

**PRESS RELEASE****March 1, 2016****Port Metro Vancouver Issues Permit for Construction of VAFFC Jet Fuel Terminal and Tank Farm on the Fraser River in Richmond.**

It is with extreme disappointment that the VAPOR Society has learned that Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) has issued a permit for construction of a jet fuel offloading terminal and large tank farm to VAFFC (Vancouver Airport Fuel Facilities Corp.) in the middle of the globally significant Fraser River Estuary. During the BC Environmental Assessment Office's review process, the BC government refused to properly address the hazards of super tankers of jet fuel, a terminal and 90 million litre tank farm on the south shore of Richmond close to the complex of several rinks, movie theatres, restaurants and condominiums. Experience has shown that such a facility can cause spills, fires and under certain circumstances catastrophic explosions affecting a large area.

The BC Government has indeed approved a large LNG facility across the Fraser River from this jet fuel terminal facility and they will both be served by barges and large tankers. The public safety of this section of the river is being placed in jeopardy. The large hazard footprints of the cumulative effects of their combined hazards have not been considered at all, e.g., collisions between vessels containing hazardous products that are flammable and toxic that lead to devastating explosions.

In the Otto Langer and VAPOR vs. the BC Attorney General and VAFFC, the BC AG lawyer said the environmental review process never ends and the public would have the opportunity for input into the terminal and tank farm issues. PMV did allow a single opportunity for the public to write in comments but that again is totally inadequate consultation as was demonstrated in the original BC EAO environmental assessment. In both processes there was no opportunity for open feedback and the chance for the public to ask additional questions was largely ignored by VAFFC and the BC Government.

Recently BC Supreme Court Madame Justice Dillon indicated that the BC government had met the minimum standard for public consultation but then strongly criticized VAFFC in that they could have done a great deal more to consult with the public (BC Supreme Court - Otto Langer and VAPOR vs. VAFFC for reverse cost charges - January 2016).

The Judge then dismissed what we see as a bully tactic by the VAFFC consortium of Air Canada, Westjet and 28 other airlines to muzzle the public by asking a small public group and a retired biologist to pay for their court costs. VAPOR fought that matter and obtained a very good precedent decision for any public group that feels it has been bullied by such corporate interests.

VAPOR urgently requests that the Trudeau Government change the way environmental assessments are now conducted in Canada. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Office ignores many projects of great public interest affecting federal responsibilities and allows proponent to meet a very low bar standard. Many environmental assessments now amount to little more than green washing. It is also urgently requested that habitat protection provisions be re-instated into the Canada Fisheries Act to protect Canada's largest salmon river.

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**\*VAPOR is a citizens' society formed to oppose jet fuel tankers and fuel handling and storage in the Fraser River and estuary. VAPOR promotes an environmentally safer, more reliable land based pipeline option to supply jet fuel to YVR that will remove all jet fuel barges and supertankers in the Fraser River, its estuary and Burrard Inlet.**