

Mike McLellan
GCT Canada Limited Partnership
Contact information removed

Dear Mike McLellan,

On June 21, 2023, the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (the Agency) received your request for an extension to the three-year legislated time limit under the *Impact Assessment Act* (the IAA), to provide the required information or studies for the impact assessment of the GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project (the Project). As per subsection 19(2) of the IAA, the Agency may extend the time limit by any period that is necessary for the proponent to provide the Agency with the required information or studies, at the proponent's request,

Following a review of available information, including the information submitted in your request, the Agency has determined that it **will extend the time limit**. The reasons for this decision are as follows:

- GCT Canada Limited Partnership (GCT) has demonstrated progress in the development of the required information or studies and have a work plan to complete all work;
- GCT has engaged collaboratively with the Agency and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO), federal authorities, and other parties throughout the assessment to date;
- The extended time limit would allow consideration of ongoing initiatives in the Project region and will help manage consultation fatigue among the Indigenous nations.

The Agency has engaged with the EAO in considering this request. Although this response is specific to federal requirements under the IAA, the Agency and EAO will continue to conduct the assessment in a coordinated manner, as outlined in the [draft Canada-British Columbia Cooperation Agreement on the Coordination of the Environmental and Impact Assessment process for the GCT Deltaport Expansion – Berth Four Project](#).

Pursuant to subsection 19(3) of the IAA, if the Agency extends the time limit, it may require the proponent to provide any additional information or studies that the Agency considers necessary for the conduct of the impact assessment. The Agency has determined that no additional or new information is required to conduct the impact assessment.

However, in preparing the Impact Statement, GCT is expected to meet the requirements set out in the [Joint Guidelines](#) for the Project, and to follow updated technical guidance and best practices, in accordance with project-specific direction issued by the Agency and/or the EAO.

Furthermore, the Agency requires that all comments provided by the federal review team, including those provided on the study plans and works plans, as well as the concerns expressed by Indigenous nations and members of the public, be fully addressed in the Impact Statement.

In granting the extension, the new deadline to provide the Agency with the information or studies required for impact assessment of the Project is May 31, 2027.

The required information and studies to be provided include the Impact Statement and any additional information or studies that may be identified as a result of:

- the Agency and EAO's conformity review of the Impact Statement;
- the public comment period on the Impact Statement;
- the technical review of the Impact Statement by the Agency, EAO, and federal authorities; and
- associated consultation and engagement by the Agency and EAO with Indigenous nations.

If the required information or studies are not provided within the granted time limit extension, the impact assessment for the project will be terminated in accordance with subsection 20(1) of the IAA. If the impact assessment is terminated, please note that in accordance with subsection 7(1) of the IAA, proponents of a designated project are prohibited from carrying out any act related to the project that may cause one of the effects listed therein. If the proponent wishes to continue with the project after the termination of the assessment, it must submit an Initial Project Description to the Agency in accordance with section 10 of the IAA.

Please note, your request, this determination, and a notice informing the public of the new time limit will be posted to the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry at [GCT Deltaport Expansion - Berth Four Project \(iaac-aeic.gc.ca\)](https://iaac-aeic.gc.ca).

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Kate Witherly, Agency Review Manager, by
Contact information removed

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Eric Landry
Vice President, Operations Sector
Impact Assessment Agency of Canada

CC:

Marko Dekovic, Vice-President, Public Affairs, GCT Canada Limited Partnership,
Contact information removed

Ian Cowan, Project Assessment Director, Environmental Assessment Office, Contact information removed

Elenore Arend, Chief Executive Assessment Officer, Environmental Assessment Office,
Contact information removed

Kate Witherly, Agency Review Manager, Impact Assessment Agency of Canada, Contact information removed