

AUGUST 2023

WOODFIBRE LNG & FORTIS BC EAGLE MOUNTAIN GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS

Update from Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Rights & Title
and Environmental Working Group



WOODFIBRE LNG AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS

Projects that go through Environmental Impact Assessment usually require a variety of “Environmental Management Plans” or EMPs, prior to construction. An EMP is intended to explain the environmental protection actions and how they will be undertaken, and also monitoring plans to see if those actions are effective (achieving the desired purpose).

One of the Squamish Nation conditions for this project was that most of the EMPs must be approved by Squamish Nation prior to construction. The framework for approval is largely based on commitments made during the original environmental assessment of this project. The process to getting to EMP approval depends on the particular plan, but in general involves several draft documents and technical meetings. Once the review and approval process is completed, the EMPs will be available online. There may be a lag between EMP approval and availability online, as some EMPs also need approval from other regulatory agencies. We will circulate links as plans become available.

The list of EMPs requiring Squamish Nation approval prior to construction is below. This has been a very active topic through summer 2023, with a lot of detail oriented work. The more recent work picks up from work that was started and then shelved in 2019 – previous newsletters in 2019 and 2020 provide more info on this Squamish Nation condition (squamish.net/woodfibre-lng)

Water Management Plan

- Ensuring that water is only used from Mill Creek or Woodfibre Creek after ensuring there is enough for environmental flows. Most of the time during summer low flows, there will not be any water available for project construction but water can be stored during times of higher flow.

Marine Water Quality Management and Monitoring Plan

- Methods for marine construction (new piles, anchors, vessel movements) to minimize stirring up marine sediment. Monitoring plans to see if methods are working, and stop-work criteria if they aren't.

Marine Fish and Fish Habitat Management Plan

- Methods for marine construction to minimize disruption to fish habitat. Large-scale plans for restoring damaged habitat with emphasis on herring, juvenile salmon, and shellfish. Follow-up monitoring program to ensure habitat restoration is effective.

Marine Mammal Management and Monitoring Plan

- Primarily about noise but also vessel movements and set-back distances from whales, dolphins, otters, seals, and sea lions. Explains the noise limits that apply to the project, the activities that could exceed those limits, measures taken to ensure activities don't exceed the limits, and monitoring program to verify that everything is working as intended.

Wildlife Management Plan (Construction Phase)

- Construction plans for minimizing impact to wildlife – including marine birds. Managing food waste on site, noise and light impacts, set-back requirements for nests, and construction timing for certain activities to respect key breeding periods for birds and amphibians.

Community Services and Infrastructure Management Plan

- Details on how to minimize conflicts with community services and infrastructure (e.g. medical services, housing, recreation) and also ongoing communications plans to monitor for social conflicts from the project.

Marine Transportation Plan

- Final details for construction-phase marine traffic (routes and vessel numbers) and how it has been planned to reduce conflict with other marine users. Communication / monitoring / feedback programs for marine use conflict.

Wake Verification Plan

- Related to Marine Transportation Plan. Specific follow-up monitoring to determine if project marine vessels are causing marine waves that damage or disturb existing infrastructure or marine users.

Ballast Water Management Plan

- International vessels arriving in Howe Sound may discharge "ballast water" that is picked up elsewhere in the world, to give vessels more stability during cross-ocean voyages. This plan addresses how that water is treated (and verification of treatment) to remove marine life in the water that may otherwise be discharged and become invasive in Howe Sound.

Archaeology and Heritage Resources Management Plan

- Confirming what is known about the extensive pre-construction archaeological work on site, and what sort of work requires archaeologists (with Squamish Nation oversight) to monitor digging. Also outlines types of artifacts that can be encountered: how to recognize them and when to stop work.

Construction Environmental Management Plan

- Big picture plan that ties together many overlapping commitments through the other plans. Outlines roles and responsibilities for Woodfibre LNG and their contractors on environmental obligations. Addresses numerous other sub-topics that aren't included in the other management plans.

Woodfibre LNG is also required to develop the following plans prior to construction, that do not require Squamish Nation approval but were (or are) still being developed with Squamish Nation input: Invasive Plants Management Plan, Emergency Response Plan, and Traffic Control Management Plan.



NOTE:

The District of Squamish held their "Committee of the Whole" meeting on July 11 to discuss FortisBC's EGP Temporary Use Permit applications for the FortisBC Construction Yard near Valleycliffe and for the FortisBC Workforce Lodge near Quest University. The recording of this meeting is available [here](#). The public hearing for these two applications will be held on Tues Sep 26 at 6pm. See [here](#) for information on how to participate in writing, online, by phone or in person.

HAVE YOU BEEN IMPACTED?

Has your cultural use on our traditional territories been impacted in ANY way by the current pre-construction activities that are taking place?

Please report immediately to Whitney Joseph
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or
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