

Environmental Assessment (EA) Revitalization Engagement Lake Babine Nation (LBN) – 2nd Meeting

Date: April 26, 2018, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Location: 1138 Melville Street, Vancouver, BC

Participants:

Deputy Chief Bessie West, Councillor Verna Power, Betty Patrick – **LBN**
Dominique Nouvet, Kelly Lindsay - Woodward and Company
Nathan Braun, Fern Stockman, Jane Mayall – Environmental Assessment Office (**EAO**)
Tlell Glover – Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (**MIRR**)

Review of Lake Babine Nation’s EA Reform Draft Submission

- LBN set out 3 key objectives that they are seeking through the Foundation Agreement negotiations – page 3 of the draft submission.

Further to the meeting on March 23, 2018, these are some of the changes to EA legislation that LBN representatives would like to see (This is not a complete list):

- Legislation that makes room for special Crown-Nation EA approaches (i.e. that allows for unique agreements about EA approaches to take priority over default EA provisions)
- Clarity on decision-making criteria – the ability of First Nations to say no to a project under certain criteria.
- First Nations members on the Project Assessment Team and to have a bigger role on decision making.
- More EA ecological studies which should be completed earlier in the assessment.
- Traditional Land Use studies completed for the whole territory not for individual projects.
- A sharing of learning throughout the process – including costs and benefits to all.
- Technical in-house staff for First Nations – i.e. an Impact Assessment Co-Ordinator who is a member of the Nation or at least its employee of.
- First Nations members on the compliance and enforcement teams, with First Nations having – subject to safety issues during construction and operations - their own monitor. Possibly with the delegation of monitoring and enforcement to the First Nation in the future.
- Timelines – required by law – to be extended, with possibly a range of timelines depending on the project and issues involved.
- A lowering of thresholds to ensure more projects are subject to the EA process and the commitments to the environment, and to include exploration permits as these have an impact on the environment.
- A bond for all projects to cover more than reclamation costs – this would be a fund that all pay into and should be extended to cover Section 35 rights – this could be done in permitting.

Next Steps:

- LBN representatives intend to submit comments prior to the publication of the Discussion Paper.
- LBN representatives would like to be notified when the EAO Discussion paper is available for review and will want to provide feedback on that paper.

ACTIONS:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EAO to request FNEMC issue invite to May 29 and 30 province-wide EA Forum to LBN
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LBN to send final EA Reform Submission to EAO following review and editing