



Woodfibre LNG and FortisBC EGP Projects:
Update from Squamish Nation's Environmental Team
November 2020

Since June 2019, Squamish Nation's (SN) environmental team has been posting monthly project updates through the community newsletters.

In this edition:

- Page 1 (below) – Information about the Squamish Nation Member survey
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Thank You for Feedback on Project Amendments!

WLNG and FortisBC Questionnaires for Squamish Nation Members

WoodfibreLNG and FortisBC are both proposing changes to project design including a floating camp, pipeline re-routes, and the relocation of a compressor station.

These changes will need approval from Squamish Nation, provincial and federal governments (or the proponents will defer to their currently approved project details).

The community questionnaire for proposed amendments to the pipeline and LNG facility received 49 survey submissions up to the end of September. We are responding directly to each submission that included contact info. A high-level summary of the feedback is included in the FortisBC Pipeline section (page 2) and Woodfibre LNG section (page 3).

If you have any questions or feedback about these topics, please reach out by phone (778-966-1117) or email (swiyat@squamish.net).

Why are these amendment applications taking so long?

If you have been following the project news, these amendment proposals are not new. The floatel has been under consideration for nearly a year now. The pipeline amendments have been under study for as long, but will only be “formally” submitted this month. It is a lengthy process as governments determine what information is necessary to make a final decision combined with necessary changes due to covid-19.

Input from membership helps Squamish Nation determine priority areas, source additional information, and guide mitigation measures where needed.



FortisBC Geotechnical Drilling Update

From mid-September to mid-October, FortisBC conducted geotechnical and geophysics work within the forest service road (FSR), along the proposed pipeline route in the Stawamus River Valley and Indian River Valley.

Geotechnical investigations involve drilling narrow, vertical holes to learn more about the subsurface soil and rock conditions, while geophysical surveys are used to determine the bedrock depth and faults using radar/seismic methods.

Squamish Nation cultural monitors and archaeologists were on site to monitor work and communicate findings in areas of sensitivity such as rock shelters. A FortisBC environmental monitor was also present for all work, and daily monitoring reports were shared with Squamish Nation.

This is planning-stage work in advance of potential construction in 2022 (assuming all pre-construction environmental conditions are met).



Drill rig for geotechnical work (photo credit: S. McLaughlin, Jacobs Consultants Inc)

Tree Protection during Geotechnical Work

The Squamish Nation–FortisBC Environmental Working Group meets monthly to discuss upcoming work. One outcome of this collaboration was the protection of roughly 40 trees during the geotechnical work.

These were flagged as “Danger Trees” that should be removed for worker safety. By adjusting work practices and timing, FortisBC were able to leave these danger trees in place. (This isn't always possible, this is definitely a case-by-case sort of thing).

We don't always get to highlight the little wins that arise from Working Group meetings, but every little bit matters!

Early Feedback on FortisBC Amendment Application

We received a total of 17 comments on the FBC Amendment (to be filed by FortisBC in late Oct). Feedback on relocating the compressor station from Mt Mulligan to Swíyat was an equal mix of support (e.g., logical move away from residents and closer to industrial activities) and opposition (e.g., concern for the environment, future generations and rights of Nation members).

Feedback on relocating the pipeline from west to east side of Stawamus River had slightly more support; better to twin an existing pipeline, minimize river crossings, fewer impacts to wildlife, and fewer environmental concerns in general. Comments received opposing the relocation were based mostly on opposition to the project in general and a desire to protect Nation lands.

A key point to clarify is that pipeline construction in general, and especially at any water crossings, will be monitored by numerous parties, including Squamish Nation, to ensure safe practices and water quality standards.



Early Feedback on Floatel Amendment Application

Thank you for your feedback on the proposed floatel by Woodfibre. We received 32 comments and have summarized the key points below:

Main Support for Floatel	Main Opposition for Floatel
Reduce concerns with workers in town.	Concerns with grey water, sewage and garbage disposal
Reasonable option given limited housing in Squamish (it won't take vacancies away from Valley residents).	Environmental concerns – workers should respect the land and water as if it was there home, consequences need to be in place.
Employment and training opportunities, including archaeology work.	Preference for member housing to be built or provided.
Monitoring to protect land and sea, as well as respect for our land.	Safety for women and children, concerns around murdered and missing Indigenous women.
All the bases sound like they're covered.	Prefer to move away from fossil fuels (general statement of opposition to project, not necessarily the floatel).
	The need to educate workers on Indigenous issues, respect for the land and culture
	Concerns around worker rotations, drug/alcohol, medical staff on site, covid response, natural disasters, high winds, and tidal actions.

Here are some key points on the floatel, some of which clear up comments above:

- The floatel would only be used by WLNG workers (not FortisBC).
- The floatel would be like a barge (no motor)
- Approximately 600 workers would be housed for 3 or 4 years of construction (it would be removed for operation).
- All grey water, sewage and garbage will be removed from site and disposed of at an approved facility.
- SN has an Impact Benefit Agreement (IBA) with WLNG to procure SN businesses, workers and training (contact Paul Wick for more details).
- Some comments were interested in project housing being constructed and then given to Squamish Nation. That would be an IBA topic, and environmental team has passed along those suggestions.
- Details regarding worker rotations and covid response are expected from WLNG in January 2021.



General Contact – Environmental Oversight

We want to keep nation members as informed as possible on these two projects and welcome your feedback, concerns and questions.

778-966-1117

swiyat@squamish.net

Education, Employment and Training

For Squamish Nation members, there are opportunities for jobs and training with the Woodfibre LNG and FortisBC projects. Please contact Paul Wick, Squamish Nation’s Director of Education, Employment and Training, to learn more about these opportunities.

Paul Wick

604-982-7600

Paul_wick@squamish.net

The amendment survey will now stay open online until at least November 30.

<https://www.squamish.net/lng-fortisbc-survey/>

We look forward to hearing from you

Huy chexw a / Thank you

