



**David
Suzuki
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The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of British Columbia
Legislative Assembly
501 Belleville St.
Victoria, BC, V8V 2L8

October 27, 2014

Dear Premier,

As you are aware, your decision to issue the Vancouver Airport Fuel Facilities Corporation an Environmental Certificate is being challenged in the B.C. Supreme Court for a Judicial Review. This challenge is by the VAPOR Society* and Otto Langer and is based on limits to public involvement in the environmental assessment. The certificate allows jet fuel barges, tankers, a terminal and tank farm in the Fraser River.

The David Suzuki Foundation has engaged the province in email, phone conversations and via written concerns about the wisdom of allowing jet fuel transportation on the Fraser when there are cost-effective alternatives available that offer greater environmental security (DSF to BC EAO October 3, 2011).

We are concerned that your approval is not based on the best science and does not adequately address public opposition to the project or the unanimous opposition of Richmond and Delta city councils. We believe that the provincial approval and Environmental Assessment processes did not give the public a credible opportunity for a hearing during the four-year review. Attempts to formalize federal-provincial project review harmonization were underway, further confusing matters. Additionally, concerns have been raised that the BC Environmental Assessment Office did not deal appropriately with potential conflict of interest issues relating to their work on the approval with Port Metro Vancouver, an agency that benefits directly from the approval.

The David Suzuki Foundation supports the public's right to challenge these kinds of decisions in our court system. Court proceedings, however, are costly, time consuming and do not always leave room for reasoned compromise. The best way to avoid them is through a fair and open environmental review process led by government.

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 that the public has the opportunity to provide formal comments as part of that process. In addition, environmental reviews should consider all options, not just those favored by the proponent.





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We believe it is essential that government provide rigorous processes, regular and meaningful public access to decision-making and direction to ministries and staff that this is a mandatory component of environmental assessments in the province.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jay Ritchlin', written over a horizontal line.

Jay Ritchlin
Director-General, Western Canada

Copy to:

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment

The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans

Vicki Huntington, MLA

John Yap, MLA

Linda Reid, MLA

Teresa Wat, MLA

Robin Silvester, President and CEO, Port Metro Vancouver

*VAPOR Society is a Lower Fraser River citizens group that opposes jet fuel tankers in the Fraser River and promotes an environmentally safer on-land option for jet fuel to YVR.

