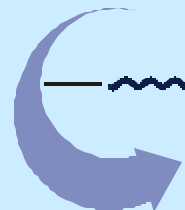


IMPACT ASSESSMENT FROM A FIRST NATIONS PERSPECTIVE: Review of a Proposed LNG Storage Facility

Authors:

Susan Wilkins and Michael Shum (PGL)

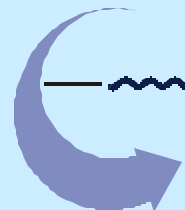
Randall Lewis (Squamish Nation)



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Outline

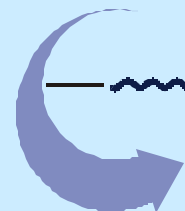
- **The Proposed Project**
- **Regulatory Review Process**
- **Workshop Methodology**
- **Workshop Findings**
- **Feedback into Regulatory Process**
- **Final Result**
- **Lessons Learned (1999)**
- **Current Approach (2004)**
- **Conclusions**



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The Proposed Project

- Westcoast Gas Services Inc. (WGSi) proposal
- Liquid Natural Gas storage facility (145,000m³ LNG)
- 10 ha development on 24 ha property - 50m tall and 74-82m diameter LNG storage tank

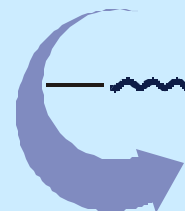


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Regulatory Review Process



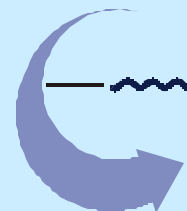
- BC EA Act - evaluation of potential impacts of proposed developments (BC EAO)
- Application for Certificate
- Project Committee review
- Public Consultation
- Project Report Specifications
- Project Report
- Decision



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Regulatory Review Process₂

- EA Act requires consultation with First Nations to identify all project impacts
- Proposed site on the traditional territory of the Squamish Nation
- Squamish Nation role :
Intervenor

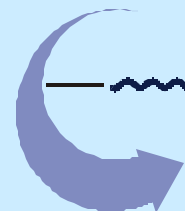


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Regulatory Review Process₃

PGL's role

- Review environmental impact assessment report's on behalf of Squamish Nation
- Support Squamish Nation to help them participate in the process effectively and efficiently
- Assess significance of project impacts from the Squamish Nation's viewpoint - *Impact Assessment Workshop*

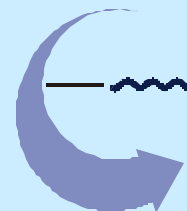


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Workshop Methodology



- Prepared briefing notes
- Participation by Squamish Nation representatives
- *EIA crash course* - impact assessment methods
- valued ecosystem components
- effects matrix - adverse, significance, likelihood

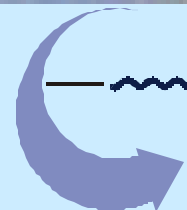


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Workshop Findings

Adverse, Significant, and Likely Effects

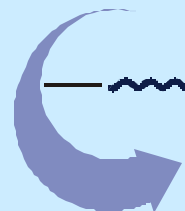
- Manageable
 - **terrestrial habitat (mountain goats), aquatic resources, timber and economic resources**
- Not-manageable
 - **acoustic and visual aesthetics, land use, heritage and cultural resources, impacts to aboriginal title**



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Feedback into Regulatory Process

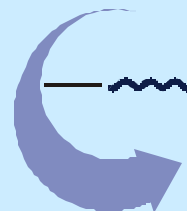
- summary of findings to BC EAO and WGSII on behalf of Squamish Nation
- impact assessment mitigation - negotiations between WGSII and Squamish Nation on non-manageable VECs



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Final Result

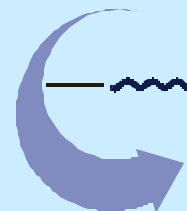
- BC EAO granted approval and certificate (with conditions)
- project has not been built
- stalled in other utilities regulatory process and economics



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Lessons Learned (1999)

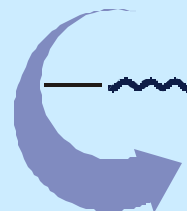
- significant role for First Nations as intervenors in the review process
- use of combined technical and First Nation (traditional) knowledge
- First Nations bring a different perspective to the subjective process of impact assessment



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Current Approach (2004)

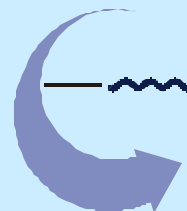
- BC Government commissioned development of a First Nation's Environmental Assessment Toolkit
- guidance to First Nations for dealing with developers/government in environmental assessment process
- theme is for First Nations to get fully engaged



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Conclusions

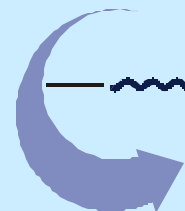
- First Nations need to get fully involved in environmental assessment
- First Nations need to understand how environmental assessment process works
- determination of significance of impacts from First Nations perspective is key



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Contact Information

- Pottinger Gaherty Environmental Consultants Ltd.
(www.pggroup.com)
- Squamish Nation (www.squamish.net)
- BC Environmental Assessment Act (www.eao.gov.bc.ca)
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Act
(www.ceaa.gc.ca)
- First Nations Environmental Assessment Toolkit



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