

LNG ESI Governance Working Group – Summary of Session Dialogue May 13th, Richmond BC

Overview:

- This was the first meeting of the ESI GWG. A total of 26 individuals attended, representing FNs, industry, provincial and federal governments. ESI Team had hoped that more FN leadership would attend. Broad agreement that this GWG meeting was a success, with a high level of constructive engagement from all parties.
- Approach for ESI was proposed as moving from a “participatory, government-led process”, to an inclusive process in which FNs take a leadership role in this opportunity - to balance economic interests with FN interests in the cumulative impacts of development on the landbase. ESI Team raised, as an option for the GWG, to establish a FN co-chair to support this approach.
- Discussion around the interim decision-making process for demonstration projects was raised. The GWG discussed options in which ITWG need to be supported in these immediate decisions related to demonstration projects and that could be applied on a region-by-region basis. GWG is aware of a linkage between this guidance and the ITWG ToR that will be discussed at the next meeting.
- ESI Team provided a brief update on the regional Interim Technical Working Group progress:
 - Skeena – demo project identification still at formative stage.
 - Omineca – Under a broader CE assessment that will be undertaken through the ESI, the ITWG has discussed two values, one regarding moose population restoration, and fresh-water fish habitat that are likely to be assessed;
 - Coast – relatively greater interest in the marine environment rather than the terrestrial environment. Coastal FNs and ESI Team currently collaborating with Environment Canada (EC) on EC’s desire to have a cumulative environmental monitory project in the coastal area. More information will be forthcoming from the ESI Tem regarding a demo project proposal.
 - Northeast: There is emerging agreement on the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment to be the ESI demonstration project. There will be discussions over the next few weeks to establish the RSEA agreement as the ESI demo with appropriate links to ITWG TOR and other ESI processes.

ESI Blue Sky dialogue

- Principles:
 - commitment for participants, and sharing information and ideas
 - not duplicating
 - Develop an overarching structure to enable the principle of consistency
 - To ensure lines connect between the regions; that there is a consistent approach, and some body where we can all touch base with each other.

- See a need for broad principles to inform regional work
 - Broad principles support a consistent operating environment across the regions which is necessary for those participating across the value chain
- Clarity is required between the ITWG and GWG
- The purpose of the structure is to enable activities that provide everyone with baseline information that is trusted by all parties.
- Baseline data is a component of the projects to enable assessments. There is also interest in getting common understanding of the risks to values (that we can agree upon), and reconcile the different perspectives on risks to aboriginal and treaty rights on those values.
- Concerns rose about timeliness and the impetus to show outcomes of the ESI process.
- Some nations are at the stage where they are feeling like they are making more progress. Now need to know what the budget and partnership looks like to creating (ESI) value.
- Interests rose in process outputs; existing process doesn't give comfort that mitigations will be undertaken that addresses FN concerns.
- Participants see ESI as an opportunity, to talk about impacts, to talk about policy and regulatory change. Collaboration can result in better inclusion in decision-making. Participants want to identify policy changes to make better approach to environment stewardship.
- The Province confirmed that is the path we are starting on, used Northeast RSEA project development as an example.
- Interests rose around data and methodological consistency, role of ESI in doing that.
- There should be a sensitivity to individual FN needs – this is related to regionally based decision making
- Role of the GWG was discussed:
 - Think outside the box; develop policy proposals for gov and industry; liaison between “grass roots”; identifying what and when consultation happens - is this process without prejudice?
 - Political vs. bureaucratic process/management,
 - Develop a document that everyone can sign, i.e. MOU, outlining the relationship and parameters of ESI GWG stay away from certain words, and define properly the words.
 - Setting milestones, broad. Critical path for strategic decisions.
 - Provide the “common things that can be done better centrally” - communications, dispute resolution, etc.
 - Outside scope: decision making on individual projects.
- Risks:
 - communications and information sharing across all groups
 - limits on capacity and availability (of members)
 - focusing on LNG for CE, CE is broader than LNG
 - focusing too big and too lofty becomes ineffective
 - too much talk not enough action – need to demonstrate tangible value to the communities

Appendix 1: Participants

FN Participants:

- Carrier Sekani Tribal Council – Robert Dennis
- Gitxsan FN - Angela Tait (Gitxsan Development Corp.)
- Gitxsan FN – Jako Krushnisky (Gitxsan Development Corp.)
- Kitsumkalum FN – Siegi Kriegl
- Lake Babine Nation – Betty Patrick
- Metlakatla FN – Ross Wilson (Metlakatla Stewardship)
- Saik'uz FN – Jackie Thomas
- West Moberly FN - Tim Thielmann (lawyer)

BC Gov Participants:

- FLNRO – Justin Calof (Facilitator)
- MARR – Alex Grybowski
- MARR – May Darling
- MNGD – Emmy Humber (Facilitator)
- FDMS – Dan George (BC Gov contractor & facilitator)
- FDMS – Lucy Praught (BC Gov contractor)
- FDMS – Jaime Sanchez (BC Gov contractor)
- TLMC – Tom Lee (BC Gov contractor)
- Prince Rupert Port Authority – Jack Smith
- Prince Rupert Port Authority – Lorne Keller

Federal Gov Participants:

- Environment Canada – Trena Allen
- Environment Canada – Caitlin Williamson

Industry reps:

- Shell Canada - Teresa Hetrick
- Spectra - Karen Graham
- TransCanada – Karen Etherington
- Nexen – Peter Chernik
- British Gas Canada – Catherine Palmer
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers – Geoff Morrison