CARING FOR OUR HA'HOULTHEE



Huu-ay-aht First Nations
A Rich History, A Bright Future.

Steelhead LNG

Caring for our Ha'houlthee

For thousands of years, our Nation has been guided by our connection to our Ha'houlthee (traditional territory). Central to that connection has been a shared responsibility by our Ḥaw̓iiḥ and our citizens to ensure that all activities undertaken within our Ha'houlthee is done in a way that respects our land and marine habitats, so they can continue to sustain us for generations to come.

Today, our land has provided us with a new opportunity—in the form of a proposed LNG project at Sarita Bay—that has the potential to sustain our people, improve our quality of life and generate employment and business opportunities that can bring our people home. Over the months and years to come, we will undertake a thorough analysis of whether or not this LNG opportunity is right for us.

From November 29th-30th, Huu-ay-aht citizens will contribute to the governance of the Nation by voting about whether or not you would like to continue exploring the proposed Project. Our Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council have considered the proposed Project and agree that it is in the best interest of the Huu-ay-aht, but ONLY if the proposed Project meets certain conditions. These conditions are laid out in the motion at the People's Assembly.





What environmental conditions must the proposed Project meet to protect our Ha'houlthee?

The proposed Project must:

- follow our core values of ʔisaak (respect), hišuk ċawak (everything is connected) and ʔuuʔałuk (taking care of), throughout all stages of the Project
- carry out environmental best management practices and stewardship
- there must be a net gain of cultural heritage values and or traditional use areas through conservation and protection of Treaty Settlement Land (TSL) areas
- the acquired lands will be converted into TSL prior to long term interest
- through the Legacy Fund, restore and enhance the Sarita River and the marine and aquatic resources in the surrounding area, including the full return of the Sarita River salmon run
- establish an independent reclamation fund to ensure the land will be returned to a state acceptable to Huu ay aht or repurposed for new projects, whatever is decided by Huu-ay-aht at that time

A special fund will be developed for reclamation. This means that when the Project is finished, there will be monies available to ensure that the land will be returned to a state acceptable to Huu-ay-aht or repurposed for new projects, whatever is decided by Huu-ay-aht at that time.

One of the features that makes the proposed Sarita Bay site well-suited for an LNG facility is that it has a natural defense against tsunamis. We will assess this as part of our environmental assessment, and will to studies to understand the effects of natural disasters on the facility, so that it can be designed to withstand a natural disaster.

People's Assembly Vote and Beyond

Our territory has sustained our people for thousands of years and nothing will change that. The protection and enhancement of our lands and waters is key to every decision our Nation and Steelhead LNG make related to the proposed Project.

A "yes" vote does not mean we will build a facility. It means we will proceed with studying the proposed Project so that we can really understand both the potential effects and the potential benefits. If we proceed, there will still be several "decision points" over the next four years at which the Huu-ay-aht government and/or Steelhead LNG could decide to withdraw from the proposed Project.

Input from our Ḥaw̓iiḥ

As caretakers for our Ha'houlthee, our Ḥaw̓iiḥ have been at the forefront of engagement efforts throughout the proposed Project to date, providing input at several crucial stages. On May 2, 2014, Ta'yii Ha'wilth Tl'iishin (Derek Peters) signed the agreement with Steelhead LNG on behalf of the Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council. Signing of this document meant that Huu-ay-aht would explore the opportunity for an LNG project at Sarita Bay as a partner with Steelhead LNG.

On July 6th, Ḥaw̓iiḥ Council gathered in Anacla to have an opportunity to learn about and discuss the partnership with Steelhead LNG. Later in the day, the announcement about the proposed Project and partnership was shared more widely with citizens in Anacla. This was followed by similar announcements to Huu-ay-aht citizens living in Vancouver and Port Alberni on July 7th and 8th.

On October 24th, the Ḥaw̓iiḥ met to discuss the commitments that they would like to see Steelhead LNG and Huu-ay-aht First Nations make, as partners, if the proposed Project were to proceed. On November 14th, they approved a document, listing these commitments, now in the form of a People's Assembly Motion.

This proposed Project could be a "game changer" for our Nation, but as stewards of the environment, we must ensure that it is done right. Understanding the potential effects of the proposed Project on the environment is a priority shared by Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG, which is why it is so important to rigorously study the environment in the next phase. Only through learning the results of these studies, will we understand the potential effects and benefits, and determine whether Huu-ay-aht can move ahead with the proposed Project.

