

From: Nicole Cote [<mailto:nicole.cote@hc-sc.gc.ca>]

Sent: December-16-13 12:45 PM

To: Desjardin, Darrell; Brown, Carrie

Cc: Patterson, Michelle; Gregory Kaminski; Gladis Lemus; Daniel.Wolfish@hc-sc.gc.ca; Henry Ip; Dekovic, Marko

Subject: Re: Port Metro Vancouver Project Update: Fraser Surrey Docks Direct Transfer Coal Facility

Dear Mr. Desjardin:

I am pleased to respond to your communication of November 28, 2013, concerning the posting, for 30 day public comment period, of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study related to the proposed direct transfer coal facility in Surrey, British Columbia. As this is not currently a designated project under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012, Health Canada will not be providing comments on the EIA during this 30 day public comment period. However, if Port Metro Vancouver after reviewing the public comments or further modifications to the EIA, has specific technical areas of concern they wish Health Canada to review, the department is willing to carry out that review in areas relevant to its mandate and in which it possesses specialist expertise, information or knowledge.

Health Canada is the federal department responsible for helping Canadians to maintain and improve their health. As a part of our mandate, the Department may participate in environmental assessments as a federal authority under CEAA, upon request. In this role, Health Canada would assist in the evaluation of potential human health impacts of proposed projects undergoing an assessment under CEAA, by providing the responsible authority (i.e., the department/agency responsible for decision making) with specialist or expert information or knowledge on the potential impacts of project-related exposure to contaminants in water, air, and foods.

Health Canada does not assess the significance of the human health effects related to a project, but rather focuses its comments on the accuracy, scientific validity and completeness concerning these effects. Consistent with its responsibilities under CEAA, the Department does not grant any approvals or make any regulatory decisions with respect to proposals that undergo an environmental assessment.

Thank you for contacting Health Canada and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions.

Nicole Cote

Manager for Environmental Assessment and Contaminated Sites Division // Gestionnaire de la division de l'évaluation environnementale et des sites contaminés Environmental Health Bureau / Le Bureau de la santé environnementale

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