



## *Media Release*

**For Immediate Release**

**October 24, 2013**

### **Consultation with First Nations results in redesign of pipeline project**

TransGas, the pipeline subsidiary of SaskEnergy, today announced that, after consultation with Carry the Kettle First Nation, Elders from the Nakota Nation and local landowners, a redesign of a major transmission pipeline project will take place to minimize impact to the newly discovered cultural lands near Bethune, Saskatchewan.

TransGas was working to install a transmission pipeline to supply natural gas service to the new K+S mine site when bone fragments were unearthed from a shallow location while excavating in the area on Tuesday, October 15, 2013. The bones have since been confirmed to be human, and likely date back to before European settlers came in contact with the local Aboriginal population.

As the remains were found in a shallow location, TransGas will re-engineer its pipeline approach so as to not disturb the surface, or soil immediately below the surface, in this area. Standard pipeline installation results in a trench depth of six feet and some surface disturbance. TransGas is currently re-engineering the project to utilize trenchless technology to mitigate ground surface disturbance. Using this technology, the pipeline would be installed at depths between 30-feet and 150-feet, for a distance of up to a kilometer under this area, so as to not disturb any additional remains or artifacts.

TransGas officials are consulting with regulatory authorities, as well as representatives of local First Nations communities.

“SaskEnergy and TransGas place a high priority on our relationships with First Nations communities and continually look for ways to improve our consultation processes,” said Doug Kelln, President and CEO of SaskEnergy/TransGas. “Work in the area of the discovery has been stopped, and will remain halted until consultation with First Nations has been completed. Moving forward, First Nations Elders and monitors will be on site to advise us as we complete this project.”

Prior to the pipeline construction of this project, an assessment of the area was completed to identify any potential environmental or heritage concerns, no findings were made that suggested the design of the project needed to be changed.

Carry the Kettle First Nation representatives, along with Elders from the Nakota Nation, visited the site October 23, 2013 to participate in a sacred blessing ritual and further examine the site.

TransGas will work with Chief Kennedy and Elders to determine the most appropriate and sensitive manner in which to deal with soil already disturbed at this location. If First Nations leaders feel further archeological work should be done, TransGas will ensure that occurs.

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