Some of the income generated by the proposed Project will be used to enhance the natural resources throughout the ha'houlthee of our Ḥaw̓iiḥ. Most notably these monies could be used to continue our enhancement and revival of the Sarita River, including the marine and aquatic resources and an eventual full return of the Sarita River salmon run. This is also one of the conditions imposed on the proposed Project by the Ḥaw̓iiḥ.

DID YOU KNOW... ***the LNG industry is one of the safest industries in the world?***
In addition to being regulated by the provincial and federal governments, the proposed Project will be regulated by the Huu-ay-aht Government and will have to abide by internationally established industry standards.

What is the environmental assessment process?

The Environment Assessment process is a rigorous assessment of potential effects of a project on the environment.

How does the environmental assessment process work?

The environmental assessment process is divided into two phases:

(1) the Pre-Application Phase and
(2) the Application Review Phase.

DID YOU KNOW... ***there is no timeline associated with the Pre-Application Stage?*** *This phase involves determining what components you must study, the collection of baseline data and the writing of the Application. It will take as long as is required to 'get it right'.*

Pre-Application Phase

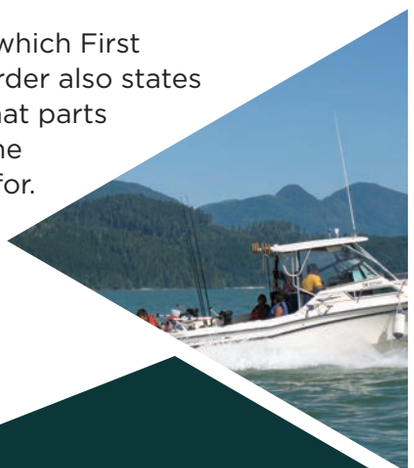
▶ **STEP 1** Submit a "Project Description" to the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEA Agency). The "Project Description" is a high level overview of what a Project will be.

▶ **STEP 2** The EAO will issue an order which says that a project cannot proceed without undertaking an environmental assessment. Once this happens a working group will be formed. The working group is made up of not only First Nations, but also local governments, government agencies and the CEA Agency.

WHAT DOES THE WORKING GROUP DO?
The working group plays an active role in reviewing all the documents associated with the Project, ensuring that the proper components are studied as part of the environmental assessment, and review any proposed mitigation measures (that will be used to reduce or avoid any potential effect on the environment, community, etc.).

If the proposed Project moves into the next stage, Huu-ay-aht would be an important and fully participating member of the working group.

▶ **STEP 3** The EAO will issue another order. This order tells the project team which First Nations they have to consult with, and how to consult them. This order also states how the project team must consult with members of the public, what parts of the project will be assessed, what effects will be considered in the assessment, and the activities that the project team is responsible for.



▶ **STEP 4** The project team puts together a draft terms of reference called an Application Information Requirements (also known as the AIR). The AIR is a really important document that lays out what components will be addressed in the assessment and what information must be included in the Application (for example what baseline studies). The AIR is like a table of contents; whatever is in the AIR must be in the Application. This document is then reviewed and commented on by the working group, and then the public through a public comment period.

DID YOU KNOW... ***every single item raised by the working group members or the public must be responded to by the project team?*** *These responses are then reviewed by the EAO and posted online.*

▶ **STEP 5** The project team puts together the Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate. The information included in the Application must follow the information set out in the table of contents (AIR). If the AIR is like a table of contents, then the Application is like the book that follows it. In the Application the project team will take the information that they gathered through the environmental baseline work and conduct an "effects assessment". The effects assessment identifies what the potential effects of the Project would be.

DID YOU KNOW... ***as part of an environmental assessment, we will also be required to study the potential effects of the proposed Project on Huu-ay-aht Treaty Rights?***

▶ **STEP 6** The project team submits the Application. The EAO and the working group reviews the Application to ensure that it contains all the information outlined in the AIR. If the Application does not have all the information requested in the AIR, it will not be accepted.

DID YOU KNOW... ***the Huu-ay-aht will be an active and fully participatory member of the working group?*** *As an active member of the working group, the Huu-ay-aht representatives, along with representatives from the provincial and federal government, will play a vital role in evaluating and commenting on everything to do with the proposed Project from the beginning to the end of the environmental assessment process.*



The Application Review phase begins.

