



Reference: 293429

JAN 04 2016

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Thank you for your letter of November 3, 2015, addressed to the Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, expressing your concerns regarding the environment of British Columbia (BC). Minister Polak has asked that I respond on her behalf. I apologize for the delay in doing so.

I appreciate that you took the time to share your concerns with the Ministry of Environment.

With regard to the waste discharge authorization for Cobble Hill Holdings Ltd. (also known as South Island Aggregates) in the Cowichan Valley, as you may know, the Ministry of Environment is legally obligated to consider all applications submitted, including those for treating and discharging contaminated soil.

The decision to grant a waste discharge authorization to Cobble Hill Holdings was made in accordance with the *Environmental Management Act*. Qualified professionals from both inside and outside the ministry reviewed this application based on their expertise. The statutory evidence-based decision maker considered a large volume of scientific assessments, technical information, First Nations input, community feedback and other information. In making the decision, the statutory decision maker was satisfied there was sufficient information to set requirements that will provide protection of human health and the environment.

The decision was appealed to the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB), which carefully reviewed the permit including all its requirements, considered all the evidence, and confirmed the permit subject to directions. The director subsequently amended the permit in accordance with the EAB directions. The ministry respects the decision of the EAB and expects the permittee to fully comply with the permit including all its requirements.

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The Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) specifically considered the landfill liner including construction, installation, puncture, failure, longevity, and reliability (paragraphs 504 to 527 in the decision, which can be found on the EAB website at <http://www.eab.gov.bc.ca/>). The EAB found that the evidence establishes that the synthetic liner approved for the site uses the most reliable material available (paragraph 516), and that the encapsulation cells and liner system will protect the environment and human health (paragraph 527). To further protect the environment, the EAB also issued directions to prohibit blasting during landfill liner installation and to preclude the reuse of liners. Paragraphs 601 to 669 of the EAB decision contain detailed information about the permit's ability to protect the environment and human health into the future.

With regard to your concerns about the proposed the Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C), Site C underwent a thorough environmental assessment that included an independent federal-provincial joint review panel. The assessment included extensive, meaningful and respectful consultation with Aboriginal groups and the public, and provided scientific and technical expertise to enable informed decisions by both governments.

The Honourable Mary Polak, Minister of Environment, and the Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, issued an Environmental Assessment Certificate (Certificate) for Site C on October 14, 2014. The Certificate includes 77 legally binding conditions that must be fulfilled by BC Hydro throughout the life of Site C. The Certificate is available on the Environmental Assessment Office website at: http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_doc_list_371_a_waa.html.

With regard to the George Massey Tunnel replacement project, while I appreciate that you took the time to share your thoughts with the Ministry of Environment, the project falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. I have shared a copy of your enquiry with the Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, for his review and consideration.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Zacharias', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Zacharias
Assistant Deputy Minister
Environmental Protection Division

cc: Honourable Todd Stone, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure

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OF ENVIRONMENT

NOV 19 2015

Reply Direct ☐ Let Reply ☐ Indirect
☐ Redirect to

Nov 6, 2015

Dear Ms. Polak:

Excuse my procrastination in writing you about the following issues.

Tainted soil upstream from Shawanigan Lake. This is ludicris. The barrier will one day fail. If you're not preempt this dumping, you need to!

Eight To ten lane replacement for the Massy Tunnel. Climate change will kill us if we continue to make it easier for more people to drive longer distances. Stick to the current four lanes and build a (or some) skytrains or LRTs in that direction.

Site C dam. This is especially obvious! Spend the nine billion dollars on solar panels and have them installed on buildings all over the province (especially sunnier climates). Already spent a billion on Site C? Stop now and spend the remaining eight billion on panels.

People with the panels would love you for their lower rates, the farmland is saved, the people living there aren't uprooted.

Remember, you are an environment minister!

From: [Fenton, Chrystal EAO:EX](#) on behalf of [Carr, Michelle EAO:EX](#)
To: [Kapac de Frias, Martina E ENV:EX](#); [Denniston, Tristan M EDUC:EX](#); [Knudsen, Mark ENV:EX](#)
Cc: [Scott, Heidi ENV:EX](#); [Jardine, Kevin EAO:EX](#); [Leake, Greg EAO:EX](#); [Braun, Nathan EAO:EX](#); [Shepard, Michael EAO:EX](#)
Subject: EAO Milestone Update - George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project
Date: Wednesday, December 16, 2015 2:28:14 PM

Hello Martina, Tristan and Mark,
Further to Greg's email this morning, please find below the milestone update for the George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project.
If you have any questions please let me know.
Thank you
Michelle

George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project (Honourable Peter Fassbender – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development):

On December 16, 2015, the environmental assessment for the proposed George Massey Tunnel Replacement Project (GMTR) was initiated under Section 10(1)(c) of the *Environmental Assessment Act*. GMTR would involve replacing the George Massey Tunnel across the South Arm of the Fraser River with a new bridge, replacing the Westminster Highway, Steveston Highway, and Highway 17A interchanges and widening Highway 99 to accommodate dedicated transit/HOV lanes between Bridgeport Road in Richmond and Highway 91 in Delta.

<i>Section of the Act</i>	<i>Definition</i>
6	Minister's power to designate a project as reviewable
7	Application to executive director for reviewable project designation
10	Determination whether or not a reviewable project requires an Environmental Assessment Certificate
11	Issuance of an Order setting the scope, procedures and methods for the assessment
13	Issuance of a variation Order modifying the scope, procedures and methods for the assessment
16	Acceptance of an application into the 180-day review process following a determination that it contains the required information
18(4)	Extension of a Certificate
19	Amendment of a Certificate
24(2)	Time limit suspension
24(4)	Extensions of time limits by the minister or executive director
30	Issuance of a suspension Order