

FSD-EIA

From: [redacted]
Sent: December-12-13 5:05 PM
To: FSD-EIA; hlth.minister@gov.bc.ca; env.minister@gov.bc.ca; Minister@ec.gc.ca; mintc@tc.gc.ca; info@realporhearings.org; WC Webmaster
Subject: Fraser Surrey Docks (FSD) project permit application (PP 2012-072)
Attachments: PMV Comment Period Letter - 12.12.13-signed.pdf
Categories: [redacted]

Dear Tim,

Please see attached official letter of comment concerning Fraser Surrey Docks (FSD) project permit application (PP 2012-072).

Cheers,

Eoin Madden | Climate Change Campaigner
Wilderness Committee | Canada's largest membership-based wilderness preservation organization
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12/12/13

Re – Fraser Surrey Docks (FSD) project permit application (PP 2012-072) to Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) for the development of a Direct Transfer Coal Facility.

Dear Tim,

By way of introduction, I am the climate campaigner at the Wilderness Committee. The Wilderness Committee, founded in 1980, is a registered non-profit society with charitable status. With over 60,000 members, donors and volunteers, we are Canada's largest membership-based, citizen-funded wilderness protection group. Our head office is in Vancouver, with field offices in Victoria, Winnipeg and Toronto.

In recent years, US coal shipments through BC ports have increased dramatically – from just 130,000 tonnes in 2007 to more than 9,000,000 tonnes in 2011. The proposed creation of US coal shipping facilities in Metro Vancouver has become a focal point for public opposition based on their devastating climate change impacts, as well as local public health concerns.

Should the FSD Proposal go ahead it will be responsible for 17 million tonnes of climate changing gases every single year. It will also bring dangerous levels of fugitive coal dust and diesel particulates into the heart of our communities. These facts have not escaped the attention of communities across the Lower Mainland, as evidenced by the fact that, as of time of writing, more than 24000 citizens have signed petitions against the permitting of this dangerous project.

I note that, as of time of writing, PMV is satisfied with the extent to which the issue of health impacts has been addressed by FSD in its permit application papers. This is in spite of the fact that BC's medical health officers have been protesting the inadequacy of the health impact component of the review process for the FSD Proposal for some time now. BC's Nurses' Union has felt obligated to support the protests, taking the unusual step of writing to PMV.

The extent to which the FSD Proposal threatens the health of our communities was taken to a whole new level by a recent report by BC Healthy Communities, the largest coalition of health leaders in BC's history, on the health impacts of Climate Change in BC. Its conclusion: that the majority of physicians surveyed believed that climate change is already affecting the health of BC's communities, and will continue to over time. When fully operational, FSD will represent a contribution exceeding a quarter of the whole province's domestic output of carbon pollution. It will increase the likely costs of adaption to the severe effects of climate change in BC.

I ask of you to respect the thousands of comments received by you from our members and other concerned citizens stating that the FSD Proposal is not in BC's best interests. The inadequacies of the assessment process currently in place have been re-iterated by our members, and they are deserving of a proper assessment of the environmental and health impacts of the FSD Proposal.

I hereby ask of you to deny the permit sought by FSD, or in the very least re-start the assessment process following the guidelines put in place by those experts who have commented on the environmental assessment process.

Thank you for giving this request your serious consideration.

EM

Eoin Madden
Climate Change Campaigner
Wilderness Committee

Electronic copies to:

Leona Aglukkaq, Federal Environment Minister
Lisa Raitt, Federal Transport Minister
Mary Polak, Environment Minister for British Columbia
Terry Lake, Health Minister for British Columbia