▶ **STEP 7** During the Application review, the EAO and the working group (including First Nations) review and comment on the Application. The public also has an opportunity to comment on the Application.

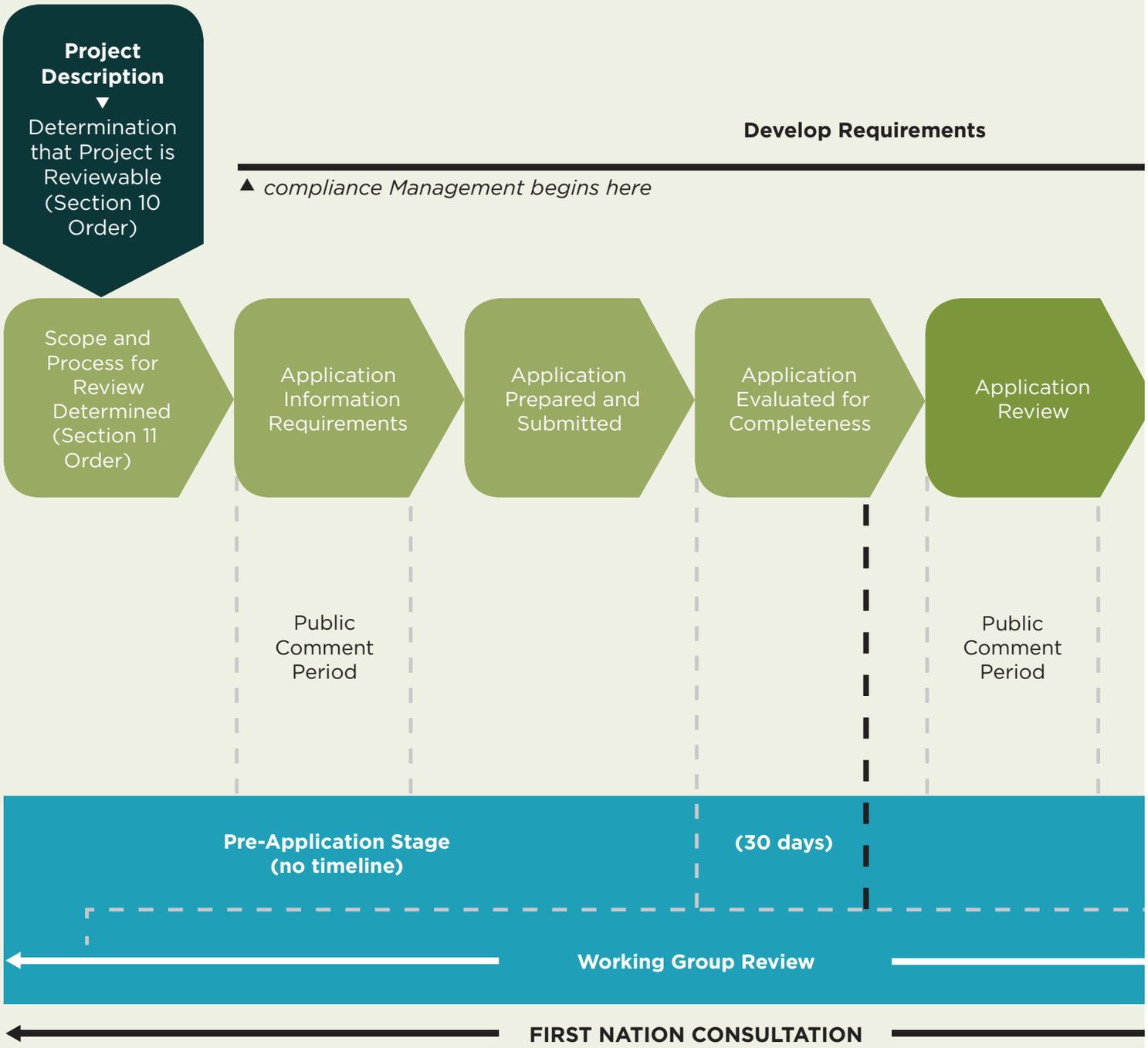
▶ **STEP 8** The EAO puts together an assessment report which includes the findings of the Application, in addition to what concerns have been addressed and what the outstanding issues are. The EAO provides that report to First Nations and the working group for their input. This Report is then given to the Minister of Environment and (with an LNG project) the Minister of Natural Gas for their review. The ministers must then make a decision on whether to approve the Project and provide it with an environmental assessment certificate.

