consultants and agency personnel	0.00
Students	0.00
Total	0.08

Note: Enter values to two decimal places.

Annex C – Supplemental Statistical Report

2019-2020 Supplemental Statistical Report on the Access to Information Act – Requests affected by COVID-19 measures

Table 1 – Requests Received

The following table reports the total number of formal requests received during two periods; 2019-04-01 to 2020-03-13 and 2020-03-14 to 2020-03-31.

	Number of requests
Received from 2019-04-01 to 2020-03-13	0
Received from 2020-03-14 to 2020-03-31	0
Total	0

Table 2 – Requests Closed

The following table reports the total number of requests closed within the legislated timelines and the number of closed requests that were deemed refusals during two periods 2019-04-01 to 2020-03-13 and 2020-03-14 to 2020-03-31.

	Number of requests closed within the legislated timelines	Number of requests closed past the legislated timelines
Received from 2019-04-01 to 2020-03-13 and outstanding from previous reporting periods	0	0
Received from 2020-03-14 to 2020-03-31	0	0
Total	0	0

Table 3 – Requests Carried Over

The following table reports the total number of requests carried over during two periods; 2019-04-01 to 2020-03-13 and 2020-03-14 to 2020-03-31.

	Number of requests
Requests received from 2019-04-01 to 2020-03-13 and outstanding from previous reporting period that were carried over to the 2020-2021 reporting period	0
Requests received from 2020-03-14 to 2020-03-31 that were carried over to the 2020-2021 reporting period	0
Total	0