

LNG ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2015

ABOUT THE LNG ESI: COLLABORATION

The LNG ESI will pilot a new form of collaboration between BC, First Nations, the natural gas sector and the Provincial and Federal Governments to increase the collective trust associated with land management in northern BC. Development of the liquefied natural gas industry has created unprecedented opportunities in British Columbia. Harnessing this opportunity to advance the LNG ESI, First Nation leaders, project proponents and BC Government officials have identified opportunities for collaboration on areas of mutual interest and benefit that relate to ecosystem monitoring and assessment.

Since May 2014 the BC government, First Nations, natural gas proponents, Federal Government representatives have engaged to collaboratively design and develop the

LNG ESI. A series of regional workshops occurred in Prince Rupert, Smithers, Prince George, Fort St. John and have begun to inform participants and establish a common understanding of the goals and approaches to LNG ESI, including governance.

As a result of further

COLLABORATION

*IS WORKING WITH
OTHERS TO DO A
TASK AND TO
ACHIEVE
SHARED GOALS*

regional discussions a number of demonstration project concepts are being explored that support the implementation of cumulative effects assessments, baseline data gathering and environmental monitoring.

LNG ESI DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

One of the recommendations flowing from LNG ESI regional workshops was the need to implement immediate projects to help develop the LNG ESI collaboration. A number of project concepts related to cumulative effects assessment have emerged and will continue to be developed through June 2015, with plans for implementation by the fall of 2015. Interim technical working group participants will be contacted in April to arrange more regional sessions to continue the development process.

FORT ST. JOHN WORKSHOP | SEPTEMBER 2014



Accomplishments to Date

Taking time to get it right

- *May 2014* – BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation issues first public notice about the LNG ESI. Initial LNG ESI Discussion Paper released to First Nations, natural gas industry and Federal Government
- *August – September 2014* - LNG ESI Engagement Workshops (Prince Rupert, Smithers, Prince George, Fort St. John, and Vancouver)
- *September 2014* – Phase 1 LNG ESI Engagement Report released. Recommendations included strong support for a collaborative approach to the design and development of LNG ESI; the need to demonstrate the goals of LNG ESI by developing and implementing demonstration projects; and clear governance structure. A priority around cumulative effects was expressed by First Nations along with the need to engage on LNG ESI through regional forums.
- *September 2014* – BC Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation announces the LNG ESI is a significant commitment to use opportunities presented through LNG to create lasting legacies for First Nations and the environment.
- *January 2015* – 2nd LNG ESI Engagement sessions (Prince Rupert, Smithers, Prince George, Fort St. John).
- *March 2015* – Interim Technical Working Group meetings in 3 regions: North East, Omineca, and Skeena.

NEXT STEPS

1. Building on the outcomes of the collaborative development process, LNG ESI participants will receive an invitation along with supporting material to participate in the first LNG ESI Governance Development Workshop in May 2015 in Vancouver.
2. *Invitations to the Interim Technical Working Groups for LNG ESI Demonstration Projects will be sent out for workshops to be hosted in early May in each of the four LNG ESI regions.*
3. Continue to build support with industry, First Nations and the federal government to collaboratively create the LNG ESI.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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