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SCIENTIST SLAMS MOTHER GOOSE ENERGY BOARD AND CLARK GOVERNMENT IN SHALE GAS LNG EXPORT APPROVAL

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For Immediate Release

Vancouver – British Columbia’s (B.C.’s) [Watershed Sentinel](#) magazine just published a report, [Canadian Gas Exports Threaten Energy Security](#). Authored by geoscientist David Hughes, a Fellow of the Post Carbon Institute, who had a 32-year long career with the federal government’s Geological Survey of Canada, it is a scathing analysis of the National Energy Board’s (NEB’s) recent approval certificate ([Reasons For Decision, KM LNG Operating General Partnership, GH-1-2011, October 2011](#)) for LNG tanker-export at Kitimat (KM) of shale gas cumulatively and controversially mined from B.C. and Alberta.

The report makes two important findings: the NEB, an ‘independent’ national energy regulator headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, failed to incorporate an assessment of critical data related to its national mandate to provide long-term energy security for Canadians; and failed to address the pathetic absence of cumulative environmental planning and studies by the B.C. government related to the life-cycle exploration and production activities of unconventional fracking (hydraulic fracturing) upon which the NEB’s certificate is inextricably linked. As a fresh testimony to the absence of environmental planning and public consultation in B.C., Global TV’s 16:9 program documentary, [Untested Science](#), was featured on national television on November 5th about B.C. Energy Minister Coleman misleading the public, by [the B.C. Oil & Gas Commission quietly issuing two bulk fresh water withdrawal permits](#) to Talisman Energy and Canbriam Energy.

Included in the mix of energy security and environmental issues, Canadian and provincial governments have failed to implement measures on the *conservation* of natural gas use and consumption. Why are multinational companies being granted licenses to export shale gas overseas to turn a bigger profit than what they would get here while disturbing and ruining our physical environments and running our dwindling gas supply drier? Proposals are in for the B.C. government to build the Site C dam on the Peace River near Ft. St. John to not only provide energy to run the shale gas generation facilities, but to divert more fresh water for fracking.

The [B.C. Tap Water Alliance](#) was a registered Intervenor in the NEB’s hearing process on the KM LNG export license application, and published a chronology of the application history called [FOLLOW THE GAS](#). On July 14th, Will Koop presented a 45-minute [final argument](#) which included the following summary: “it appears as though KM LNG’s application may not be viable if Canada’s long-term security of production supply of natural gas is jeopardized as a result, and if the cumulative production of natural gas in western Canada, primarily from deep shale gas sources, further harms both our surface and sub-surface natural environment complexes and increases Green House Gas emissions.”

“In our final argument of July 14th, we provided a strong and reasonable case for the NEB to defer or reject the application, grounds almost identical to those found in Mr. Hughes report,” said Koop, Coordinator of the B.C. Tap Water Alliance. “In all likelihood, the NEB made a political decision to cater to the high pressure demands of energy companies, and was not a decision that reflects the long-term environmental and energy security needs of Canadians. At this moment it would be both sensible and critical to suspend the LNG certificate while an independent audit is undertaken, particularly since there are more LNG export proposals in the queue.”