



Ref: 104557

October 3, 2014

Tribal Chief Terry Teegee and Co-Signers  
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council  
Prince George Office  
1460 6 Ave  
Prince George BC V2L 3N2  
[teegee@cstc.bc.ca](mailto:teegee@cstc.bc.ca)

Dear Chief Teegee and Co-Signers:

Thank you for your letters of September 3, 2014 and September 11, 2014, regarding the timelines for the review period of the proposed Coastal GasLink Project.

In your letter you requested a 45 day extension to the 180-day environmental assessment (EA) Application Review period and an extension to the deadline for separate submissions to Ministers.

As you are aware, the EA is an extensive process that analyses and reviews the broad effects of a proposed project. Consultation and engagement with First Nations is a key aspect of that process. I recognize the amount of time and effort required of First Nations to participate in EAs, and that the challenges this poses are exacerbated when there are multiple project reviews at the same time. Having said that, our regulation also requires us to review projects within set timelines. All of this points to the continued need for us to work with Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) members, and all First Nations, as effectively and constructively as possible.

I understand that the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has taken additional time to address concerns and issues raised by First Nations and Working Group members during the EA for this project, and then distributed a second draft of its referral materials to the Working Group for review on September 12, 2014. EAO has provided First Nations, and other Working Group members, two weeks to review and comment on this second draft. I also understand that EAO communicated a revised EA schedule to Working Group members, extending the deadline to October 3, 2014 for separate submission from First Nations to Ministers and a revised referral date of October 8, 2014.

The original date for the referral of the proposed Project to Ministers was September 8, 2014. The revised October 8, 2014 referral date is not expected to change. I understand that Nak'azdli Band, Nadleh Whut'en First Nation and Saikuz First Nation along with CSTC members met with EAO staff on October 1, 2014 in Prince George which provided another opportunity for you to present information to the Coastal GasLink EA. I also understand this meeting concluded with CSTC presenting nine specific proposals to be met by this and other LNG-related projects.

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With regard to your request to meet with Doug Caul, Associate Deputy Minister of EAO and me, I can confirm we are prepared to meet with you to further discuss your concerns with the EA process and timelines. A member of my staff will contact you to arrange a date and time. I look forward to our discussion.

Sincerely,



Mary Polak  
Minister

cc: Honourable Richard Coleman  
Minister of Natural Gas Development  
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