

Crown Consultation and Accommodation Report

Regarding the Sunrise Expansion Program

22 April 2026

Prepared by the Canada Energy Regulator as
Crown Consultation Coordinator



Land Acknowledgement

The Canada Energy Regulator acknowledges that Canada is the territory of many diverse Indigenous communities, including First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

The Canada Energy Regulator acknowledges that the proposed Project is located on the traditional and ancestral homelands of Indigenous Peoples and their descendants in what is now called British Columbia. We acknowledge that Indigenous Peoples' relationships with these lands and waterways span millennia, and most of these territories are unceded.

The Canada Energy Regulator makes this acknowledgement as an act of Reconciliation and gratitude.

Disclaimer

This Report contains information from the GH-001-2024 hearing record. If there is any inconsistency or ambiguity between references to the record in this Report and evidence filed on the GH-001-2024 hearing record, the information on the hearing record shall prevail.

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List of Acronyms

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
Canada	Government of Canada
CCAR	Crown Consultation and Accommodation Report
CCC	Crown Consultation Coordinator
CER	Canada Energy Regulator
CER Act	<i>Canadian Energy Regulator Act</i>
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
Commission	Commission of the CER
Crown List	Crown Consultation List
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Services
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EER	Early Engagement Report
EPP	Environmental Protection Program
FAs	Federal Authorities
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FRT	Federal Review Team
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIC	Governor in Council
ICA	Integrated Cultural Assessment
IMARs	Indigenous Ministerial Arrangements Regulations
IR	Information Request
IRAP	Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan
ISC	Indigenous Services Canada
IVM	Integrated Vegetation Management
km	kilometres
NEB Act	<i>National Energy Board Act</i>
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
OIK	Oral Indigenous Knowledge
Project	Sunrise Expansion Program
Report	The Commission's Recommendation Report
RoW	Right-of-way
SARA	Species at Risk Act
SERC	Socio-Economic Requirements and Contractors
STSA	S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance
TC	Transport Canada
TLRU	Traditional Land and Resource Use Study
UN Declaration	United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNDA	<i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act</i>
VC	Valued Component
Westcoast or Proponent	Westcoast Energy Limited Partnership

The CER, as a lifecycle regulator, is committed to transforming the way it works with Indigenous Peoples by enhancing their involvement in how it fulfills its mandate. To this end, the CER will continue to meet with Indigenous communities to explore ways to work together in a manner that aligns with the CER's commitment to advance a systemic model to enhance Indigenous peoples' involvement in compliance and oversight over the lifecycle (design, construction, operation and abandonment) of CER-regulated infrastructure, including Westcoast's T-south system. This includes engaging Indigenous Monitors in compliance verification activities on the Project, with a focus on areas of concern related to potential impacts on First Nations and Métis rights and interests. Indigenous Monitors are anticipated to participate alongside CER Inspection Officers in a range of compliance verification activities, as determined by regulatory priorities and the CER's risk-informed plan.

The CCAR is the result of consultation efforts with 73 potentially impacted Indigenous communities on the Project, including the Commission's consultation during its hearing and assessment process, as well as the findings of the Commission and the suite of recommended conditions required of Westcoast to mitigate and respond to the potential impacts to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

This CCAR summarizes the Crown's¹ consultation process, key issues, and Crown responses for the Project. The Crown's analysis and Crown responses, as described in this CCAR, were provided to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources in advance of GIC decision making under section 186 of the CER Act. The robust consultation process facilitated through the CER is to support efficient Project processes, respectful of the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

¹ This document presents the Crown response on consultation and accommodation for the Project. The CCC is responsible for preparing this document. However, it is important to recognize that several Crown actors are involved in consultation for the Project. Within the CER, both the Commission and the CCC act as Crown agents in carrying out their respective roles. The CER (including the Commission and CCC) is an agent of the Crown pursuant to subsection 10(2) of the CER Act. The GIC represents the Crown itself in making the final decision on the Project. The GIC has the responsibility and authority to make a decision on the Project, by directing the Commission to reconsider its recommendations, issue a Certificate or dismiss the application pursuant to section 186 of the CER Act. This CCAR does not present the views of the Commission or GIC. The views and conclusions in this CCAR are authored by the CCC for consideration by the GIC. Similarly, the views and conclusions in the Commission's Recommendation Report are authored by the Commission for consideration by the GIC.

6. Summary of Supplemental Crown Consultation Coordinator Activities

This section describes CCC supplemental consultation activities for the Project beginning in Early Engagement, throughout the Commission's hearing process, and following the release of the Commission's Recommendation Report up until the submission of the CCAR. Further detail is provided in this section on key elements and suggestions proposed by the CCC on the hearing record in response to concerns it heard from Indigenous communities during these activities. The CCC applied a whole-of-government approach to consultation, working with other relevant federal and provincial authorities to leverage federal expertise and connect Indigenous communities with any relevant initiatives and programs across the Government of Canada (see **Sections 7 and 8**).

The CCC identified, early and throughout the hearing process, topics raised by Indigenous communities for the Commission's consideration in its assessment of the impacts to asserted or established rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples. For example, the CCC brought forward Indigenous community concerns, and made suggestions regarding additional Indigenous participation in the Commission process and in providing input into the Commission's assessment of impacts on Indigenous rights, early and throughout the process. The CCC also heard Indigenous communities' concerns related to economic inclusion. In response, the CCC provided comments on the hearing record suggesting that the Commission provide additional opportunities for input on the Commission's process, on potential conditions, and for opportunities to discuss the topic of economic inclusion. Another example is the CCC's suggestion, based on feedback from Indigenous communities, that the Commission and Westcoast conduct Community-specific assessments of the Project's potential impacts on the rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples.

These are only a few examples of the many ways in which the CCC supplemented the Commission's consultation process with a responsive, solutions-based dialogue with Indigenous communities. The CCC started considering the information provided by Indigenous communities early in its consultations. This responsive dialogue continued throughout the consultation process, as evidenced by the CCC's multiple submissions, further described in the following sub-sections. The Commission considered the CCC's submissions and the Crown notes that the Commission's Recommendation Report reflects the substantive matters raised by the CCC.

Table 3 below summarizes the CCC's meetings with Indigenous communities on the Crown list for each of the early engagement phase and hearing and post-hearing phases of consultation. **Table 4** summarizes information sessions on the Project held by the CCC. More details can be found in the sections below.

