



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada



Environmental  
Assessment Office

June 3, 2022

**SENT BY EMAIL ONLY**

Katie Hooper  
Executive Director  
Esquimalt First Nation  
<sensitive information removed>  
Victoria BC <sensitive information removed>

Dear Ms. Hooper:

**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 your participation in the Planning phase of 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](#)

IAAC and EAO are of the view that the comments provided by Esquimalt about the project and assessment process are reflected in the Process Order.

## **End of the Planning phase and commencement of the Impact Statement Development and Review 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 can last up to three years (May 31, 2025). During this phase, the Proponent will collect information and conduct studies, as outlined in the Joint Guidelines.

### **Next Steps**

IAAC and the EAO would like to hear from Esquimalt First Nation. Please confirm if you would like to set up a meeting to walk through the finalized documents to understand how your comments were incorporated, or if you would like a written explanation of how we addressed your comments. We will also follow up with more information on the next steps of the Impact Statement Development and Review phase, including consulting with Esquimalt First Nation on the draft Review Panel Terms of Reference and Project-Specific Cooperation Agreement. The cooperation agreement will provide more details about how the Review Panel and/or federal and provincial authorities will work together to address the requirements of their respective legislations, including roles and responsibilities, timelines, sharing of information, and process. The Review Panel Terms of Reference will set the procedures and boundaries of the assessment for the Review Panel. IAAC will also provide information on future funding opportunities related to the Impact Statement Development and Review phase.

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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