

FACT SHEET

Environmental Assessment

Environmental Assessment Process Background

- In November 2008, VAFFC requested a project opt-in to the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) process. The request was accepted by BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) in February 2009.
- Also in February 2009, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) confirmed that the project required a federal EA because of project components located on lands under federal jurisdiction and the potential for a Transport Canada approval under the *Navigable Waters Protection Act*. This provided for a coordinated provincial and federal EA review, led by EAO.
- Transport Canada later determined that the proposed project works would not cause a substantial impact to current operations on the Fraser River, and its role as a Responsible Authority was removed and transferred to Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (now Port Metro Vancouver or PMV), because it was the only remaining federal authority requiring project approvals that would trigger a CEAA review.

EA Process Overview

- VAFFC spent 26 months undertaking a suite of biophysical, social and technical studies, developing the Application Information Requirements, consulting with EAO, PMV, the Working Group and the public (including site visits and a boat tour on the river), and preparing the project Application for the formal 180-day coordinated EA Review.
- The Application was accepted for EA Review in February 2011 after the first EAO, PMV and Working Group screening.
- The EA process schedule targeted September 2011 for a Ministers decision on an Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) award.
- Because of two EA Review suspensions for VAFFC to address information requests of Working Group members, and the government's separate initiative for developing a world-class spill preparedness and response regime for the west coast of BC, the targeted date for a project EAC decision by Ministers is now by December 24, 2013 or 27 months later than the original date.
- All issues raised during the coordinated EA Review have been addressed in the Application and supplemental material. Key areas of additional assessment included:
 - Ausenco-Sandwell/Golder Independent Options Analysis Report
 - Highway 99 Pipeline Route Assessment Addendum
 - Spill Risk Assessment Report
 - VFPA Tanker Risk Study
 - Western Canada Marine Response Organization Oil Pollution Emergency Plan
 - Jet A/A-1 Toxicity Study
 - Jet A/A-1 Oil-Mineral-Aggregation Potential
 - Battelle Research Institute Biofilm Sensitivity Studies
 - Birds Studies Canada Western Sandpiper Biofilm Dietary Study
- A summary of the EA process, key milestones and timelines follows.

