



**NORTH COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AGENDA**
Held via Teleconference
On February 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CONSIDERATION OF AGENDA (additions/deletions)

3. BOARD MINUTES & BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None.	---
-------	-----

4. STANDING COMMITTEE/COMMISSION MINUTES – BUSINESS ARISING

None.	---
-------	-----

5. DELEGATIONS

None.	---
-------	-----

6. FINANCE

None.	---
-------	-----

7. CORRESPONDENCE

None.	---
-------	-----

8. REPORTS / RESOLUTIONS

8.1	D. Fish, Corporate Officer – Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency – Participant Funding Program	Pg 1-2
8.2	M. Williams, Consultant – Aurora LNG Project Screening	Pg 3-4
8.3	D. Nobels, Director – Aurora LNG BC Environmental Assessment Process	Verbal

9. BYLAWS

None.	---
-------	-----

10. LAND REFERRALS / PLANNING *(Voting restricted to Electoral Area Directors)*

None.	---
-------	-----

11. NEW BUSINESS

None.	---
-------	-----

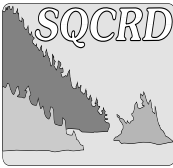
12. OLD BUSINESS

None.	---
-------	-----

13. PUBLIC INPUT**14. IN-CAMERA**

None.	---
-------	-----

15. ADJOURNMENT



STAFF MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2017

FROM: D. Fish, Corporate Officer

SUBJECT: Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency – Participant Funding Program

Recommendation:

THAT the Board receives the memorandum from staff entitled “Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency – Participant Funding Program” for information.

BACKGROUND:

At its Regular meeting held January 20, 2017 the Board of the North Coast Regional District (NCRD) resolved to have staff investigate the NCRD's eligibility for funding under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's Participant Funding Program. Below is a summary of staff's findings.

DISCUSSION:

Participant Funding Program

Sections 57 and 58 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012* require the CEAA to establish a Participant Funding Program (PFP) to facilitate the participation of the public in the environmental assessments (EA) the CEAA and other review panels conduct.

The CEAA administers the PFP, which is designed to support individuals, non-profit organizations and Aboriginal groups interested in participating in federal EAs.

Funding under the PFP is delivered through two streams: Regular Funding and Aboriginal Funding. Regular funding is provided to individuals, incorporated non-profits and Aboriginal groups, whereas Aboriginal funding is accessed solely by Aboriginal groups. Further, the CEAA provides varying funding amounts through both streams dependent on whether an EA is undertaken by the CEAA or a separate review panel. The maximum grant available through Regular Funding to participate in an EA undertaken by the CEAA is \$10,500, as opposed to \$20,000 available for those wishing to participate in an EA undertaken by a review panel, such as the BC Environmental Assessment Office.

Eligibility

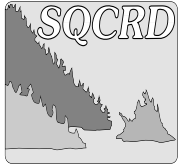
To be eligible for participant funding, applicants must demonstrate the value they will add by participating in an EA and meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Have a direct, local interest in the project, such as living or owning property in the project area;
- Have community knowledge or Aboriginal traditional knowledge relevant to the EA;
- Plan to provide expert information relevant to the anticipated environmental effects of the project; and/or
- Have an interest in the potential impacts of the project on treaty lands, settlement lands or traditional territories and/or related claims and rights.

As per the PFP National Program Guidelines, governmental organizations, other than Aboriginal governments, are not eligible to receive PFP funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is recommending that, given the NCRD's ineligibility under the PFP, an individual interested in accessing funding under the program do so as an individual applicant. There is a case to be made for residents living in Dodge Cove that funding under the PFP should be made available for the participation in the EA process because of the direct, local interests in the project and the interests in the potential impacts of the project.



STAFF REPORT

DATE: February 10, 2017
TO: Doug Chapman, Chief Administrative Officer
FROM: Morganne Williams, Consultant
SUBJECT: Aurora LNG Project Screening

Recommendation:

THAT a letter be submitted to the BC EAO supporting Dodge Cove and neighboring communities' request for further work to be conducted on the visual impact study.

AND THAT the NCRD Board request involvement in subgroups to review matters relating to solid waste, emergency response, and social management practices.

AND FURTHER THAT the NCRD direct staff to request the emergency response plan from the Prince Rupert Port Authority.

PURPOSE:

The NCRD Board has an opportunity to provide input on the application made to the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) regarding the Aurora LNG project on Digby Island. The deadline to comment has been extended to February 21, 2017.

PROCESS:

The proponent has prepared an application for the proposed Aurora LNG project on Digby Island. The application has entered the 180-day review period, prior to the Minister's decision. Working group members met in Prince Rupert on February 6 and 7 to review the application and engage in discussion with the proponent. Director Nobels and consultant, Morganne Williams, attended the meetings on behalf of the NCRD.

The original comment deadline was February 13th, which triggered the need for a special Board meeting. On February 6, the BC EAO announced an extension to the working group comment deadline. This extension will allow staff to follow-up with the Board on February 17th to answer outstanding questions and present application specific comments for submission. The proponent will respond to working group comments March 15 – 29, 2017.

COMMENTS TO DATE:

To date the NCRD has focused their efforts on reviewing aspects of applications that are pertinent to the service and function of the organization. Areas of focus have been on solid waste management and emergency response. In addition to solid waste management and emergency response, comments to Aurora LNG have expanded to include: lack of statistics gathered for Electoral Areas, the use of updated OCPs upon adoption, and a request for further consultation.

DISCUSSION:

Working Group Discussions

During the working group meeting, many members commented on the lack of information found in the application. Many stakeholders requested additional information and inquired about methodology used in baseline data collection. During the meeting, Dodge Cove and neighboring communities requested the proponent revisit the Visual Quality component of the application. It is recommended that the Board write a letter in support of Dodge Cove and neighboring communities' request for further investigation regarding the visual impact of the project. This will help better understand the visual impact the project will have on the area.

During application review, the BC EAO mentioned the potential to create a number of 'subgroups' to review specific components. It is recommended that the Board request an invitation to participate in subgroups reviewing matters relating to emergency response, solid waste, and social management plans. Others areas may be added at the Board's discretion.

Emergency Response

The NCRD is responsible for facilitating emergency response within the region. The development of an Emergency Response Plan is not required prior to a decision being made on the application. It is recommended that the NCRD begin preparations in advance of Aurora LNG commencing the Emergency Response Plan. As an initial step, a request for the Emergency Response Plan from the Prince Rupert Port Authority is recommended. This will assist in identifying area's where coordinated effort can create efficiency within this service.

Additional Comments on Application

With the recently announced extension to the comment period, staff are recommending that additional time be allocated to review the application. A second report, providing a comment matrix, will be provided at the Board meeting scheduled for February 17th. The comment matrix will be more specific than the high-level recommendations included in this report.

CONCLUSION:

The Board has an opportunity to provide comment and seek further information on the application. A set of recommendations has been put forth to provide support of other stakeholders, request involvement in subgroup discussions, and to initiate discussions and collection of existing Emergency Response Plans in the region. In the next week, the application will be further reviewed and proposed comments will be brought back to the regular Board meeting.