



Topic Area	Issue	CAPP Recommendation
OPR – Damage Prevention	Shift away from risk-based framework grounded in CSA Z662	Retain a risk-based approach consistent with CSA Z662
	Lack of supporting evidence for proposed prescriptive depth of cover (DOC) requirements	Avoid introducing new prescriptive DOC requirements
	Potential increase in unnecessary operational burden	Maintain tailored, risk-based compliance approaches
	Proposed changes to definition of ground disturbance	Retain existing definition; support flexible compliance pathways
OPR – Deactivation and End of Lifecycle	Lack of clarity and consistency in proposed definitions (deactivation, decommissioning, abandonment) introduces interpretive risk and inconsistency across varying pipeline configurations	Clarify definitions by defining “actively flowing,” update definition of “decommission” to include pipelines in shared rights-of-way with in-service or deactivated pipelines, and replace “active flowing service” with the clearer term “in service.”
	Misalignment with provincial regulatory frameworks	Align OPR requirements with provincial practices
	No demonstrated gap in existing decommissioning plan requirements (s.45.1)	Avoid amending section 45.1; retain current framework
	Proposed new management system requirements for decommissioned/abandoned pipelines	Avoid introducing new requirements; rely on existing risk-based management and integrity programs
	Mandatory application-based processes increase administrative burden	Adopt streamlined, notification-based processes aligned with provincial practice
	Requirement to re-notify CER every two years for deactivated pipelines	Do not require periodic re-notification where no operational change has occurred
	Extension of prescriptive surveillance to abandoned pipelines	Retain risk-based monitoring rather than prescriptive surveillance
	Additional recordkeeping obligations for deactivated or abandoned pipelines	Rely on existing CSA Z662 record requirements; apply any changes prospectively only

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OPR – Emergency Management	Risk of scope expanded creep and duplication of provincial emergency management (EM) requirements	Align EM requirements with national standards and provincial frameworks
	Incorporation of CSA Z246.2 may introduce terminology inconsistencies	Incorporate CSA Z246.2 while ensuring terminology is applied consistently
	Removal of “safety” term may broaden EM scope	Retain explicit reference to safety; avoid extending EM obligations into unrelated socio-economic matters
	Inclusion of “historic and cultural sites” without definitions	Avoid including undefined concepts without clear criteria and applicability
	Consolidation of CER letters, orders, advisories into regulation	Consolidate only after modernization and industry review; retain as guidance, not prescriptive regulation
	Assigning Indigenous communities audit or oversight roles in EM	Support communication and preparedness with Indigenous communities while retaining industry as technical authority
OPR – Environmental Protection	Duplication of provincial environmental requirements	Focus federal regulation on identified regulatory gaps and avoid unnecessary duplication
	Use of undefined term “contamination”	Rely on existing spill definitions; do not introduce “contamination”
	Expansion of reclamation requirements beyond construction	Avoid broadening reclamation requirements that are impractical to regulate
	Mandatory Environmental Protection Plans, transition plans, climate-risk assessments	Retain the existing risk-based approach; avoid introducing additional requirements
	Incorporation of ISO 14001 by reference	Avoid incorporating international standards by reference or use only selectively
OPR – Human and Organizational Factors	Introduction of Human and Organizational Factors (HOF)-specific regulatory requirements	Avoid adding HOF-specific requirements beyond existing hazard management processes
	Prescriptive HOF frameworks reduce flexibility	Use broad, flexible regulatory language to allow for diverse management approaches
	Overlap with CSA standards and existing systems	Rely on CSA Z662 and existing hazard identification and control processes
	Organizational learning and continual improvement requirements	Avoid introducing new requirements; existing industry mechanisms are sufficient

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OPR – Management System and Contractor Management	Duplication of CSA Z662 management system requirements	Avoid introducing new OPR requirements; remove duplicative provisions
	One-size-fits-all audit and oversight approach	Enable scalable, risk-based audits proportional to company risk and system design; consider exemptions or equivalency
	Ambiguity in the term “quality assurance program”	Clarify and align terminology with continual improvement concepts
	Transmission-style expectations applied to upstream operators	Provide simplified or separate requirements for Group 2 companies
	Expansion of contractor management requirements	Avoid prescriptive lists; retain outcome-based expectations and flexibility
OPR – Pipeline Integrity	Scope of “onshore pipeline” definition	Update definition to include hydrogen and carbon dioxide
	Fixed notification review periods regardless of project complexity	Allow variable notification review periods based on scope and complexity
	Proposed new-technology notification requirements are unclear and duplicative	Avoid introducing new notification requirements; rely on existing management of change processes
	Ambiguity in definitions (large water bodies, trenchless crossings)	Clarify definitions; use flow diagrams to reduce ambiguity
	Expanded notification and traceability provisions	Maintain existing approaches unless clear rationale is provided
OPR – Reporting Harm	Inconsistent definitions of “incident” across jurisdictions	Harmonize definitions with other regulators
	Duplicative reporting of worker safety events	Avoid duplicative reporting and align with provincial occupational health and safety (OHS) systems
	Unclear criteria for loss of operational control and cybersecurity events	Further discussion is required with industry before setting expectations
	Reporting of high potential near misses is already covered under potential serious incidents (PSI)/high potential near misses (HPNM)	Avoid introducing additional reporting requirements for events that are already reportable provincially

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OPR – Rights and Interests of Indigenous Peoples, Socio-economic Effects and Engagement	Introduction of overlapping consultation and engagement requirements across Filing Manual and OPR	Embed Indigenous engagement expectations within the CER Filing Manual while avoiding duplicative or parallel requirements under the OPR
	Risk of inflexible or disproportionate engagement expectations	Maintain flexible, proportionate engagement aligned with established regulatory frameworks
OPR - Safety	Prescriptive safety terminology and documentation requirements	Allow companies flexibility in structuring process safety management systems
	Overlap with provincial occupational safety regimes	Focus CER oversight on pipeline process safety; rely on provincial frameworks for worker safety
	Emerging safety risk related to building encroachment near existing pipelines	Engage further with industry; avoid imposing prescriptive requirements at this stage
	Limited guidance on detection and warning systems for hazardous atmospheres	Support development of industry guidance without introducing new regulatory requirements
Filing Manuals – Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment	Potential duplication of provincial ESA processes	Avoid duplication and remain aligned with CSA Z662
	Expansion or restructuring of ESA guidance	Maintain existing proportional, risk-based expectations; no changes are required
Filing Manuals – Lands	Additional routing, land criteria, or site-selection requirements	Avoid introducing new requirements; retain existing industry practices
	Expanded guidance on compensation methodologies	Avoid introducing compensation guidance; existing practices are sufficient
	Overlapping consultation or provincial processes	Avoid duplicating provincial processes or creating parallel consultation programs
Filing Manuals – Rights and Interests of Indigenous Peoples	Creation of new legal standards or parallel assessment pathways	Ensure guidance supports clarity only and does not create new legal or regulatory requirements