

Eagle Mountain - Woodfibre Gas Pipeline Project
Public Information Meeting re: Temporary Use Permit applications - March 9, 2023
Summary of Q&A Session

Questions about potential environmental effects

Tunnel pipeline construction:

- Will it be going through the mountain?
- Will it be going on top of or under the Squamish Estuary?

Answer:

- As part of Squamish Nation's regulatory approval process, FortisBC has committed to no surface disturbance in the estuary – and we will be constructing a 9-kilometre tunnel to achieve this. It will run from the BC Rail Site to the Woodfibre LNG site at a depth of about 25 metres below sea level. Two tunnel boring machines will be working towards each other: the first (a hard rock tunnel boring machine) starting at the Woodfibre LNG site; the second (a soft ground boring machine) starting at the BC Rail site.

Regarding the underground boring of the pipeline, more specifically servicing the pipeline if there is a natural disaster:

- How are you able to fix the pipeline if there is a natural disaster?

Answer:

- FortisBC takes pipeline safety very seriously. FortisBC has designed the pipeline with safety top of mind. Our specifications for the type and quality of pipeline that will be used in the tunnel are very high - in fact, there is only one company in the world capable of producing a pipeline that meets our standards. When it comes to operating and maintaining the pipeline, FortisBC regularly inspects and monitors the condition. Regarding earthquakes and subsurface conditions, FortisBC has world-class experts engaged in the project to help us design and develop rigorous mitigation plans.

Environmental effects to nearby housing:

- Residents who live close to the proposed temporary construction laydown yard are concerned about the potential impact of structural changes to the land. How is it going to impact the housing around it?

Answer:

- The laydown yard for awareness includes construction trailers and support structures. FortisBC engages structural engineers to ensure work is performed safely.

Increased traffic on the Mamquam River Forest Service Road due to lodge and project construction:

- What dust control plans are in place?
- Are there safety concerns with more traffic on a single-lane road?

Answer:

- FortisBC is prepared to make upgrades that may be required for the use of this road and has committed to measures to mitigate impacts on the Mamquam River Forest Service Road. These measures include road maintenance, dust control, such as spraying in dry conditions, and use of shuttle busses to reduce traffic.

Questions about work camps

History of work camps:

- What methods is FortisBC implementing to prevent an increase in violence from temporary workers that hasn't been used before?
- What evidence does FortisBC have that these new methods will work?

Answer:

- FortisBC is committed to ensuring community safety throughout the project through a worker code of conduct, and workforce accommodation mitigations. Adhering to this code of conduct will be a requirement for anybody working on the project. It includes topics like compliance with the law and expectations around respectful behaviour from workers on the job and after hours. Further, FortisBC's orientation for workers will cover topics such as harassment, bullying and consent. FortisBC is setting a high standard in terms of how workers are to behave in the community after hours. There will be 24/7 security and a 'no guest' policy for the workers staying at the lodge. FortisBC is developing mitigations and is committed to monitoring the effectiveness of these strategies. Protocols will be adjusted if what's in place is not working as intended.

Regarding violence and harassment from workers staying in camps for previous, unrelated projects:

- What are the specific protocols in place to support potential victims of contractors working on this project?
- How many complaints about the work camp would it take for there to be action taken?

Answer:

- All unlawful behaviour that may take place will be under the jurisdiction of the RCMP. FortisBC and its contractors have a number of different programs that will be available for its workers including employee family assistance programs, and mental and physical wellness programs for the workers while staying at the lodge. FortisBC is collaborating with local service providers in Squamish, such as the Howe Sound Women's Centre to ensure awareness of existing supports for community members. The approach FortisBC is taking will include monitoring concerns and making changes throughout the course of the project, as needed, to address those concerns.

Questions about consultation with Indigenous Peoples

Regarding consultation completed by the project and consent.

- Why haven't certain Nations been consulted, who's at the table?
- Are you going to stop the project to get free, prior, and informed consent from applicable Indigenous Nations?

Answer:

- FortisBC started engagement on this project in 2013 and at that time, worked with regulators to identify Indigenous Nations to engage on the project. This included four Indigenous Nations – Squamish Nation, Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Kwikwetlem First Nation, and Musqueam Indian Band. FortisBC continues to advance discussions with these Indigenous Nations.'

Questions about effects of expected temporary population increases in Squamish at certain points of project construction:

Use of shuttles to transport workers, compared to potential increases in traffic from workers using their private vehicles:

- Will the shuttles be mandatory for all workers?

Answer:

- During work hours there will be shuttles transporting workers from the lodge site to the construction laydown area. FortisBC will also be providing shuttles after hours and on days off for workers to go into town, which will reduce traffic along local roads.

Capacity of waste treatment facility in Squamish:

- Is there a plan in place regarding the increase in waste that will be produced by workers?
- If the Squamish waste treatment facility reaches capacity, what is the plan for the waste disposal?

Answer:

- FortisBC is currently working on addressing this issue with the contractor and the District of Squamish.

Regarding the use of Quest University:

- Do you have any plans to use Quest University to house your workers?

Answer:

- We are aware that Quest University is suspending academic operations, and the property is now listed for sale. As this development occurred very recently, we do not have any information to share on the feasibility of FortisBC's contractors using Quest facilities to house their non-local workers.

FortisBC's fallback plan if it's unable to receive a temporary use permit to build the lodge:

- Will FortisBC look to find accommodations in Squamish?
- FortisBC received its environmental assessment certificate in 2016, nearly 7 years ago. Why has FortisBC waited so long to determine where it would house its workers?

Answer:

- FortisBC has spent considerable time planning our workforce accommodation strategies and engaging the community. During this community engagement, the preference was that all of our non-local workers would live in a single location. Based on this feedback, we pivoted and applied for a larger Workforce Lodge site. FortisBC is hopeful the temporary Workforce Lodge will be approved in order to achieve this and to minimize potential effects on the local housing market. The alternative workforce accommodation plans would involve local accommodations (i.e., hotels).

In addition to questions and comments from this Q&A session, four feedback forms were submitted to FortisBC at this public information session and are included as *Appendix A*.