



Westpac LNG.

Welcome to Texada!

Texada Action Now (TAN) has held a number of meetings with residents. TAN is opposing the Westpac proposal which is to build an LNG facility on Texada, together with a 600-1,200 MW gas-fired generation facility and transmission links down Texada Island.

TAN's committee is meeting to organise our work plan and set priorities. With your help we will defeat this proposal.

Westpac

We know a little more about Westpac's proposal for northern Texada. Judging from Westpac's presentation to the Chamber of Commerce on Friday night, the project is either at a conceptual stage or Westpac is being reticent with the facts and impacts. As far as we can establish there have been no discussions with Terasen or access to the right-of-way; it may be that a new or adjacent line would be needed. It would seem that all Westpac has is an option to purchase the lease at Coho Point.

Westpac is a private company with 30 equity investors. It is a company promoting projects. It has no current projects in operation. It has no operational cash flow and no track record. We are promised 70 jobs and an increase in the tax base for the regional district.

But what would this project really mean for Texada and communities on the Georgia Strait?

LNG tankers

It means very large LNG tankers the size of 3 football fields (950 ft) moving past Victoria, the Gulf Islands, the beach towns and communities along Vancouver Island's east coast up to Qualicum Beach and Comox, and on Texada's west coast.

There is a long standing Canadian moratorium against oil tanker traffic in coastal waters off BC yet Westpac is proposing that LNG tankers in *inland* waters would be acceptable.

The Canadian government is currently trying to prevent US bound LNG tankers from passing through the Passamaquoddy Bay between New Brunswick and Maine. Federal Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier said "this passage is internal waters and it's very important for us...we want to protect our people and our environment...the Prime Minister has been very clear on this". (CBC Sept9-07)

Transmission Lines

It will mean a new high-voltage hydro power line through the heart of Texada. A "Cheekeye Dunsmuir" set of towers on a swatch of clearcut from Coho Point past Van Anda and on to the B.C. Hydro Reactor site near Bob's Lake on southern Texada. The immediate impact of Westpac's announcement is the immediate devaluation, perhaps by hundreds of thousands of dollars, of all properties close to or crossed by the proposed transmission line.

Gas-fired electricity generation

Westpac 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. Westpac have not told us the plant emissions but based on Duke Point, a 1,200 MW plant will throw out 3.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide, equivalent to 700,000 cars (source: Duke Point Hearings).

For comparison, the Catalyst Paper/Pulp Mill in Powell River reported emissions of less than 25,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases in 2005 (source: Environment Canada).

This would make a 1,200MW generating plant equal to 152 Powell River Pulp Mills (3.8 million divided by 25,000)

Regassification Plant

It would mean a massive regassification plant to bring the LNG to air temperature and reduce the energy content of the gas to pipeline specifications. We are promised 2 massive storage tanks and more are bound to follow.

There are no LNG import facilities on the US Pacific coast. Many have been proposed, none has been approved. Justification for the Westpac project rests with the ability to sell gas to the US, so one asks; if the US needs the gas, why build the plant here?

What does it really mean for us?

A vast number of communities in BC's most populous areas will be affected. If anything goes wrong a number of communities would be at risk including Powell River. The damage could be extensive given the energy involved. The exclusion zones around the plant and the LNG tankers will mean disruption to local shipping and recreational fishing. How can we be sure that our essential ferry services to PR and Comox will operate normally? And security? - northern Texada and the waters off Coho Point will be high security zones.

Westpac proposes sea water cooling so there will be consequential effects on marine life. How can BC describe itself as the "best place on Earth", busy promoting tourism, cruise traffic and lifestyle, while having LNG tankers moored in our backyard? We cannot have it both ways. The visual impact of the plant, the effect on real estate 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.

Write: be involved.

Please write in the first instance to Dave Murphy, our Regional District representative, giving your views (dmurphy@prcn.org) at 5776 Marine Ave, PR, VBA 2M4. Please make sure you write also to the Chair of the Powell River Regional District, Colin Palmer, at the same address. administration@powellriverrd.bc.ca

Write to our MLA, Nicholas Simons. 4595 Marine Avenue, Powell River, VBA 2L2. Nicholas.simons.mla@leg.bc.ca

Please also contact the Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources, the Hon. Richard Neufeld, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC, V8V 1X4. Richard.neufeld.MLA@leg.bc.ca

It is important also to let the Minister of the Environment, the Hon. Barry Penner, know how you feel. He can be contacted at: env.minister@gov.bc.ca.

The outcome will rest crucially with the federal government. Our MP for West Vancouver and the Sunshine Coast is Blair Wilson, 4595 Marine Avenue, Powell River BC, V8A 2K7. wendy@blairwilson.ca.

Rafe Mair

Rafe Mair will be in PR on Monday, Oct 1st, 7pm, at the Town Centre Hotel to moderate a discussion on the proposed LNG plant. "Economic development or environmental disaster?". A shuttle will meet the 6.15 ferry leaving Blubber Bay. Our Chair, Chuck Childress will be part of a 3 person panel. The meeting should be informative. Westpac has announced that it is not sending a company representative to be part of these discussions.

If you want more information please go to our website www.texadalng.ca or www.texadalng.com

Donations to help TAN can be made at the Credit Union in Van Ande, or by cheque made payable to Texada Action Now, PO Box 128, Van Ande, VON 3K0

Thank you .