



Impact Assessment  
Agency of Canada

Agence d'évaluation  
d'impact du Canada

President

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Dr. Mona Nemer  
Chief Science Advisor  
<Email address removed>

Dr. Nemer:

I am writing to request that the Office of the Chief Science Advisor (OCSA) assist the Impact Assessment Agency of Canada (Agency) in establishing and administering an Independent Scientific Body in relation to the Roberts Bank Terminal 2 Project (the Project).

On April 20, 2023, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, issued a decision statement to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) that allowed the Project to proceed, subject to enforceable conditions. Condition 10.4 requires the VFPA to develop a follow-up and monitoring program to validate predicted changes caused by the Project on salinity and predicted effects of those changes on biofilm and western sandpiper. The follow-up program must include provisions for adaptive management and information related to the follow-up program (including methodology, parameters, thresholds, and monitoring results) and must be reviewed by an **independent scientific body** (ISB) established by the Agency.

The scope of the ISB will be limited to the tasks identified in Condition 10.4 and associated sub-conditions as follows:

- Review and provide advice to the Agency on VFPA's proposed monitoring parameters, methods, and thresholds for the proposed follow-up program on salinity, biofilm and western sandpiper;
- Review and provide advice to the Agency on baseline conditions information and the results of the 36-month monitoring period following the construction of the east basin containment dyke of the marine terminal; and
- If monitoring results provided indicate an exceedance of the threshold, the ISB is to confirm the exceedance.

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The VFPA has advised the Agency that it plans to submit a draft follow-up program design for salinity, biofilm, and western sandpiper that will include proposed monitoring parameters and methods by December 2023. This will require the ISB be established by November 2023 in order to review and provide advice on the draft follow-up program design. Although the duration of the ISB's work is expected to be more than three years, this will not be on a continuous basis. Rather, the ISB's work would be conducted sporadically over relatively short periods (e.g., 60–90 days) during this time period and only in response to specific requests from the Agency.

The key tasks for the OCSA include:

- chairing the ISB;
- identifying, evaluating, and recommending candidates to the Agency for appointment to the ISB;
- developing the proposed Terms of Reference for the ISB, taking into account the requirements of Sub-Conditions 10.4.1–10.4.5 as set out in the Decision Statement for the project;
- responding to media inquiries specific to the work of the ISB; and
- administering and supporting the activities of the ISB, including arranging meetings, secretarial services, and drafting of reports.

The key tasks that the Agency would undertake include:

- approving the process for selecting ISB members;
- appointing ISB members and establishing the Terms of Reference for the ISB on the recommendations of the OCSA;
- supporting the OCSA, where required, in the identification and evaluation of candidates for the ISB;
- translating and posting ISB advice on the Canadian Impact Assessment Registry; and
- providing funding to the OCSA to administer the ISB.

In our view, the OCSA is in a unique position to assist the Agency in establishing and chairing the ISB required pursuant to Condition 10.4 of the Project's decision statement. We are hopeful you will agree to take on this critically important task.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Terence Hubbard (he/him, il)