



File: 30050-20/CGLP-04-01

Ref: 104196

May 15, 2014

Mike Ridsdale
Environmental Assessment Coordinator
Office of the Wet'suwet'en
205 Beaver Rd Suite 1
Smithers BC V0J 2N1

Dear Mr. Ridsdale:

Thank you for your letter dated April 23, 2014, addressed to Brian Westgate regarding Office of the Wet'suwet'en's comments on the application for the proposed Coastal GasLink Pipeline Project (proposed Project). I note that you and Lisa Payne, Project Assessment Officer at the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), also discussed the Office of the Wet'suwet'en's comments on the application on May 1, 2014. On a personal note, it was very nice meeting you during government's meeting with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en on May 8 at Hagwilget.

Provision of Baseline Study Information

In your letter, you state that the proposed Project's application does not contain sufficient information specific to Wet'suwet'en cultural needs, specific impacts to Wet'suwet'en territories and Wet'suwet'en's asserted rights. You also state that you have requested that Coastal GasLink Pipeline Ltd. (Proponent) provide you with the methodology for their assessments, including the raw data from baseline studies in order for the Wet'suwet'en to assess impacts to your asserted rights.

EAO followed up with the Proponent regarding your request for the baseline study data in specific formats. As communicated by Cory Waters, First Nations Lead on LNG, at the May 8 meeting, it is EAO's understanding that the Proponent has provided the Office of the Wet'suwet'en with excel files of data collected within the Wet'suwet'en traditional territory for the Proponent's 2013 vegetation, wildlife, and fish and fish habitat programs.

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The Proponent also indicated that they provided pdf files of their stream crossing data sheets for watercourses crossed within the Wet'suwet'en's traditional territory that were surveyed in 2013. Please let EAO know if you require more information, or information in different formats than that which has been provided to you.

EAO is interested to receive information on how the proposed Project may affect the Office of the Wet'suwet'en's asserted rights in the vicinity of the proposed Project. I hope that with the provision of the above-noted files, the Office of the Wet'suwet'en will be able to provide EAO with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en's concerns regarding the proposed Project. EAO looks forward to the Office of the Wet'suwet'en's participation at the upcoming working group meetings for the proposed Project, scheduled over the upcoming two weeks.

Synchronous Permitting

The Office of the Wet'suwet'en has expressed concerns with synchronous permitting and that activities authorized under the *Oil and Gas Activities Act* may take place on the land base before an EA Certificate decision is made. I understand that the Oil and Gas Commission (OGC) has provided information through a letter sent on April 29, 2014 on issues related to investigative use permits and synchronous permitting for the construction and operation of pipelines. Additionally, the OGC is seeking to meet to further discuss permitting activities in Office of the Wet'suwet'en territory. If you have any questions or concerns related to synchronous permitting or permitting level activities, please contact Amy Avila at Amy.Avila@bcogc.ca or (250) 419-4479.

In addition to the Office of the Wet'suwet'en sections in the Application, EAO has also prepared a table to help you refer to relevant sections of the Application that speak to concerns raised by the Office of the Wet'suwet'en during pre-application. I enclose that table for your convenience, in the hope that it helps with your review of the Project's impacts on Wet'suwet'en interests. We also look forward to meeting with the Hereditary Chiefs of your Office, at your earliest convenience, as was committed on May 8, 2014.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed Project. I can be reached at 250-387-8745, or at Michael.Shepard@gov.bc.ca. You may also contact Lisa Payne at 250-387-8689, or Lisa.Payne@gov.bc.ca.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael Shepard
Project Assessment Manager

cc: James O'Hanley, Deputy Commissioner
Oil and Gas Commission

Lisa Payne, Project Assessment Officer
Environmental Assessment Office

Cory Waters, First Nations Lead for LNG
Environmental Assessment Office

Linda Robertson, Manager Skeena Region
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation

Katie Scott, Negotiator
Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation