

**Letter of Comment([A72055](#))**

Name: Ms. Karras, Shawwna

Title:

Group:

Your Application to Participate (ATP): [A58687](#) filed on 2014-02-12

Letter of Comment Filing Date: 2015-08-18

Hearing Information

Project Name: Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project

Company: Trans Mountain Pipeline ULC

File Number: OF-Fac-Oil-T260-2013-03 02

Hearing Order: OH-001-2014

Comments

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project.

My husband and I live and own waterfront on Lasqueti Island. I have lived here for 24 years, my husband for 40 plus years. We are lucky enough have a sailboat and kayaks with which to explore and enjoy the Salish Sea. Lasqueti Island is in the spill area defined by the companies maps.

This proposed pipeline expansion project would mean an exponential increase in oil tanker traffic from 36 a year to around 365 a year. This tenfold increase, greatly increases the associated risks of tankers laden with bitumen. These include environmental pollution due to more diesel fumes, ship fuel and effluent discharges and leaks; more collisions with whales; and the terrible possibility of a devastating bitumen spill.

The waters of the Georgia Strait are known to be among the most biodiverse in the world, despite that they aren't as healthy as they used to be and many marine species such as herring, salmon and whales are much less abundant than they have been in the past. A lot of migratory sea birds come through this area also, and their numbers have also been diminishing with time and all the environmental and diminishing food threats they face. It would be madness, and definitely not worth it to put further pressure on this amazing environment with the risk of a devastating big oil spill. The environmental, economic and social costs this would exact make this untenable.

I am very concerned about the plight of the already "endangered"(under the species at risk act) southern resident killer whales (J clan) of which there are only about 80 left. In Kinder Morgan's application they

admitted the potential effect of sensory disturbance on these whales that use the same area the tankers will ply. These acoustic disturbances could interfere with the whales' abilities to communicate and food forage, activities critical to their survival. And there is a much increased risk of collision with the oil tankers. And of course terrible consequences to the whales that would come from a big oil spill.

The threat of a big oil spill needs to be taken seriously. Along the tanker route out to the open ocean, narrow tide-dependent passageways (such as the First and Second Narrows Bridges) and rocky narrows (such as Dodd's Narrows) must be navigated, often in high winds in the winter. These hazards multiplied by many more tankers increase the risk of a spill.

Clean up after a spill would be very difficult. In British Columbia we have inadequate resources to deal with a big oil spill. Coast guard resources have and are being cut back and the recent example of the excessive time it took to deal with the relatively small fuel leak in the Vancouver Harbour this year where the help was nearby should warn us that getting resources to a more remote location could take a much longer time and quite likely be woefully inadequate. We've witnessed the nightmarish difficulty of cleanup in situations like the 2010 BP Gulf Coast oil disaster, and the Michigan Kalamazoo River dilbit spill. Dilbit, a federal government report confirmed, sinks when mixed with sediment. This would really hinder cleanup, as witnessed in Kalamazoo where even after \$1 billion was spent on cleanup, the river was still polluted. The effects of a spill would probably be around for years and could help push some species over the brink.

The economic impact of a big oil spill on British Columbia and our coast would most likely be devastating. We saw this in the BP disaster in the southeast coast of the States. Tourism, fisheries, shellfish harvesting could suffer great losses in my own community and bigger areas of the province. Our province stands to gain very little economically by having this proposal go through, and risks too much.

On a personal level, and for pretty much everyone in this coastal area, a big oil spill would be a traumatic event to have occur, wreaking havoc on our use and enjoyment of our coastal waters and oceanfront land. Many people could suffer stress as witnessed during BP, where people's way of life was threatened and there was grief for the environment. There could be a health hazard from the toxic bitumen. Property values would likely drop.

In conclusion, I urge you to recommend outright rejection of this proposal. The risks to the environment, the economy, and people's (and other form of life's) well-being are too great. Let's appreciate, preserve and make healthier, the gift of this wonderful marine environment that we have right now.

Yours sincerely, Shawwna Karras, Lasqueti Island

Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Size
---------------	---------------	------