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## INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Ministry of Environment

### **DELTAPORT EXPANSION RECEIVES APPROVAL FROM PROVINCE**

VICTORIA – The Vancouver Port Authority has received a provincial environmental assessment certificate for its proposed expansion of the existing container terminal at Roberts Bank, following a comprehensive review by B.C.'s Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) that began in March 2003.

The proposed project will be located at Tsawwassen and includes a 427-metre extension of the existing wharf structure to accommodate a third container ship and expansion of the container operating and storage area. The project entails an approximately 30 per cent increase in the footprint of the existing Deltaport terminal, including:

- Construction and operation of concrete wharf structures.
- Fill to accommodate the new terminal area.
- Container operational equipment such as gantry cranes.
- Dredging a new tug basin and a ship turning basin.
- New rails at the upland Gulf siding, within the existing right-of-way and without widening the existing causeway.
- A \$3-million Highway 17 upgrade in Ladner.

The project triggered a Comprehensive Study Review (CSR) under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment Canada are the federal Responsible Authorities. The provincial and federal assessment processes have been harmonized in accordance with the Canada/British Columbia Agreement for Environmental Assessment Cooperation. The application underwent assessment by a project working group comprising federal and provincial agencies, local government and First Nations.

Having carefully reviewed and considered all issues raised by the public, the agencies and the First Nations that were within the purview of the assessment, and the responses and commitments from the Vancouver Port Authority (the proponent), it has been concluded that all potential significant adverse environmental, economic, social, heritage and health effects identified are manageable to an acceptable level through adherence to project design components, operation and the mitigation measures committed to by the proponent.

The provincial environmental certificate contains over 152 commitments that the proponent must implement throughout the various phases of the project. Some key commitments to protect the environment include:

- Habitat Compensation Plan to establish new or enhance existing fish and bird habitat, including monitoring to assess the performance of the compensation habitat designs.
- An Adaptive Management Strategy for the Roberts Bank inter-causeway area to monitor ecosystem trends with respect to eutrophication, water quality, and flora and fauna within the marine environment.

- Construction Environmental Management Plan to address dredging, surface water quality and sediment control, hazardous waste management, noise, wildlife and vegetation impacts, marine environment, marine water quality and air quality impacts.
- Reducing the project footprint from 32 hectares to approximately 22 hectares.
- Implementing air quality initiatives to help reduce emissions and conducting a feasibility study for shore-based power.
- Substantially reducing the overall marine dredging footprint.
- Minimizing trespass light during dredging and operations by changing lighting configuration.

The proponent is required to obtain the necessary provincial and federal permits and authorizations following receipt of an Environmental Assessment Certificate. A decision by the federal Minister of Environment is required before the project can proceed.

The project capital cost is approximately \$272 million, and it will create approximately 640 person-years of employment during the construction phase and 360 permanent jobs during its operation.

More information on the Environmental Certificate can be found at [www.eao.gov.bc.ca](http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca).

Media        Tony Kant  
contact:     Media Relations  
               250 953-3834

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