



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada



Environmental
Assessment Office

June 8, 2022

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

Mr. James Jannetta
Tribal Attorney
Swinomish Office of Tribal Attorney
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La Conner, Washington, USA <sensitive informati

Dear Mr. Jannetta:

Subject: Joint BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (IAAC) – end of the Planning phase for the GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project

Thank you for indicating your interest in participating in the federal and provincial assessment for the proposed GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project (the Project).

The objective of this letter is to:

- Inform you that the Impact Statement Development and Review Phase has formally commenced; and
- Inform you of the finalisation of key documents from the Planning Phase:
 - [Joint Guidelines](#)
 - [Joint Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan](#)
 - [Joint Assessment Plan](#)
 - [Joint Permitting and Regulatory Coordination Plan](#); and
 - the provincial [Process Order](#)

End of the Planning phase and commencement of the Impact Statement phase

On October 28, 2021, the EAO issued a notice of the Readiness Decision and IAAC issued an Impact Assessment Decision to proceed to an assessment, which initiated the Planning phase for this project. On November 3, 2021, the Minister of the Environment Climate Change Canada [referred the project to assessment by Review Panel](#). During the Planning phase, IAAC and EAO worked closely with BC Indigenous nations, the proponent, federal and provincial experts, local government and the public to develop the final documents listed above. IAAC and EAO are committed to a coordinated assessment process and cooperation throughout all phases of the EA, per the overarching [Impact Assessment Cooperation Agreement Between Canada and British Columbia](#).

On May 31, 2022, IAAC issued a Notice of Commencement for the Impact Statement phase and EAO issued the Process Order and Joint Permitting/Regulatory Coordination Plan. This means we have begun the Impact Statement Development and Review phase, which has a legislated time limit of three years (up to May 31, 2025). During this phase, the Proponent will collect information and conduct studies, as outlined in the Joint Guidelines.

Next Steps

Section 4.2 of the Joint Indigenous Engagement and Partnership Plan describes IAAC's and EAO's objectives in engaging with Tribes of Washington State, and includes information about Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

As the information in Section 4.2 is a high-level approach, IAAC and EAO would like to discuss the involvement of Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in the next steps in the assessment process related to the project.

We will follow-up with more information on the next steps of the Impact Statement and Development Review phase, including opportunities to provide input on the draft Review Panel Terms of Reference and Project-Specific Cooperation Agreement. The cooperation agreement will provide more details about how the Review Panel and/or federal and provincial authorities will work together to address the requirements of their respective legislations, including roles and responsibilities, timelines, sharing of information, and process. The Review Panel Terms of Reference will set the procedures and boundaries of the assessment by the Review Panel.

We would like to set up a virtual meeting in the coming weeks with Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Please let us know some dates and times that you are available to meet. In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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