

AITKEN CREEK SECTION

Surerus Murphy Joint Venture constructed a 52 km pipeline and tie-in facilities in northeast B.C. for TC Energy on the North Montney Mainline Loop (NMML). The Aitken Creek Spread 1 connected to the NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd (NGTL) system's Saturn pipeline at the southeast end and extended to the interface between Spread 1 (Aitken Creek) and Spread 2 on the north side of the Peace River, 18 km northeast of Hudson's Hope.

Noteworthy aspects of this project included a 1,707 m Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) under the Peace River, navigating ten steep slopes (three exceeding 800 m), and maintaining an exceptional safety record with zero lost-time injuries.

The NMML infrastructure connects natural gas producers to downstream markets located throughout Canada and the United States. This connection generates job opportunities and contributes to tax revenues that support essential services like hospitals and schools in some of B.C.'s more remote communities.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

- **Client:** Nova Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL) / TC Energy
- **Location:** northeast B.C.
- **Pipeline length:** 52 km of 42-inch
- **Total workers at peak:** ~750
- **Regulator:** Federally by the National Energy Board – now known as the Canada Energy Regulator. Provincially regulated by BC Oil & Gas Commission – now known as the BC Energy Regulator

CONSTRUCTION FEATURES:

- **Trenchless crossings:** 1 HDD, 2 DPIs, 11 tracked auger bores, 1 guided bore, 3 hammer bores, and 4 HDBs
- **Open cut crossings:** 38 watercourses, 33 wetlands, 24 roads, and 24 pipelines
- **Hydrotest sections:** 5 mainline and 3 facilities
- **Steep slopes:** 10 slopes, including 3 primary slopes over 800 m
- **Welds:** 2,287 welds
- **Welding processes used:** Mechanized welding (CRC GMAW) for mainline with SMAW/FCAW for poorboy and SMAW/FCAW and SMAW for facility and tie-ins
- **Coating processes used:** Automated spray coating (CRC SPC 2888) for mainline and brush applied SPC2888 for poorboy, facility and tie-ins

COMMUNITY BENEFITS & IMPROVEMENTS:

- **Community donations:** \$50,000, including \$15,000 in employee-led donations
- **Volunteer hours:** 200
- **Local employees:** 60
- **Indigenous employees:** 96
- Attended an Indigenous blessing ceremony in the Peace Moberly Tract before commencing work
- Engaged with a local high school to bring students to the site to view and learn about pipeline construction

ON-SITE LEADERSHIP:

Project Director:	Paul Kelly
Assistant Project Manager:	Sean Brosnahan
Superintendent:	Rob Beckner

PROJECT TIMELINE:

Contract award:	Q3 2018
Substantial completion:	Q1 2020
Final completion:	Q4 2020





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