



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

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SEP 22 2017

Mr. Tim Church
Vice President, Stakeholder Relations
AltaGas Ltd.
1700, 355 4th Ave SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0J1

Dear Mr. Church,

This is in response to your letter of August 28, 2017, and our meeting with you on August 8, 2017 concerning compliance with the *Fisheries Act* for the Alton Natural Gas Storage project. In our meeting you proposed a number of approaches to address compliance with the *Fisheries Act* and requested information concerning the testing methods that could be used to determine if an effluent is acutely lethal to fish.

Environment and Climate Change Canada is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the pollution prevention provisions of the *Fisheries Act*. These provisions include subsection 36(3) which prohibits the deposit of deleterious substances in water frequented by fish, or in any place, under any conditions, where the deleterious substance may enter any such water. The subsection 36(3) prohibition would apply where the concentrated brine from your operation is deposited within the channel.

The department is currently developing a test method to determine if an effluent is acutely lethal in the case of deposits of saline effluents into a saline environment. For the purpose of this test method, the threespine stickleback has been identified as an appropriate species. Acute toxicity to the threespine stickleback has been found at salt concentrations greater than 40 ppt.