

Guidance for the Preparation of a Project Changes Description for the Pacific NorthWest LNG Project

Purpose

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) and the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) are committed to working collaboratively to deliver a coordinated review of proposed changes to the Pacific NorthWest LNG Project that meets both federal and provincial requirements. This document provides guidance to Pacific NorthWest LNG Ltd. (PNW LNG) on the information to be provided to the Agency and EAO in a Project Changes Description that would initiate the coordinated review process.

Context

The federal environmental assessment (EA) Decision Statement for the Project includes the following conditions in relation to project changes:

2.12. The Proponent shall consult with Indigenous groups prior to initiating any material change(s) to the Designated Project that may result in adverse environmental effects, and shall notify the Agency in writing no later than 60 days prior to initiating the change(s).

2.13. In notifying the Agency pursuant to condition 2.12, the Proponent shall provide the Agency with a description of the adverse environmental effects of the change(s) to the Designated Project, the measures proposed to be implemented by the Proponent to mitigate adverse environmental effects, and the results of the consultation with Indigenous groups.

Condition 2.3 further describes the manner in which the proponent must fulfill a condition where consultation with Indigenous groups is a requirement.

The provincial EA Certificate specifies how a project must be constructed, operated, and decommissioned. Under section 19 of BC's *Environmental Assessment Act*, the holder of an EA Certificate may apply to the Executive Director of the EAO for an amendment. An amendment to an EA Certificate is required if the holder is proposing changes from the scope of the existing EA Certificate conditions and certified project description. In preparing for a potential amendment, PNW LNG should consider the EAO's *Guidance for Certificate Holders: Seeking an Amendment to an Environmental Assessment Certificate* (link provided below), which was taken into account in the development of the coordinated review process in this letter.

The Agency and EAO will require information in sufficient detail to analyze the potential adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects, including impacts

on asserted or established Aboriginal rights, of the proposed changes to the Project, and mitigation measures to address those effects.

In order to meet the above requirements, the Agency and EAO will require information in two main submissions:

1. Description of Proposed Changes to the Project (Project Changes Description); and
2. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) / Application for Certificate Amendment

This guidance document outlines the information that PNW LNG must first provide in the Project Changes Description.

As described in the letter, the Project Changes Description will assist the Agency and EAO in identifying the information required in the subsequent EIS/Application. The Agency and EAO will use the Project Changes Description to seek input from Indigenous groups and the technical working group on the development of a joint EIS Guidelines/Application Information Requirements document. The Project Changes Description will be posted on the Agency and EAO's public websites.

Content of the Project Changes Description

The focus of the document should be the changes to the Project components and activities. The document will provide a preliminary high-level description of the potential adverse environmental, social, economic, health and heritage effects of the proposed changes, including effects on asserted or established Aboriginal rights, including title (Aboriginal Interests), and measures proposed to mitigate those potential effects. The following information should be included:

- Project name and provincial EA Certificate number;
- Comprehensive description of Project components that would be changed or new, and a summary of what components remain the same, with reference to the Certified Project Description;
- Map(s) showing locations of proposed Project changes;
- Rationale for the proposed changes to the Project;
- Analysis of the valued components, indicators, and their study areas assessed in the original EA that may be impacted by the Project changes;
- Discussion of expected changes to environmental, social, economic, health or heritage effects and environmental effects related to CEAA 2012 requirements, including cumulative effects;
- Overview of proposed changes to, or new, mitigation measures or follow-up programs;

- Description of studies planned or underway to evaluate effects to impacted valued components, including cumulative effects; and
- Description of consultation that has occurred regarding the proposed Project changes with Indigenous groups, provincial and federal agencies, local governments, and the public, including a summary of any feedback received, and the proposed approach to further consultation.

Relevant Guidance Documents

PNW LNG should consider the following guidance documents:

- EAO guidance for Certificate Holders: [Seeking an Amendment to an Environmental Assessment Certificate](#)
- EAO guidance on [Preparing a Project Description](#)
- Agency [Guide to Preparing a Description of a Designated Project under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012](#)