**Project Title:** Study on the Approval and Construction of Pipelines

**Principal Investigator: Dr. Mark Zbaracki; Ivey Business School, London, Ontario; mzbaracki@ivey.ca**

**Researcher: Julian Barg, PhD Candidate; Ivey Business School, London, Ontario; jbarg.phd@ivey.ca**

# Letter of Information

## Introduction

You are being invited to participate in this research entitled “Study on the Approval and Construction of Pipelines” because you were involved in or affected by the construction of a large pipeline. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information required for you to make an informed decision regarding participation in this research.

## Purpose

The purpose of his study is to determine the importance or unimportance that the risk of pipeline spills attains for the rejection, or approval and construction of a pipeline. This interview is conducted to confirm general timelines, and gain a deeper understanding of your experience when you were involved in the opposition to or approval and construction of the pipeline project.

## Procedures and Duration

Individuals who were involved in or affected by the construction of large pipelines are eligible to participate in the study. If you agree to participate, you will be asked to have a conversation with a researcher about your experience throughout that process. This interview will be conducted online via Zoom and will be recorded. If you do not wish to be recorded the researcher will instead take notes by hand. It is expected that this interview will last for about 1 hour. If questions remain open after this interview, the researcher may schedule a follow-up interview with you.

## Potential Risks and Discomforts

There are no known or anticipated risks or discomforts associated with participating in this study.

## Benefits

You may not directly benefit from participating in this study but the data gathered from this study may allow society as a whole to develop a better understanding of how the decision to conduct large projects with environmental risks, such as the construction of pipelines, comes about.

## Participation and Withdrawal

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study. Even if you consent to participate you have the right to not answer individual questions or to withdraw from the study at any time. If you decide to withdraw from the study, you may do so at any time by informing the researcher and ending the conversation. You can withdraw your data from this study within 7 years, after which your identifiable information will be destroyed (see section Confidentiality). After your personal information has been destroyed, the researcher may no longer be able to remove your de-identified data from the dataset.

## Confidentiality

We will make every effort to keep confidential all research records that identify you to the extent allowed by the law. Your study information will be de-identified and combined with information from other people taking part in the study. You will not be personally identified in these written materials.

No one outside the study team will have access to your data.

The researcher will keep any personal information about you in a secure and confidential location for 7 years, at which point it will be confidentially destroyed. Your de-identified transcripts will be labeled with a pseudonym. A list linking your pseudonym with your name and contact information will be kept by the researcher in a secure place, separate from your study data. Anonymized data may be retained indefinitely for future re-analyses.

Representatives of the University of Western Ontario Non-Medical Research Ethics Board may require access to your study-related records to monitor the conduct of the research.

## Compensation for Participation

You will not be compensated for your participation in this research.

## Rights of Research Participants

If you choose not to participate or to leave the study at any time it will have no effect on your position (e.g., academic or professional standing). You do not waive any legal right by consenting to participate.

## Who to Contact with Questions

If you have questions about this research study please contact Mr. Julian Barg: +1 226 984-1461; barg.julian@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or the conduct of this study, you may contact The Office of Human Research Ethics (519) 661-3036, 1-844-720-9816, email: ethics@uwo.ca. This office oversees the ethical conduct of research studies and is not part of the study team. Everything that you discuss will be kept confidential.

If you would like to receive a copy of any potential study results, please contact Julian Barg via jbarg.phd@ivey.ca.

**This letter is yours to keep for future reference. Please contact the Principal Investigator for another copy if needed.**

# Verbal Consent Form

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I have read the Letter of Information (or it has been read to me), have had the nature of the study explained to me and I agree to participate. All questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

|  |
| --- |
| I agree to be audio-recorded in this research. |
| ☐ Yes |
| ☐ No |

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| --- |
| I agree to be video-recorded in this research |
| ☐ Yes |
| ☐ No |

|  |
| --- |
| I consent to the use of unidentified quotes obtained during the study in the dissemination of this research. |
| ☐ Yes |
| ☐ No |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Participant name |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Date of participant verbal consent |

My signature means that I have explained the study to the participant named above. I have answered all questions.

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| --- |
|  |
| Name of person obtaining consent |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Signature of person obtaining consent |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| Date |