



MAY 2023

WOODFIBRE LNG & FORTIS BC EAGLE MOUNTAIN GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS

Update from Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw Rights & Title
and Environmental Working Group



ARCHEOLOGY SITE VISIT

Throughout April and much of May, FortisBC and Squamish Nation have been involved with recovering materials from an archaeological site along the route of the new pipeline. This site has been on the radar for years and this recovery work has been done through permit requirements and field supervision of Squamish Nation, including ACE (Archaeological, Cultural, Environmental) Monitors.

Archaeologists continued excavations of a L-shaped trench that was first started in 2022. Artifacts were discovered from just below the ground surface to a depth of about 40 cm.



Archeologist and Monitors digging at FortisBC site, April 2023



Monitors measuring the depth of the trench floor

Notably a few artifacts from a material which visually resembles Garibaldi obsidian (Nch'kay' Smant) were recovered. Although Garibaldi obsidian is quite distinctive looking, it will take further analysis to confirm. Obsidian is a type of volcanic glass.

Using strings to keep the units square and at the right size, a monitor measures the depth of the trench floor. The excavation was conducted in 5 cm levels (about 2 inches) so that the depth of archaeological materials can be recorded quite precisely. Another monitor continued excavations at the bottom of another trench to determine the extent to which archaeological materials are found. The sediment visible in the trench is a silty-sand without a lot of pebbles or cobbles. This suggests that the sediment was deposited by water, likely a stream of some sort that has now moved away from the area.

After recording the stratigraphy (layers of dirt visible in the trench walls are drawn and photographed), the trench was backfilled. All the collected archaeological material will be analyzed over the coming months and then summarized in a report. Stay tuned!

A blessing ceremony was scheduled for May 19th, 2023 but was postponed until further notice due to the fire restrictions in Squamish.

HERRING ROE HARVEST

Herring are important! As part of the Project environmental conditions, WLNG is responsible for restoring previously impacted marine habitat and for monitoring long-term shawt' (herring) use of the area around Swiyat, to verify predictions that project construction and operation has an overall net benefit to herring habitat.

A related environmental condition is testing food sources in the Project area for human health risks. In April 2022, WLNG sampled ch'émesh (herring roe), Aýx (crab) and Lhémkw'a (sole) for pollution contamination. That testing determined that there is no health risk at this time. Ch'émesh (herring roe) monitoring and laboratory testing will continue periodically during project operations.



Environmental Field Biologist searching for ch'émesh at Zorro Bay

We had hoped to include community members in the ch'émesh (herring roe) harvest last year but due to covid restrictions we had to scale back. No laboratory sampling of ch'émesh was scheduled this year, but WLNG offered to take last years interested members for a day out on the boat to search for ch'émesh so last month an Environmental Specialist, Environmental Field Biologist, Vessel Captain, Vessel Medic, Squamish Nation Community Outreach Coordinator and 3 Squamish Nation members participated in the search for ch'émesh.

We first did a drive by of Swiyát to view project area, first stop was kw'émkw'em (Defence Islands), then Ts'itpsm (Zorro Bay) where we got onto the beach and checked the algae for roe and lastly visited the petroglyphs up from Furry Creek. We were not successful in finding any ch'émesh as it was too late in the season. Stay tuned for more ch'émesh harvesting opportunities next year!



Environmental Field Biologist, Environmental Specialist & Squamish Nation Community Member in route to search for ch'émesh

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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