DID YOU KNOW... ***because the proposed Project will be on treaty settlement lands, the Huu-ay-aht Government is a regulatory body just like the federal and provincial government?*** *This means that the Huu-ay-aht will play a central role in reviewing and approving the proposed Project.*

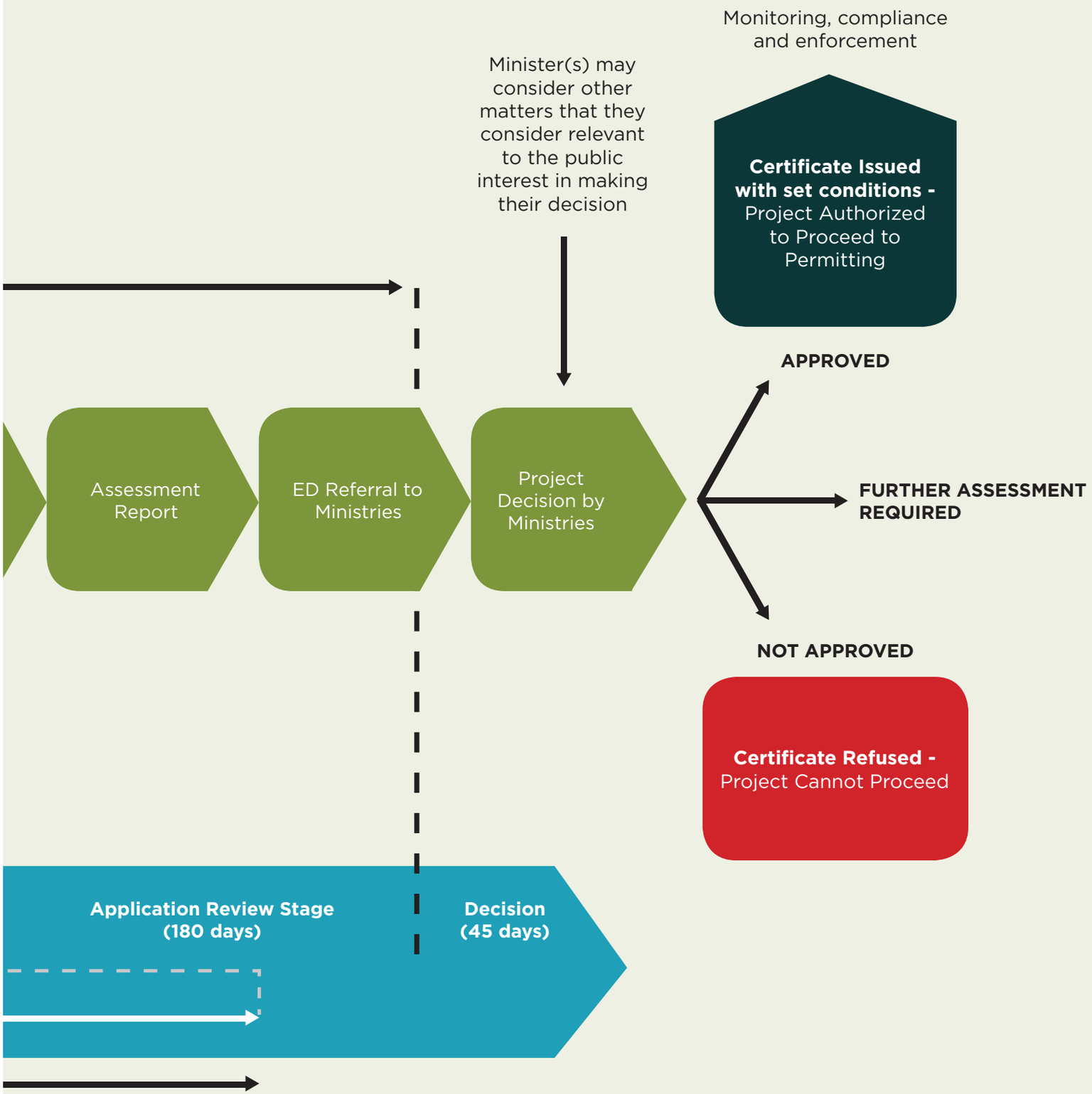




What does the BC Environmental Assessment Process look like?



