

Wake Up BC!

by Richard Fletcher, TAN,
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Texada Action Now.

The Westpac proposal means gigantic LNG tankers the size of 3 football fields moving past highly populated areas; Victoria, Saturna Island, Salt Spring Island, Galliano Island, Gibsons Landing, The Sechelt Peninsula; all the beach towns and cities along Vancouver Island's east coast including Ladysmith, Chemainus, Parksville, Nanaimo, Nanoose Bay, Qualicum Beach, Fanny Bay, Courtenay and Comox; Lasqueti Island, Jedediah island, and Gillies Bay, Westview and Powell River. Oil tankers are not permitted in coastal waters, Westpac expects authority to use vast LNG tankers in inland waters!!

It means a new high-voltage hydro power line through the heart of Texada. A 600ft.-wide swath of clearcut along its length to mid- island from Kiddie Point.

It means the construction and operation of a huge power plant throwing out over one half a million tons of CO2 per year, the equivalent of 120,000 cars, plus nitrous oxides and PM10's.

It means a massive regassification plant to bring the methane 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.

POLITICAL RESPONSE

However politicians on the Power River Regional District seem seduced by "tax base" and whatever promises Westpac have made.

THINK OF THE IMPLICATIONS

Think for a moment. A vast number of communities in BC's most populous areas will be under threat. If anything goes wrong communities from Westview up to Lund will be directly in the firing line. And if it does, the energy involved means obliteration is a possibility. The exclusion zones around the plant and the LNG tankers will mean a massive disruption to local shipping. Will the Powell River ferry be able to cross to Comox? And security?-- wow, a bit more than the local RCMP detachment will be required.

Westpac proposes sea water cooling so irreparable damage will be done to marine life. Will communities around the Georgia Strait be able to continue to attract new residents? And tourism, how can BC promote itself as the "best place on Earth", busy promoting convention centres and cruise traffic, while having LNG tankers moored in our backyard. We cannot have it both ways. And the health costs to prop up our local people from the pollution will far outweigh any dollar signs on the tax base.

SO.....

So think again Power River Regional District. If this thing goes ahead your tax base will be under threat from falling real estate values and outward migration. Do you seriously expect cruise ships to dock in Power River? Thankfully the issues are BC wide. So speak up BC.