

March 27, 2017

Backgrounder: Huu-ay-aht makes history with approval of Sarita LNG Project

Huu-ay-aht First Nations made history on March 25, becoming the first British Columbia Nation to approve the co-management development of a liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility.

Huu-ay-aht citizen's approval of the proposed Sarita LNG Project marks one of the earliest points in project development at which a First Nation community has voted to approve an LNG export facility or pipeline project in B.C. The proposed Sarita LNG Project also received unanimous support of Huu-ay-aht's Ḥawiiḥ Council (Hereditary Chiefs) and elected Executive Council.

With that resounding positive result, Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG will move forward in co-managing the development of the Sarita LNG Project located on Huu-ay-aht First Nations owned land at Sarita Bay.

World-leading Co-management Approach

- Huu-ay-aht and Steelhead LNG have created a co-management approach that represents true reconciliation – with free, prior and informed consent by Huu-ay-aht citizens, and elected and hereditary leaders.
- Approval by Huu-ay-aht citizens at the earliest point in project development and the adoption of a world leading environmental management framework ensures Huu-ay-aht will be involved at every step along the project development process.

Huu-ay-aht Referendum Process

- As a strong, self-governing and self-reliant Nation, Huu-ay-aht is focused on creating certainty for its people and generating wealth for financial independence by providing economic opportunities, social, cultural and recreational programs for all Huu-ay-aht.
- Ratifying the Maa-nulth Treaty gave Huu-ay-aht decision-making power over its own land, therefore the government must create economic opportunities to build a bright future for the Nation and its citizens.
- Huu-ay-aht carried out extensive engagement activities with citizens in advance of the referendum vote, including a Special People's Assembly on February 19, 2017, as well as public and private meetings with Huu-ay-aht families, and extensive outreach through online resources and printed publications.



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- On Feb. 19, 2017, Huu-ay-aht citizens approved the purchase of the Sarita Bay lands from Western Forest Products under the Huu-ay-aht Land Act. The land purchase opens up several economic opportunities in the area including the proposed Sarita LNG Project.
- On March 25, 2017, Huu-ay-aht citizens voted 70% to approve the Huu-ay-aht Sarita LNG Project in a referendum under Huu-ay-aht law.

Proposed Sarita LNG Project

- The proposed Sarita LNG Project would be located on Huu-ay-aht First Nations owned lands at Sarita Bay, about 10 kilometres north of Bamfield, and roughly 70 kilometres southwest of Port Alberni.
- The proposed Sarita LNG Project is at a very early stage. The proposed project will require an environmental assessment review as well as other permits, authorizations and approvals of the partners and regulators.
- The National Energy Board has granted Steelhead LNG licences to export up to 24 million tonnes of LNG per year for 25 years from Sarita Bay.
- Steelhead LNG will be liquefying and exporting only Canadian natural gas, and the benefits from the project will be realized here in Canada.
- The natural gas to supply the facility would be sourced from Canadian producers in northeastern B.C. and northwestern Alberta and transported to Steelhead LNG's facilities via natural gas pipelines.
- Steelhead LNG and Alberta-based Seven Generations Energy are currently exploring the development of new midstream supply chain infrastructure that would link natural gas resources to Steelhead LNG's proposed LNG export projects.

About the Huu-ay-aht First Nations

- Huu-ay-aht First Nations is an indigenous community located on the west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia.
- Huu-ay-aht is one of 14 Nuu-chah-nulth Nations, formerly called the Nootka.
- Huu-ay-aht is a party to the Maa-nulth Final Agreement, a modern treaty that grants its five member-nations constitutionally-protected self-government as well as ownership, control and law-making authority over their lands and resources.
- Huu-ay-aht is guided by their hereditary and elected leaders. The decisions made are done so while considering the Nations' three sacred principles: ?iisaak (Greater Respect), Hišuk ma ćawak (Everything is One) and ?uu?aluk (Taking care of...).

About Steelhead LNG

- Vancouver-based energy company focused on LNG project development in British Columbia. Our experience includes guiding some of the world's leading energy companies and projects with commercial and technical expertise that spans the entire LNG value chain.
- Steelhead LNG believes it can build LNG export projects that deliver the lowest landed cost LNG to markets in North Asia using world leading technology.
- Steelhead LNG is also working with the Malahat Nation to explore the development of the proposed Malahat LNG Project, about seven kilometres south of Mill Bay, B.C. (NEB licence approved up to 6 MPTA).
- To get the Canadian natural gas to its proposed Malahat LNG facility, Steelhead LNG is working with Oklahoma-based Williams on the proposed Island Gas Connector Project. The route being explored was previously studied, approved and permitted by U.S. authorities, as a part of the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) Project.

Media assets

- PHOTO: [Proposed Sarita LNG Project site](#)
- VIDEO: [News Footage](#)

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