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Vancouver
15th January 2017

Michael Shepard
Project Assessment Manager, Environmental Assessment Office
836 Yates St, Victoria, BC V8W 1L8

and

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA)
22nd Floor, Place Bell
160 Elgin Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

Originals mailed.

Copies via email to: Michael.Shepard@gov.bc.ca; info@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Re: Woodfibre LNG stakeholder consultation regarding EA Amendment

Sirs/Madam:

Further to my letter to you and Michael Shepard of January 2nd, we are informed that Woodfibre LNG plans to conduct selective stakeholder engagements on the substantive changes to the cooling system, the Mill Creek intake, and water withdrawal from Woodfibre Creek. . We are further informed that that consultation is to take the form of invitations to selected Howe Sound organizations to visit the site and receive a private briefing, and that this process will start before month-end.

While the Proponent is free to consult whom they please, our organization has several objections to this form of “public consultation.” They include:

- the EA amendment has not been filed, so invitees have no prior access to the specifics of the proposal and therefore no basis on which to review and form questions relevant to the effects of the change(s);
- We fear that it will be characterized by the Proponent as fulfilling their responsibility to consult the “public” on the substance of the amendment;
- To our knowledge, none of the local Governments nor any of the established environmental organizations in the area have been invited. In fact, the invitees are distinguished only by their minimal participation to date on this matter, and for some invitees this is the first time they have been identified by Woodfibre LNG as stakeholders in this process;
- The venue – the Woodfibre site – is inaccessible to the public and the media, so these can in no way be characterized as “public” or even moderately transparent consultations.

This is no way to build trust and confidence in local communities.

We ask for the BC EAO and CEAA to clarify how stakeholders are identified and invited to this meeting, and to provide a list of the invited stakeholders.



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Woodfibre LNG “consultations”

We ask why representatives of My Sea to Sky or any of our partner organizations (e.g., Future of Howe Sound, Concerned Citizens Bowen) would not be invited to this stakeholder meeting given that we represent more than 10,000 stakeholders around Howe Sound that will be directly impacted by these proposed changes to the design of the Woodfibre LNG project.

We ask for the BC EAO and CEAA to intercede with the proponent to ask them to include representatives from the organizations listed above.

Not inviting the organizations that have been most engaged in the environmental assessment process for Woodfibre LNG makes this selective stakeholder engagement a pretense at public engagement.

Yours very truly

Eoin Finn B.Sc., Ph.D., MBA

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And

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ccs to MP Goldsmith-Jones; MLAs Sturdy, Simons; Municipal Councils of Squamish, Lions Bay, West Vancouver, Bowen, Gibsons, Regional Districts of Sunshine Coast, Squamish-Lillooet and Powell River; Print & Social Media