



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada

160 Elgin St., 22nd floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

160, rue Elgin, 22^e étage
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3

Agency File: 81010

November 10, 2021

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Canadian Coast Guard
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Employment and Social Development Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Global Affairs Canada
Health Canada
Indigenous Services Canada
Infrastructure Canada
Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
Natural Resources Canada
Parks Canada Agency
Public Safety Canada
Transport Canada
Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
Women and Gender Equality Canada

Dear Federal Authorities:

Subject: Request for Federal Authority advice on the draft joint guidelines and joint plans for the GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project

On October 28, 2021, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) determined that an impact assessment is required under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the Act) for the GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project (the Project) proposed by GCT Canada Limited Partnership. The notice of impact assessment decision and the reasons for the decision ([CIAR 72](#)) are posted on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site (the [Registry](#)) for the project.

On November 3, 2021, the Agency also announced that the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister) has referred the impact assessment of the Project to an independent review panel. The Notice of Referral to Review Panel can be found on the Registry ([CIAR 76](#)).



Throughout the assessment process, federal authorities will be expected to participate by contributing their specialist or expert information and knowledge, providing expert advice to the review panel, and supporting the Crown and Indigenous nations in understanding, assessing and addressing impacts on Indigenous interests. Federal authorities will also be expected to engage as needed with the Crown, the proponent, Indigenous nations, and other parties.

To-date, the Agency and British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) have coordinated the federal and provincial assessment processes for the planning phase for the Project, as per the *Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement between Canada and British Columbia (2019)*. The Agency and the EAO have developed the following draft documents that will guide the remainder of the assessment process for the Project:

- Joint Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan;
- Joint Permitting / Regulatory Coordination Plan;
- Joint assessment plan; and,
- Joint guidelines.

The draft joint guidelines ([CIAR 78](#)) and the draft plans are available on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry Internet site. The Agency will actively engage and consult on the draft joint guidelines and joint assessment plan before posting the final documents with the Notice of Commencement for the impact assessment at the end of the planning phase.

At this time, as per paragraph 23(a) of the Act, the Agency requests that your department or agency provide specialist or expert information or knowledge to support development of the draft joint guidelines and the draft plans listed above.

Specifically, the Agency requests your organization provide the following, no later than **December 23, 2021**:

- Any necessary input on sections of the draft joint guidelines relevant to your mandate;
- Input on the potential geographic extent of marine shipping, road and rail transportation;
- Verification that the Joint Permitting / Regulatory Coordination Plan includes all of the regulatory instruments under the authority of your department or agency that are anticipated to be required if the Project is allowed to proceed;
- Verification that the information provided in the Joint Permitting / Regulatory Coordination Plan regarding the regulatory instruments is correct and up-to-date; and
- Support to the Agency in finalizing sections of the joint assessment plan and joint Indigenous engagement and partnership plan pertaining to your department or agency's authority and expertise.

Please note that all submissions from federal departments and agencies will be posted to the public registry to ensure they become part of the project record.

Your department is also invited to start considering potential complementary measures in respect to the potential adverse effects of the Project. Complementary measures are additional authorities of Federal Ministers or federal programs that may be used to mitigate effects that may be beyond the care and control of the proponent. The Governor in Council's decision regarding whether the Project is in the public interest would consider complementary measures. The Agency will work with your department during the assessment process to identify relevant policies and programs and develop a list of potential complementary measures for this Project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at <contact information removed>

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Tracy Utting
Agency Review Manager

cc: Stefan Crampton, Pacific and Yukon Region
Analise Saely, Crown Consultation Operations Division