

Environmental Assessment Office
South Fraser Perimeter Highway Project
Pre-Application Meeting

December 3, 2002 – 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 1810 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC

Notes from Meeting

PARTICIPANTS

Proponent

Brian Stone (MoT)
Dan Gould (MoT)
Mike Kent (MoT)
Paul Hemsley (Hemmera)
Malcolm Smith (Hemmera)

Provincial

Ray Crook (Environmental Assessment Office – EAO – chaired meeting)
Vicki Carmichael (EAO)
Steve Martin (Fraser Health Authority)
Elaine Taylor (Ministry of Community Aboriginal and Women's Services - MCAWS)
Brian Clark (Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection - MWLAP)
Steve Acheson (Archeology, Planning and Assessment - MSRM)
Gord Enemark (Ministry of Competition, Science and Enterprise - MCSE)

Federal

Andrew Robinson (Canadian Wildlife Service - CWS)
Jack Smith (Environment Canada - DOE)
Adrian Duncan (Environment Canada - DOE)
Linda Sullivan (Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency - CEA Agency)
Herb Klassen (Fisheries and Oceans Canada – DFO)
Carl Alleyne (Health Canada - HC)

PROCEEDINGS

1. Proponent's Presentation
 - MoT provided handouts of the PowerPoint presentation (electronic version of this presentation is available on request)
2. Transition to new EA process
 - Application will come in after new Act comes into force and the review will proceed with pre-application as though new Act is in place (one-stage review based on signed-off terms of reference).
 - Once Bill 38 proclaimed, following process steps are envisaged:

- Confirm project is a reviewable public highway project (is expected to be the case since no major changes to the Reviewable Project Regulation affecting highway projects are expected in the near term).
- EAO to determine review path and procedure.
- Normally, proponent would prepare/finalize application terms of reference for EAO/agency sign-off – will need to establish approach in this case, given extensive existing assessment documentation.
- Application screened (maximum time limit 30 days).
- Application reviewed (maximum time limit 180 days).
- Ministers (Minister of Sustainable Resource Management, Minister of Water Land and Air Protection and Minister of Community Aboriginal and Women's Services) decide (maximum time limit 45 days).
- There will not be a formal project committee, but EAO will likely work with two issue-focused technical committees:
 - Biophysical/Technical Working Group (BTWG)
 - Socio-economic/Community Working Group (SCWG)
- EAO will work out details of federal/provincial review arrangements with federal agencies – need to establish federal CEAA trigger.
 - Project would be a screening level review under *the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* with a likely trigger for DFO.
 - If the Application is received after changes to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* come into force, then the federal review would be coordinated by the Agency.

3. Agency Issue/Contact Information

Issues Raised

- Cumulative impacts from other projects – will the proposed project impact route alignments for future road/highway projects?
- Tolling issues
- Environmental impacts to biodiversity, fragmentation/loss of habitats, wildlife trees, migratory birds, air quality, water quantity and quality from runoff, fish and fish habitat and passage, and floodplain areas
- Human health impacts (air quality emissions such as particulate matter)
- Noise
- Contaminated sites – landfill, surface and groundwater quality
- Archaeological sites
- FN issues
- CEAA requirements – purpose of the project, assessment of alternatives, cumulative effects
- Navigable waters – need to have a determination from the Coast Guard on navigability of streams crossed

Contacts and Involvement in Working Groups

- MWLAP contact – Brian Clark (for now) – BTWG
- MCAWS contact – not sure - SCWG
- Health Canada – Carl Alleyne - BTWG
- MSRM (Archaeology, Planning and Assessment) contact – Steve Acheson - BTWG

- Environment Canada contacts– Adrian Duncan, Andrew Robinson (migratory birds), Jack Smith (contaminated sites) - BTWG
- DFO contact – Herb Klassen – BTWG (and likely SCWG)
- Canadian Coast Guard – John Mackie – BTWG

4. Next Steps

- Land and Water BC should be contacted and actively involved in this project as most likely there will be Water Act authorizations/permits that will be needed with some of the 70 stream crossings
- Local governments (Delta, Surrey, Greater Vancouver Regional District) should be invited to participate in the EA process
- MoT will engage a FN consultant to initiate discussion with relevant FN Bands and/or Tribal Associations before the EAO approaches the Bands to participate in the EA review process. It was agreed that FN participation on the working groups will be invited by the EAO.
- MOT to distribute assessment reports to EAO and the EAO will distribute the reports to BTWG and SCWG members
- MOT to distribute detailed alignments and list of streams to be crossed to Canadian Coast Guard to enable early stream navigability determination.
- Start convening the working groups as soon as possible as MoT reports are ready for distribution. EAO will formalize invitations to participate on the working groups.