JANUARY 2025

WOODFIBRE LNG & FORTIS BC EAGLE MOUNTAIN GAS PIPELINE PROJECTS

Update from Sḵwx̱wú7mesh Úxwumixw Rights & Title

Are you interested in working with the Rights & Title department? We're hiring multiple positions from participants who successfully complete the Environmental Monitoring training.
Call **604-980-7946** for more info!

Update on FortisBC Eagle Mountain Gas Pipeline and WoodfibreLNG Projects

As both projects have been in the media recently, we wanted to provide an update to members. Squamish Nation co-regulates these projects with other government agencies such as BC Environmental Assessment Office and BC Energy Regulator. Squamish Nation regulates in accordance with the Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Agreements (SNEAAs) for each project. We have Squamish Nation Indigenous Monitors on site throughout construction, qualified environmental professionals working for the Nation to oversee compliance, and conduct regular inspections as part of the Nation's regulatory role.

FortisBC Eagle Mountain Gas Pipeline

As per the SNEAA from 2016, FortisBC must ensure there are no surface impacts to the Skwelwil'em Squamish Estuary Wildlife Management Area (WMA) during construction of the new natural gas pipeline. Protecting the WMA continues to be a top priority for us. Late last year, tunneling activities were paused at the BC Rail Site while FortisBC inspected the tunnel boring machine and stabilized the ground ahead. Tunneling has since resumed in this area and the Nation is closely monitoring construction as it nears the WMA (approx. 180m from WMA now). We have very clear requirements for FortisBC to avoid any surface impacts within the WMA to maintain compliance with the SNEAA.

Both the Environmental Assessment Office and Squamish Nation have confirmed that sediment laden water observed near the WMA was not associated with grouting material from tunneling activities and was instead from a historic culvert draining from multiple previous projects at BC Rail. For more details on this you can refer to the EAO Inspection Record from 22 Nov 2024 (https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/api/public/document/6762f9652744dd00220ff7ca/download/EAGMOU_20240062_IR001.pdf).

Tunneling at the West Portal was halted to assess water management in late 2024. Subsequent updates to FortisBC's water management process and water treatment plant have been implemented in response to Squamish Nation concerns and tunneling has also resumed here.

WoodfibreLNG Project

The WoodfibreLNG SNEAA was signed in 2015 and outlines conditions WoodfibreLNG must follow to maintain compliance. As some of you know, there was a vessel crash at WoodfibreLNG last month resulting in a 22-foot North River Seahawk vessel sinking at the Woodfibre LNG site. Thankfully everyone involved was ok. WoodfibreLNG monitored for, and cleaned up, hydrocarbon sheen using spill booms.

WoodfibreLNG are completing their investigation regarding what resulted in this occurring and what the appropriate next steps are for the vessel. Squamish Nation, along with other regulators, will be reviewing these findings and providing recommendations to WoodfibreLNG. The protection of Howe Sound is an area of constant focus and attention for us when monitoring work at WoodfibreLNG.

Summary

Squamish Nation are in daily communication with FortisBC and WoodfibreLNG to assess if SNEAA conditions and management plan commitments are upheld. At present, both projects are in compliance with their relevant SNEAA's and construction is underway. We continue to keep a close eye on construction activities and will issue SNEAA non-compliance reports, along with associated penalties, should SNEAA and/or management plan commitments not be upheld.

To better keep members informed about these two projects, we're updating our website with additional detail, context, maps, frequently asked questions, and more. Stay tuned for these updates shortly.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Do you have questions or concerns? Have you been impacted as a result of the current construction activities that are taking place? Please contact:

Whitney Joseph, Squamish Nation:
swiyat@squamish.net or 778-966-1117

Woodfibre LNG:
info@wlng.ca or 1-888-801-7929

FortisBC EGP:
egp@fortisbc.com or 1-855-380-5784

EGP Community Conduct Line (specific to conduct in Squamish):
EGPWCC@rubinthomlinson.com or 1-855-514-6644