

## **Preface to Volume 8C**

Spills into the marine environment, arising from incidents involving project-related tankers, is a key concern for Northern Gateway, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal coastal communities, and stakeholders. Northern Gateway is committed to evaluating the risk associated with transporting hydrocarbons in the marine environment so that operational and mitigation measures can be implemented to reduce risk and emergency response measures can be developed in the event of incidents.

Based on the importance of understanding how the risk of spills is determined quantitatively, Northern Gateway initiated a round-table process involving stakeholders and participating Aboriginal groups to identify issues of concern. Participants, called the Quantitative Risk Analysis (QRA) Working Group, contributed to the scoping, terms of reference, and selection of a consultant who would complete the QRA. Det Norske Veritas (DNV), an organization independent of Northern Gateway that specializes in marine risk assessment, was selected by the QRA Working Group to conduct the QRA for the marine terminal and tanker movements in the CCAA and the Territorial Sea of Canada.

The QRA will be finalized in Q2, 2010; therefore, the information in this volume relies on a draft March 2010 version of the QRA. Northern Gateway's approach to identifying risk is proactive by assuming that all areas along the Northern and Southern Approaches are at risk of being oiled in the event of a spill. This approach assesses biological and cultural sensitivities over a large area comprising Canadian waters from north Vancouver Island to the Canadian-US border with Alaska and, to the west, the Territorial Sea of Canada.

Biological and socio-economic information in this volume is based on this larger study area. Therefore, species and community information and assessment numbers cannot be compared directly with the rest of the Application.