

LNG Alliance – Stopping the LNG project on Texada Island

Backgrounder: the risks

The Project

WestPac LNG Corporation proposes to build an LNG plant facility on Texada Island. The project also includes up to a 1,200 MW gas-fired generation station and a high voltage power transmission power line from the proposed site at Coho Point down Texada to B.C. Hydro's existing "Cheekeye Dunsmuir" line.

Threats to the region

A MARINE AND AVIATION TRAFFIC IN THE STRAIT OF GEORGIA

LNG tankers are the size of 3 football fields (950 ft). This proposal would see tankers pass Victoria, the Gulf Islands, and move up the Georgia Strait past the beach towns and communities along Vancouver Island's east coast up to Qualicum Beach and Comox, and on Texada's west coast. One LNG tanker would go either up or down the Georgia Strait every 5 days. The activity would be extremely disruptive to the heavily-used Georgia Strait and could impact the existing commercial, cruise ship and sport fishing economies in the area.

B SAFETY & SECURITY

Because of the highly volatile nature of LNG, sometimes referred to as "floating bombs", security around their movement would be extensive. Northern Texada and the waters off Kiddie (Coho) Point may become high-security zones, including the Gillies Bay Airport. If an explosion were to occur, the damage could be extensive given the energy involved. In the US, in the era of terrorism, other marine traffic must respect a very large buffer zone around the LNG tankers for safety reasons. These are substantial-- 2 miles behind, 1 mile in front and ½ mile on either side of the tanker.

C GAS EMISSIONS.

As part of the project, a massive LNG facility re-gasification plant, along with 2 large storage plants, would be built at Coho Point, devastating the natural environment there. The plant would bring the LNG to air temperature and refine the gas to pipeline specification. More emissions would be created when the heat content of the gas is lowered to 950-1,000 MMbtu, meeting pipeline specifications, eliminating propane and other gases from the methane.

Westpac also plans a large 600MW gas-fired electricity generating plant, expandable to 1,200 MW. A proposed 252MW gas-fired plant at Duke Point near Nanaimo would have emitted 800,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. The coastal community resisted this project successfully all the way to the BC Court of Appeal. Based on the Duke Point proposal, a 600 MW plant will throw out approximately 2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, and 27 tons of fine particle concentration (PM2.5/TSP). (Source: Duke Point Hearings). The proposal would also produce 4.35 times the emissions of all 4 pulp mills active in the Strait of Georgia. Together they produced 459 thousand tones of greenhouse gas emissions in 2005 (Source: Environment Canada).

D MARINE LIFE

It is expected that WestPac would use sea water cooling for the gas-fired electricity generation plant so there will be consequential effects on marine life. This tip of Texada is a renowned fishing spot and the waters around Texada are the cleanest in the Georgia Strait.

E ENVIRONMENTAL DEGREDEATION

A new high-voltage hydro power line would be built on Texada. The transmission line would be 175 feet high, 150m wide and 18 km long located on a swath of clear-cut from Kiddie (Coho) Point past Van Anda and on to the B.C. Hydro Reactor site near Bob's Lake on Texada.

The visual Impact of the re-gasification plant and storage facility on Coho Point would be quite striking. A 600-1,200 MW generation plant would be about 100 ft in height. The size of the LNG tankers would dwarf the Blubber Bay loading facilities. The power line down Texada would be 150 meters wide. It is most likely a further pipeline would be needed to move the gas south.

F ECONOMIC CONCERNS ON TEXADA

Texada's economy has been based on the limestone quarries and forestry but increasingly it has attracted new residents from Vancouver and other parts of BC and Canada who value the island's environment. These new residents create a large number of jobs for local people, including carpenters, electricians, plumbers, realtors, and developers, and support the local stores. The WestPac proposal will discourage this retirement industry, placing jobs at risk.

G TOURISM

The Georgia Strait is one of the most beautiful parts of the world, and as the tourism industry is so quick to say, BC is truly the 'best place on earth'. However, the promotion of tourism and a healthy lifestyle cannot occur while having LNG tankers moored in our backyard. The WestPac proposal would result in a loss of tourist and recreational interests, and negative consequences to artisans, restaurants, and tourist based incomes for the island.

H TAX BASE

The negative visual impact of the plant, the effect on real estate, economic activity and lifestyle through environmental degradation and the impact on health costs from the pollution, will far outweigh any dollar signs on the Powell River tax base.