



Impact Assessment
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation
d'impact du Canada



Environmental
Assessment Office

June 8, 2022

SENT BY EMAIL ONLY

Tom Wooten
Chairperson
Samish Indian Nation
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Anacortes, WA <sensitive informati
USA
<sensitive information removed>

Dear Honorable Tom Wooten:

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 receiving updates on 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](#)

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 reference to Samish Indian Nation.

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 Indigenous nations, the proponent and other interested parties 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

IAAC and EAO have included the Samish Indian Nation in our distribution list, by which you will be receiving updates and notices on the coordinated assessment of the project as the process unfolds.

If you have questions, concerns or would like to set up a meeting with IAAC and EAO, please do not hesitate to contact us at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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