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**RACHEL NOTLEY, MLA**

Edmonton-Strathcona  
Environment and Sustainable Resource Development Critic, Alberta's NDP Opposition

August 27, 2013

Merwan Saher  
Auditor General of Alberta  
8<sup>th</sup> floor – 9925 109 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5K 2J8

Dear Mr. Saher,

RE: Request for Systems Audit on Pipeline Safety in Alberta

Last summer, in a letter dated July 16, 2012, Alberta's NDP Opposition asked your office to conduct an audit of pipeline safety, focusing on how often oil pipelines in Alberta are inspected to prevent oil spills, what the regulations are surrounding spill cleanup, and how often penalties are given to companies that fail to make repairs or cleanup. Our request for your office to conduct an audit was preceded by several large pipeline spills and mounting calls from non-governmental organizations for a review of pipeline safety in the province.

As our call for you to audit Alberta's pipelines was quickly followed by the government's announcement of their own internal audit, you indicated that you would not, at least at that time, undertake your own audit. On August 23, the Energy Minister finally released his review of pipeline safety, which was widely noted to be lacking in detail about the actual safety of pipelines in the province; it was, rather, a review of Alberta's pipeline regulations and their enforcement.

I am asking you now to reconsider your decision regarding an audit of Alberta's pipelines, and to undertake an audit that considers pipeline safety on a far more comprehensive basis and includes but is not limited to the following:

1. The quality of regulations (including leak detection systems)
2. Consistency of the application of regulations
3. Inspection frequency and quality (completed by parties independent from industry)
4. Frequency and severity of penalties
5. Follow-up on orders to ensure compliance
6. Quality of accident investigation
7. The frequency and severity of penalties imposed as a result of accidents and subsequent investigation
8. Overall quality of government's awareness of pipeline integrity

The Auditor General of Saskatchewan and the Auditor General of Canada have both reviewed the safety of pipelines within their jurisdiction and both audits found substantial problems, not only with regulatory frameworks but also with the pipeline infrastructure itself.

Alberta has the greatest number of kilometers of pipeline of anywhere across Canada. Our land, air, and water are dependent on the safe operation of pipelines, as is our international reputation. I hope that you will agree that this audit is in the public interest, and I look forward to hearing from you that you will undertake this important work on behalf of all Albertans.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Notley', written over the printed name.

Rachel Notley  
MLA, Edmonton-Strathcona