Source: BC Environmental Assessment Office


Monitoring, compliance and enforcement
Minister(s) may consider other matters that they consider relevant to the public interest in making their decision
Certificate Issued with set conditions - Project Authorized to Proceed to Permitting
APPROVED
Assessment Report
ED Referral to Ministries
Project Decision by Ministries
FURTHER ASSESSMENT REQUIRED
NOT APPROVED
Certificate Refused - Project Cannot Proceed
Application Review Stage (180 days)
Decision (45 days)

How will we know what to study?

We will have to study key components of the natural and human environment that have the potential to be affected by the proposed Project and are considered to have scientific, ecological, economic, social, cultural, archaeological, historical or other importance to not only the Huu-ay-aht community, but also the public, other First Nations, the Huu-ay-aht/ Steelhead partnership, scientists, technical specialists and the Huu-ay-aht, provincial and federal governments.

DID YOU KNOW... *we will have to study a variety of environmental, social, economic, health and heritage resources with the potential to be affected by not only the operation of the Project, but also the development of the project and the decommissioning of the project?*

The different components that will be studied as part of the environmental assessment, will be determined through consultation with the Huu-ay-aht community, the public, other First Nations whose traditional territory may potentially be affected by the proposed Project, the Huu-ay-aht/Steelhead LNG Partnership and different Huu-ay-aht, provincial and federal government agencies (like the ministry of environment and the department of fisheries and oceans).

DID YOU KNOW... ***many different types of vessels travel up Alberni Inlet?*** *All of those vessels are required to reduce their speed in order to avoid affecting marine mammals like whales. LNG carriers will also be required to reduce their speed.*







DID YOU KNOW... *in 50 years of LNG carrier operation, and more than 80,000 voyages over 240 million kilometers, there has never been a major release of LNG from a carrier due to a collision, explosion, fire, death or hull failure? If LNG ever did contact water, it would float on the surface, and as it quickly warmed up, from -162 C, it would turn from a liquid to a gas and disperse into the air.*

What types of things will we study?

The list of components that we will study as part of our environmental assessment will be developed in consultation with the Huu-ay-aht, and others. As part of our environmental assessment we would look to previous studies conducted by our Nation, in addition to conducting new studies to gather more information. Components that would be investigate would include, but are not limited to, the potential effects of the proposed Project on:

- Marine life and habitats, including marine mammals and fish
- Fishing (Aboriginal, Recreational, Commercial)
- Freshwater resources (e.g. Sarita River)
- Traditional land use
- Marine transportation and use
- Migratory birds
- Noise
- Transportation and roads
- Socio-economic effects
- Species at risk
- Vegetation resources
- Visual impact
- Air quality/emissions
- Earthquake/tsunami effects

Many foreign ships come into the west coast of Canada and up Alberni Inlet. These ships are required to follow very strict Transport Canada regulations, which requires all fishing vessels, carriers, freighters and tankers coming into Canada from foreign locations to exchange their ballast water at least 200 nautical miles from the shoreline. In addition, LNG carriers are painted with a special type of paint that prevents barnacles or other creatures from attaching to the bottom of the carrier.



For more information, please contact:

Annie Merritt *Huu-ay-aht First Nations*
Port Alberni Government Office
3483 Third Avenue
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 4E4
Phone: 250-723-0100
Fax: 250-723-4646
info@huuayaht.org
www.huuayaht.org

Tiffany Murray *Steelhead LNG*
650- 669 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6C 0B4
Phone: 604-235-3800
tiffany.murray@steelheadlng.com
www.steelheadlng.com

Around the world, and especially in Asia and other emerging economies, countries rely heavily on coal, oil and other fossil fuels to provide power for their growing economies and populations. As a result, each year, air pollution from fossil fuels contributes significantly to the premature death of more than 400,000 people in Europe, 1.2 million people in China and two million people in the rest of the developing world. Hišuk ċawak (everything is connected). As the world is interconnected, pollution from Asia is even starting to travel across the Pacific and affect our environment at home. By using cleaner burning natural gas from BC, countries in Asia can significantly reduce their dependency on coal and oil in their homes, vehicles and factories, thus improving the health of people and the environment in Asia, here in BC and around the world. One of our Huu-ay-aht representatives has visited Alaska and been told by the Inuit there about the increased pollution travelling over from Asia and into their territory!



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