Kinder Morgan TransMountain Expansion – Final Questionnaire – April 15

Overall picture/Priority risks

As you may be aware, the governments of British Columbia and Alberta are in a conflict over the Kinder Morgan TransMountain pipeline expansion project – which would move more oil from Alberta to the B.C. coast for shipment by tanker from the Vancouver area to markets overseas. The federal government approved the project in 2016, but B.C.’s NDP government is opposed and trying to block the expansion.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and B.C. Premier John Horgan met face-to-face in Ottawa on this issue.

Q1. We’d like to get people’s views on this. First, how closely would you say you have been following this issue? Are you ...

Seeing a lot of media coverage and discussing it with friends and family
Seeing some media coverage and having the odd conversation
Just scanning the headlines
Not seeing or hearing anything about it

Q2. All things considered, would you say you support or oppose the Kinder Morgan TransMountain pipeline expansion project?

Strongly support
Moderately support
Moderately oppose
Strongly oppose
Not Sure/Can’t say

[If unsure]

Q3. Even if you are mostly unsure about the TransMountain pipeline expansion project, we’d like to know whether you lean more towards:

Supporting it
Opposing it
Really can’t say

The players

Q12. Setting aside your own view on the TransMountain pipeline itself for a moment, based on whatever you have seen or heard, do you think each of the following have been doing a good job or a poor job in their overall handling of this issue?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE?]
Prime Minister Justin Trudeau
British Columbia Premier John Horgan
Premier Rachel Notley

Kinder Morgan, the company building this pipeline

[ANCHOR]

Very poor job
Poor job
Good job
Very good job
Not sure/Can’t say

Q8. The current British Columbia government led by NDP Premier John Horgan is opposed to the TransMountain pipeline expansion project and has been trying to prevent it from going ahead. It is the federal government’s legal jurisdiction to approve or deny projects like this one, and Ottawa has approved it. Which statement best reflects your own point of view, even if you don’t agree completely with either one?

[ROTATE]

The B.C. government is RIGHT to oppose the expansion of the TransMountain pipeline – even though the federal government has already approved it. The Horgan government should do what it can to delay or stop this project.

The B.C. government is WRONG to oppose the expansion of the TransMountain pipeline – the federal regulatory agencies have already approved it and the previous BC government approved it. The Horgan government should co-operate to see that the project is built.

[Ask Everyone]

Q4a. This Kinder Morgan TransMountain expansion project will “twin” an existing pipeline to carry roughly triple the current volume of oil. It will also mean an estimated six- or seven-fold increase in the number of oil tankers moving from the terminal through the Burrard Inlet in Metro Vancouver and out to sea. Currently, about four tankers travel to the terminal each month – the equivalent of one per week. After the expansion, the number of tankers would be closer to one per day.

When you think about this project, to what extent are you yourself concerned about the potential risk or danger posed by each of the following:

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

The overall environmental impact of extracting and burning more fossil fuels

The pipeline itself and the risks of major leaks or breaches on its 1,150 km path from Alberta to the BC coast in Burnaby/Vancouver

The environmental impact of constructing the second pipeline beside the existing one
The increased oil tanker traffic in the Burrard Inlet in Metro Vancouver visually detracting from the natural beauty

The risk of an oil spill or accident from a tanker carrying oil through the water of Metro Vancouver

[COLUMNS]
Not concerned at all
Not that concerned
Moderately concerned
Very concerned

Q4b. And, which ONE of these potential risks or dangers would say you personally are MOST concerned about?

[Same order as above]
Overall environment/fossil fuels
Pipeline itself -- leaks/breaches
Pipeline construction impact
Tanker traffic detracting from natural beauty
Oil spill/breach/tanker accident
None of these

Q5. Coming out of Sunday’s meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau said he would consider adding more money to the current $1.5-billion plan in place to ensure, among other things, tanker safety, clean-up facilities, spill prevention and response.

Putting aside whether or not more federal funds are added to this plan, and based on whatever you’ve seen or heard about this and on your own impressions, how confident are you in the overall plans and procedures currently in place to...

[ROWS – THIS ORDER]
Prevent an oil spill on land
Prevent an oil spill at sea
Respond to an oil spill on land
Respond to an oil spill at sea

[COLUMNS]
Not confident at all
Not that confident
Moderately confident
Very confident
Not sure/Can’t say

[BC Only]
Q6. Right now, the terminus, or end point, of the TransMountain pipeline is at the Westridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby. Suppose a new proposal was made to move the terminus to Deltapoint so the oil tankers would not be going through the Burrard Inlet. If it were moved to Deltapoint, as indicated on the map below, would this make you more likely or less likely to support the project, or would it not change your view one way or the other?

Much more likely to support
Slightly more likely to support
Slightly less likely to support
Much less likely to support
Would not change my view
Not sure/Can’t say

Key collateral issues

[Everyone]

Q7. The debate and argument about the Kinder Morgan TransMountain pipeline expansion project is raising other issues as well. As far as you're concerned, when thinking about this whole issue – how much weight or importance do you think should be given to each of the following:

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

The economic boost for all of Canada associated with getting more of our oil to international markets
The independence and expertise of Canada’s regulatory and approval process

The importance of maintaining Canada’s and BC’s reputation as a place to invest

The importance of maintaining a positive relationship between the federal government and those First Nations that oppose the pipeline

[COLUMNS]
No weight at all
Not much weight
A fair amount of weight
A great deal of weight

Q9A. On Sunday, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced that the federal government will take two new actions to push the completion of the TransMountain project forward. First it will start formal financial discussions with Kinder Morgan to see what might be done to reduce the riskiness of the company’s investment; and it will introduce new legislation asserting and reinforcing federal jurisdiction over this issue. In your view, would you say the federal government is:

[Rotate first two options]
Not doing enough to ensure project completion
Going too far to push the project to completion
Striking the right overall balance

Q9B Overall, which of the following two broad approaches do you think the federal government should be taking?

