

Corporation delivers all gas sold in that province through a 7,739-mile (12455 km) distribution and transmission system serving most of the populated areas. Norcen Energy Resources Limited operates probably the most widespread distribution system in Canada by serving industries and communities close to the TransCanada pipeline between Winnipeg and Montreal. Two large utility companies serve the industrialized areas of southern Ontario: Consumers' Gas Company operating in the Toronto area, the Niagara Peninsula and eastern Ontario, and Union Gas Limited serving southwestern Ontario.

New oil and gas pipeline regulations were issued in 1975 by the National Energy Board (NEB) after consultation with the industry and other authorities. The board's Rules of Practice and Procedure were amended to include additional requirements respecting Canadian content and environmental assessments.

Northern pipelines. Extensive exploration for oil and gas has been going on in the Canadian North and in frontier regions for many years. Transportation and use of gas from the North, however, began to receive active consideration only after the major discoveries in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska in 1968. Recognizing that similar discoveries might well be made in the Canadian Arctic, the Canadian government set up a Task Force on Northern Oil Development to advise on all regional and national matters relating to northern oil and gas development, transportation, marketing and research.

In August 1970 and June 1972 the federal government issued guidelines for construction and operation of northern pipelines which included preservation of the environment, prevention of pollution and thermal erosion, freedom of navigation, protection of the rights of northern residents, and their training and employment.

On March 21, 1974, Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline Ltd. (CAGPL) filed applications to construct and operate a natural gas pipeline from Alaska and the Mackenzie Delta to southern markets via a Mackenzie Valley route. Mr. Justice Thomas R. Berger, of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, was appointed by the Government of Canada to conduct an inquiry into the regional social, environmental and economic impact of the construction, operation and subsequent abandonment of the proposed Mackenzie Valley natural gas pipeline in the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. Preliminary hearings were held in the summer of 1974 and the formal inquiry opened in Yellowknife on March 3, 1975.

An application was completed by Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd. in the summer of 1975 to construct a pipeline to deliver Canadian gas from the Mackenzie Delta to southern markets along a route similar to that proposed by Canadian Arctic Gas Pipeline, but without crossing the Yukon to take delivery of Arctic gas.

The Polar Gas Project was initiated in 1973 to organize the research and engineering of a pipeline to bring Arctic islands gas to southern markets. The founding participants of the group are Panarctic Oils, TransCanada Pipelines, Canadian Pacific Investments, Tenneco Texas Eastern and Pacific Lighting. Polar Gas intended to file an application in 1977, for the construction of a pipeline.

The Alcan pipeline was sponsored by Northwest Pipeline Corporation of Salt Lake City, Utah and the two Canadian sponsors of Foothills Pipe Lines Ltd., Westcoast Transmission Company of Vancouver and Alberta Gas Trunk Line Company, of Calgary. The Alcan pipeline would transport only US gas from the North Slope of Alaska along the Alaska Pipeline right-of-way to Fairbanks, where it would follow the Alcan right-of-way southeast through Alaska across the Yukon Territory and northeastern BC and into northwestern Alberta, joining the existing pipeline in BC and Alberta for distribution in US markets. The route will generally parallel the Alaska-Canada Highway. Applications were filed with the US Federal Power Commission and the Canadian government in 1976.

The Berger hearings were divided into four phases:
Engineering and construction of the proposed pipeline. This phase included such matters as the size of the pipeline; its location; the timing of construction; the