

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

FACT SHEET



The environmental assessment for the Northern Gateway Pipeline Project is a detailed examination of the potential effects on the environment associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of the:

- Oil and condensate pipelines and associated infrastructure
- The Kitimat terminal
- Marine transportation

The assessment addresses the potential environmental effects of routine activities, as well as possible disturbance conditions, including oil spills.

Environmental Assessment Methods

The environmental effects assessment method:

- Considers the mandatory and discretionary factors that are required under Section 16 of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*;
- focuses on issues of greatest concern;
- considers all federal and provincial regulatory requirements;
- considers issues raised by the regulators, participating Aboriginal groups and public stakeholders; and
- integrates project design and programs for prevention and monitoring into a comprehensive environmental plan.

The environmental assessment focuses on specific environmental components (called valued environmental components or VECs). Environmental components are typically selected for assessment based on regulatory issues and guidelines, consultation with regulators, participating Aboriginal groups and stakeholders, field reconnaissance and the professional judgement of the study team.

Environmental Assessment Steps

The environmental effects assessment involves the following steps:

- **Scoping:** a plan for the environmental assessment is developed which includes a description of the boundaries and the standards that will be used to determine the environmental effects.
- **Assessment of project-related environmental effects:** this includes how an environmental effect will occur, proposed protection measures to reduce or eliminate the environmental effects, and evaluation of the lasting environmental effects of the Project for each development phase.
- **Identification of overlapping environmental effects:** environmental effects of other projects and activities that overlap with those of the Project are identified.
- **Evaluation of cumulative environmental effects:** the lasting environmental effects of the Project are evaluated in combination with other past and future projects.
- **Determination of significance:** the importance of the environmental effects is determined.
- **Follow-up and monitoring:** follow-up and monitoring is required to verify environmental effects predictions and assess the effectiveness of prevention measures.