

31 CONCLUSION

The purpose of the environmental assessment process in Canada and BC is to act as a planning and decision support tool for development. The environmental assessment process allows project development to occur systematically and in a manner that is sustainable for BC in the five key areas (referred to as pillars) of the biophysical, social and economic environments, and human health and heritage. This includes careful consideration to avoid or mitigate potential adverse effects from projects. This EIS/Application addresses the aims of environmental assessment in Canada and BC by assessing the effects of the Project on valued components (VCs) relevant to these five pillars, as well as considering concerns and issues within the assessment of the VCs.

The assessment process considers concerns and issues about projects from Aboriginal groups, stakeholders, the public and regulatory agencies. Consideration of these concerns and issues must involve meaningful engagement with Aboriginal groups, and meaningful public participation in the environmental assessment process. The specific Aboriginal groups who have participated in the development of this EIS/Application are Metlakatla First Nation, Lax Kw'alaams First Nation, Gitxaala Nation, Kitsumkalum First Nation Kitselas First Nation, and Gitga'at First Nation.

For each VC assessed for changes attributable to the Project, assessment of effects of the environment on the Project, and the assessment of potential effects of accidents and malfunctions, both project and cumulative effects (after mitigation) are expected to be not significant. Most potential project and cumulative effects on Aboriginal groups' rights and interests will be addressed by mitigation measures described for each VC (e.g., effects on marine resources).

Thus, PNW LNG requests that the federal Minister of the Environment issue a positive decision for the Project under section 52 of CEAA 2012 and that the Government of British Columbia issue an Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Project. PNW LNG confirms the need to successfully complete a range of permitting and authorization processes before beginning construction, operations or decommissioning for the Project.