



Environmental Update – Woodfibre LNG and FortisBC Gas Pipeline Projects

24 July 2019

Woodfibre LNG (WLNG) may start site clearing and project construction in late 2019 or early 2020. The related FortisBC natural gas pipeline project may start construction by mid-2020 (construction will probably last around 4 years).

Squamish Nation has a regulatory role on these projects, overseeing compliance with Environmental Conditions in the Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Agreements.

Notable project updates for FortisBC's pipeline:

- FortisBC will be starting a geotechnical survey program (drilling to confirm rock and soil conditions) this summer to fine-tune the pipeline route. This is for minor route adjustments within the same general corridor that was initially planned.
 - The first phase of this drilling program will be within the roadway of backroads in the Indian River watershed. In late summer and early autumn the second phase will require drilling outside of existing roads. Equipment will be airlifted to avoid cutting new roads, but this work does require clearing small pads for each test hole.
 - A Squamish Nation environmental team joined FortisBC on a tour of the pipeline route in early June (see pictures below).
 - FortisBC has posted information on these programs elsewhere, including in the Squamish Nation newsletters.
 - **If you have concerns or interest in this work, please see Contact Information at the bottom of this bulletin.**



Hixon Creek



Ray Creek



- FortisBC is still investigating whether they can change the project to put the gas compressor station at *swiyat* (Woodfibre) instead of Mt. Mulligan. Lots of details to explore. It would be good news if this change could work, but we don't know if it is doable yet.
- FortisBC are working on various Environmental Monitoring Plans and Environmental Management Plans that must be approved by Squamish Nation before construction can begin.

Notable project updates for Woodfibre LNG:

- Woodfibre LNG received their "Facility Permit" from the BC Oil and Gas Commission in early July. That is a big milestone for the company, but that does not mean Woodfibre is ready to start construction. There are still many approvals needed along the way. This includes Squamish Nation approval of numerous Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans for the construction phase. Pre-construction requirements will continue through this summer and fall.
- Recent employee to PGL, Adrienne Charlie, will be incorporating Squamish language into Environmental Monitoring and Management Plans and other project related communication.
- Woodfibre LNG are exploring options for worker housing. This has become a topic of high interest and media stories. One of the options includes a floating barge-based construction camp at *swiyat*, but no decisions have been made yet. We expect there will be certainty on worker accommodations by the end of this summer.
 - **If you have concerns or interest in this work, please see Contact Information at bottom of this bulletin.**

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERSIGHT

- The Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Agreements triggered the creation of an Environmental Working Group for each project. It is the job of the Environmental Working Groups to ensure Squamish Nation's environmental conditions are met.
- Squamish Nation appointed technical representatives to the two Environmental Working Groups:
 - Tyler Gray and Bridget Dunne were hired on consulting contracts from PGL Environmental Consultants.
 - Adrienne Charlie has now joined for cultural, technical, and administrative support. Adrienne brings her knowledge of culture and language to the team. She will be working with community members to support Squamish Nations Rights & Title and conducting interviews with Elders, hunters & gatherers.
 - The Working Groups (Squamish and company representatives) meet about once per month.



- Squamish Nation's IBA Implementation Committee appointed an Environmental Subcommittee in March 2019.
 - The Environmental Subcommittee includes Squamish Nation's Working Group representatives (Bridget Dunne, Tyler Gray, and Adrienne Charlie), and Councillors Deanna Lewis (chair), Richie Baker, and Deborah Baker.
 - The Subcommittee provides internal oversight of the environmental team and assists communication with membership.

GET INVOLVED

Some environmental conditions will require internal planning to ensure Squamish Nation's values are properly represented. The following are examples where more community involvement is needed.

If you would like to get involved in any of the projects listed below, have an interest in participating in other areas, or have any concerns with environmental commitments for WLNG or FortisBC please get in touch (contact details are below).

- **Protect Cultural Sites:** The FortisBC project will involve pipeline construction that is outside of – but very near to - two Squamish Nation *Síiyamin ta Skwxwú7mesh* (Cultural Sites): Stawamus River, and Indian River. FortisBC must adopt measures to minimize disruption to those Cultural Sites (e.g. visual or noise-related impacts that diminish the cultural site value). Additional measures may be related to timing of certain work, visual screening, buffer areas for “ancillary” activities like equipment lay-down zones, etc. **Timing: active now;** scheduled to conclude end of August 2019.
- **Marine Mammals:** The WLNG Environmental Agreement requires that, prior to operations, WLNG must contribute to a long-term monitoring project to better understand noise-related impacts on marine mammals in Howe Sound (of all vessels, not just WLNG). Decisions will be necessary about budget allocation and monitoring priorities, as well as the option of partnering with other research programs. **Timing:** planning may begin in 2019, but implementation is to start during project operations (approx. 2024). (Noise monitoring is also required during construction, with monitoring details outlined in environmental conditions from the BC Environmental Assessment Office. The operations plan is overseen only by Squamish Nation).
- **Green Zone Restoration:** Mill Creek is a salmon-bearing stream that cuts directly through the middle of the WLNG property. Creek habitat is badly degraded from past pulp & paper operations. One of the WLNG conditions requires WLNG to restore Mill Creek and surrounding riparian area. Squamish Nation will need to decide on restoration objectives and potential trade-offs (e.g. in-stream restoration or riparian vegetation) and identify possible funding partners. **Timing:** planning in 2019-2020, with the restoration work following project commissioning (approx. 2024).



- **Marine Traffic Management:** Through construction and operation of the WLNG project, and during construction of the FortisBC project, both proponents will create new marine traffic in Howe Sound. Both proponents are also required to minimize disruption to Squamish Nation members using Howe Sound as much as possible. Squamish Nation will need to coordinate with relevant departments and affiliated recreational groups and develop a system for how to report marine use conflicts. **Timing:** summer 2019 and throughout construction and operations.
- **Emergency Response Planning:** Avoiding and responding to environmental emergencies was one of the highest concerns noted from Squamish Nation members during early project reviews. Squamish Nation will have the regulatory authority to approve (or not) some aspects of the proponent's emergency response plans. This may relate, for instance, to if and how Squamish Nation departments, or affiliated groups, are involved in emergency response protocols (e.g. spill clean-up). **Timing:** early discussions may begin in 2019, but detailed planning will likely occur in 2021 through 2023.

CONTACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Newsletter updates will be issued regularly to keep members up to date on these two projects.

If you have environmental questions or concerns about Woodfibre LNG or the related FortisBC pipeline, please contact Tyler Gray (tgray@pggroup.com or 250 940 0768), or Councillor Deanna Lewis (Deanna.lewis@squamish.net). Tyler is Squamish Nation's lead representative on the Environmental Working Groups for these two projects. Deanna Lewis is the Chair of the IBA Environmental Subcommittee.

Please also get in touch if you have topics you would like to see covered in these updates.