



DELTA NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

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2014 November 17

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Legislative Assembly,
501 Bellville St.
Victoria, BC, V8V 2L8

Dear Madam Premier:

Subject: The Fraser River jet fuel issue is an environmental and public safety issue.

Re: Judicial review on lack of proper public consultation during an Environmental Assessment

The Delta Naturalists Society is concerned with preservation of the Fraser Delta for the benefit of wildlife, birds, fish, and the ensuing economic and environmental benefits to society. The approval of the Vancouver Airport Fuel Facilities which will allow supertankers conveying toxic and flammable jet fuel on the Fraser River poses a clear and present danger to wildlife, migratory bird habitat and salmon fishery in the lower reaches of the Fraser. This proposed facility provides an offloading marine terminal and tank farm that stores 80,000,000 liters of hazardous jet fuel near condominiums and an entertainment and sports complex. The impacts of a spill would be serious; the impacts of a fire and an explosion would be catastrophic.

The Delta Naturalists Society supports VAPOR (a citizens group formed in 2011) in their launch of a judicial review on the lack of proper public consultation for this high risk project. Four polls indicated over 85% of Lower Fraser citizens were opposed to jet fuel transport and handling on the Fraser River. Richmond and Delta city councils were unanimously opposed to it. The vulnerable Fraser River and its estuary needs much better environmental, property and public safety protection than seen in this granting of an Environmental Certificate that allows a corporation to ship hazardous jet fuel into the heart of the Fraser River Estuary for unloading and storage.

Limited environmental assessments do not allow a safer, more reliable and environmentally friendlier jet fuel transport options to be pursued. The environment, our safety, the ALR and our quality of life in Delta and Richmond will greatly suffer. Also if this jet fuel facility is built it will open up the Fraser River to heavy industrial development by Port Metro Vancouver. The hazardous jet fuel issue is just the tip of the iceberg.

The Delta Naturalists Society supports the public's right to challenge the consultation process used in these government decisions. We support VAPOR on their concerns for protecting the public and the environment and applaud their opposition to hazardous jet fuel transport on the Fraser River.

We urge your government to review how you conduct environmental assessments, especially in light of on-going harmonization efforts, and revise legislation and procedures to ensure the public has the opportunity to provide formal comments on that process in a full and transparent manner. Also, the reviews should seriously consider all options, not just the one favored by the proponent. Your government's reconsideration of the high risk threats to the Fraser River and its estuary is long overdue.

Sincerely yours,

James Ronback, Director - on behalf of

Tom Bearss, President, Delta Naturalists Society

c.c. Mary Polak, Honourable Minister of the Environment
c.c. Rich Coleman, Minister of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas
cc. Kerry-Lynn Findlay, MP (Delta Richmond East)
cc. Vicki Huntington, MLA for Delta South
cc. VAPOR
c.c. Media