

First Nations upset with Cabin Gas E.A.

Friday, January 29, 2010
Energetic City, Ft. St. John

The Chief of the Fort Nelson First Nation is expressing her distress with the Province's decision to grant an Environmental Assessment (EA) certificate to the Cabin Gas Plant project.

As reported on Thursday, an EnCana led consortium has been given environmental approval to build the multi-billion dollar project, with an eye to opening up B.C.'s Horn River Basin to shale gas development. On Friday, Fort Nelson First Nation Chief Kathie Dickie said her council and community are extremely disappointed.

Chief Dickie says her frustrations stem from a lack of consultation between the consortium looking to build the plant and her community. She says, despite a legal obligation to consult with First Nations, her group has not been adequately accommodated.

In addition, she says the Fort Nelson First Nation completed a study on the proposal, which was much more comprehensive than studies done by Encana, though the results of that study have been largely ignored.

The EA certificate does stipulate that the developers must hire locally, and use local goods and services, and Chief Dickie says she's happy about the potential employment and economic benefits to the region and the province, but she has bigger concerns.

Chief Dickie says the Fort Nelson First Nation is currently examining its legal options. Click [here](#) more on the Environmental Assessment, and [here](#) for a previous story on Chief Dickie's frustrations with the EAO.

First Nations want role in gas plant environmental process

Wednesday, January 6, 2010
Energetic City, Ft. St. John

The Chief of the Fort Nelson First Nation is voicing her frustrations around a proposed gas plant in Treaty 8 territory.

On Wednesday's Issues and Answers, Chief Kathie Dickie elaborated on an open letter she sent to Premier Campbell, which appeared in the Vancouver Sun last month.

Dickie claims the Fort Nelson First Nation hasn't had adequate consultation on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Cabin Gas Plant.

The facility would be owned and operated by EnCana and a consortium of seven other oil companies.

Chief Dickie says the Cabin Gas Plant is a multi-billion-dollar project designed to open up B.C.'s Horn River Basin to shale gas development.

Chief Dickie also complains that, although EnCana funded an independent study, conducted by the First Nation, the results of the study have so far been ignored by the EA office.

She claims at this point, the proposal violates the Treaty 8 rights of the First Nation people. She also says the EA timeline is aggressive and feels rushed.

Dickie stresses the First Nation is willing to work with the Province, to develop the gas plant into an environmentally sustainable facility.

She adds Premier Campbell has been recognized on the world stage for B.C.'s environmental initiatives. She says she wants to see the Premier live up to his reputation and give the Fort Nelson First Nation a bigger role in the Environmental Assessment process.