[ROTATE]
A more “hard line” approach threatening BC with consequences if they continue to keep trying to block the project
A softer approach with incentives and compromises to encourage BC to stop trying to block the project

Q9C There has been some talk that the Alberta and federal governments could become investors in – or outright owners of – the TransMountain pipeline and the expansion project. What are your views on this?

This is a good idea and would be worth the use of taxpayer funds
This is a bad idea and would be a poor use of taxpayer funds

**Paying the price**
Q10. There has been some debate about possible outcomes and consequences if the Horgan government continues to try to block the TransMountain pipeline expansion project. Assuming they do maintain their current opposition, how likely do you think it is that:

[ROWS - Randomize]
The federal government cancels infrastructure funds for improving transportation in Metro Vancouver

The courts rule that B.C. does NOT have constitutional jurisdiction or authority to block the pipeline

Businesses say they view B.C. as a poor investment climate, and look for opportunities elsewhere

Alberta cuts way back on oil and gas exports to B.C., leading to significant price increases

[COLUMNS]
Will NOT happen
Probably not
Probably happen
WILL happen
Can't say/Don't know

Q11. Now let's consider these consequences again and assume for a moment that they are going to happen if the B.C. government continues to try to block the pipeline expansion. In each case, if you knew that consequence was, in fact, going to occur – would you say the B.C. government should:

Stand firm in trying to block the pipeline
Or
Give in and allow the pipeline to be built?

[ROWS – SAME ORDER]
The federal government cancels infrastructure funds for improving transportation in Metro Vancouver

The courts rule that B.C. does NOT have constitutional jurisdiction or authority to block the pipeline

Businesses say they view B.C. as a poor investment climate, and look for opportunities elsewhere

Alberta cuts way back on oil and gas exports to B.C., leading to significant price increases

[COLUMNS]
Stand firm in trying to block the pipeline
Give in and allow the pipeline to be built
Protests

Q13. As you may have heard or seen, there have been anti-pipeline protests at the Kinder Morgan terminal in Burnaby, and almost 200 people have been arrested in recent weeks for defying court orders banning protesters from getting too close or disrupting construction work. Overall, do these protests make you ...

[ROTATE]
More likely to support the pipeline expansion
More likely to oppose the pipeline expansion
[ANCHOR]Neither – they have no effect on your opinion about this

Q14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

[ROWS – RANDOMIZE]

Kinder Morgan could have done a better job earning public support for this project and brought much of this on themselves

The people out there protesting don't represent the mainstream at all

B.C. Premier John Horgan should be doing more to condemn the actions of those protesting the pipeline

The entire Canadian economy will suffer if Alberta can’t get its oil to foreign markets

The federal government shouldn’t be able to force a project on a province if it doesn’t want it

[COLUMNS]
Disagree strongly
Disagree moderately
Agree moderately
Agree strongly
Not sure/Can’t say

Q15a. Ultimately, do you think the TransMountain expansion project will go ahead and be completed?

WILL definitely happen
Probably happen
Probably not
Will definitely NOT happen
Can’t say/Don’t know

Q15b. Suppose the expansion does NOT ultimately end up happening. How would you feel about that result?
Very pleased
Somewhat pleased
Neutral
Somewhat upset
Very upset

Impact
Q16. Suppose the project does go through. Now, let’s think about the economic impact of the TransMountain pipeline expansion project. In your opinion, would building the pipeline help, hurt, or have no impact on each of the following?

[ROWS – THIS ORDER]
Your own financial situation
Your local economy
British Columbia economy
Alberta economy
Canada's economy overall

[COLUMNS]
Hurt
Have no impact
Help

Q16B. Overall, when you think about this whole issue, how do you weigh the potential economic benefits versus potential environmental risks? Would you say:

[Alternate order this response list is presented in]
The economic benefits far outweigh any environmental risks
The benefits outweigh the risks
It's mixed – the potential benefits and risks are roughly equal
The risks outweigh the benefits
The environmental risks far outweigh any economic benefits

Pipeline politics

Turning to politics for a moment...

[Q17 BC only]
Q17a. How important is this issue of the TransMountain pipeline project when it comes to deciding who you would vote for at the provincial BC level? Would you say it is ...

One of the most important factors
An important factor, but one of many
Not much of a factor
Q17b. Suppose this TransMountain expansion project ends up being the key issue in the next British Columbia provincial election. If that were the case, which party’s candidate would you support?

The BC Liberal Party led by Andrew Wilkinson
The BC New Democratic Party (NDP) led by John Horgan
The BC Green Party led by Andrew Weaver
Other party
Undecided
Would not vote

[Everyone]
Q18a. How important is this issue of the TransMountain pipeline project when it comes to deciding who you would vote for at the national level? Would you say it is ...

One of the most important factors
An important factor, but one of many
Not much of a factor
Not a factor at all

Q18b. Suppose this TransMountain expansion project were the key issue in the next federal election. If that were the case, which party’s candidate would you support?

Conservative Party of Canada led by Andrew Scheer
Liberal Party of Canada led by Justin Trudeau
New Democratic Party (NDP) led by Jagmeet Singh
[QC ONLY] Bloc Quebecois led by Martine Ouellet
Green Party of Canada led by Elizabeth May
Other party
Undecided
Would not vote