

News Release

City of North Vancouver Opposes Trans Mountain Expansion Project

January 19, 2016

The City of North Vancouver has submitted its official argument to the National Energy Board, recommending against approval of the Trans Mountain Expansion project. After careful review of the evidence, the City has determined that the considerable risks of a marine-based oil spill associated with the project and the lack of capacity to address an oil spill outweigh the benefits and that the project is not justified. www.cnv.org/TransMountain

The City's position is that the Trans Mountain project significantly increases the risk of an oil spill in Burrard Inlet and English Bay. The City and its legal counsel contend that the risk assessment included in the project application understates the likelihood of marine spills and that the project's Emergency Management Plan is vague and inadequate in addressing local response and coordination in the event of a marine based spill.

"The health and safety of our citizens, natural environment and community assets are paramount," says Mayor Darrell Mussatto. "Our review indicates an unacceptable level of risk associated with the Trans Mountain Pipeline Expansion Project. As a municipal government on the front line of emergency response, a project that would increase the risk of marine spills is not in the best interest of our community." City Council discussed the matter last night. www.cnv.org/CouncilDiscussionNEB

A spill in Burrard Inlet or English Bay would have significant adverse impacts on the City of North Vancouver and the region. The City's position is that the spill modelling presented in the project application fails to accurately predict spill trajectories and does not consider the role of local communities assuming the economic, ecological and social burden of an oil spill.

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project proposes to transfer increased volumes of heavy crude oil from Edmonton to Burnaby. It includes the construction of 987 km of new pipeline and the reactivation of 192 km of existing pipeline with the combined capacity to move 890,000 barrels of oil per day. The project scope is a 7-fold increase in the current tanker loading in Burrard Inlet from 5 to 35 tankers a month.

For more information about the City's official argument to the NEB, visit www.cnv.org/TransMountain