

IMPACTS OF FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS IN NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Major Fossil Fuel Projects in northern British Columbia

In the past year, many new energy and pipeline projects have been proposed for northern British Columbia.

While each project may not seem significant on its own, these developments in combination with each other will significantly transform the northern landscape.

The Enbridge Gateway Oil and Condensate Pipeline

Enbridge proposes to build two parallel pipelines from Edmonton to Kitimat, a distance of approximately 1,150 kilometres. The oil pipeline would be 36 inches in diameter and would carry 400,000 barrels a day of bitumen-based crude oil from Alberta's oil sands. A 20-inch condensate pipeline would carry 150,000 barrels a day of condensate, a chemical and petroleum mixture used to dilute the crude oil extracted from Alberta's oil sands so that it can travel in pipelines. A permanent right-of-way of 30 metres will be created along the pipeline route. The pipelines will cross at least 870 streams and rivers, and Enbridge states that this number may increase by 30%.

▲ TOP PHOTO: Pipeline in Alaska. CREDIT: ABLESTOCK IMAGES The project also entails construction of a loading facility, including tank farms, near Kitimat. Tankers will begin to travel British Columbia's coast to transport oil and condensate to and from markets elsewhere. Each of these ships is about 300 metres long, or about the length of 3 football fields, and 75 metres wide.

This project would be Enbridge's largest project yet, and would provide an annual average of 1,043 jobs during three years of construction. Seventy-five permanent jobs would be created, 45 of them in British Columbia. Enbridge has submitted initial materials to the National Energy Board and hopes to have the pipeline operating by 2010.



British Columbia's Energy Resources

SOURCE: BC ENERGY MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES

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2 The Pembina Pipeline

Pembina Pipeline Corporation proposes to build a 665-kilometre condensate pipeline from Summit Lake, near Prince George, to Kitimat. It will tie into the corporation's existing pipelines near Prince George and transport 100,000 barrels of condensate daily to Alberta's oil sands. It would also require a marine off-loading facility in Kitimat.

This project would involve hundreds of stream crossings and require substantial tanker traffic on British Columbia's coast. The company is beginning the process of consultation to secure provincial approvals in 2007. It would like to have the pipeline operating by 2009.

3 The TMX Northern Leg Extension

The Northern Leg Extension is part of Kinder Morgan's TMX project. The Anchor Loop part of this project would twin an existing pipeline between northern Alberta, through south central British Columbia to the British Columbia/Washington border. The Northern Leg Extension would link into this pipeline in northern British Columbia from Valemount and travel via Prince George to Kitimat.

This Northern Leg pipeline would carry 100,000 barrels a day of condensate between Valemount and Kitimat and would also involve hundreds of stream crossings and tanker traffic through British Columbia's coastal waters. Kinder Morgan hopes to have this pipeline built by 2011.

4 The Pacific Trails Pipeline

Kitimat LNG and Pacific Northern Gas propose to build a new 500-kilometre, 30 to 36 inch natural gas pipeline between Summit Lake and Kitimat, using current pipeline right-of-ways. The company hopes to have this pipeline operating by 2009.

5 Kitimat LNG Terminal

Kitimat LNG proposes to build a liquid natural gas (LNG) terminal near Kitimat. This project includes plans for marine off-loading, LNG storage, natural gas liquids recovery, re-gasification and send-out facilities to deliver natural gas into the existing Pacific Natural Gas (PNG) pipeline. A 14-kilometre, 30 inch pipeline would connect the plant to the PNG pipeline.

The project received provincial environmental assessment approval in June 2006; further necessary approvals have been applied for from the federal government and the BC Oil and Gas Commission. The company expects to be operating in 2009.

6 Prince Rupert LNG Terminal

This second LNG storage and reshipment facility is proposed to be approximately half of the size of the Kitimat LNG Terminal and would be able to process the equivalent of one major LNG tanker. This project was recently announced by West Pac Terminals; it expects to be operating by 2009.

7 Other Resource Development Opportunities

Once these pipelines are operating, they will open up access to British Columbia's interior basins, making it easier for oil and gas companies to begin to explore in the Nechako and Bowser Basins. Please see our other fact sheets that describe the impacts of oil and gas development.



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