



Natural Resources
Canada

Ressources naturelles
Canada

July 21, 2016

Rob Hajdú
Project Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

Re: Determination of Environmental Assessment Requirements for the Pacific Future Energy Refinery Project, B.C.

Please find attached Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) response to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's (CEA Agency) request for information for the Federal Authority Advice Record (FAAR) regarding the **Pacific Future Energy Refinery Project, B.C.**

NRCan is submitting this response pursuant to section 11 of CEAA 2012. The response includes two attachments: (1) a completed "Federal Authority Advice Record" and (2) Supplemental Information in response to questions 2(a) and 4 of the "Federal Authority Advice Record".

If you have any questions or require clarification on our comments please feel free to contact me at (343) 292-6360.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Angeles Albórniz
A/Environmental Assessment Officer
Office of the Chief Scientist

Federal Authority Advice RecordResponse due by: **July 21, 2016**

Pacific Future Energy Refinery Project – Pacific Future Energy Corporation
Agency File No.: 005565

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Department/Agency: | Natural Resources Canada | | |
| EA Contact Name: | Angeles Albornoz | Telephone: | 343-292-6360 |
| Address: | 580 Booth St. Ottawa, ON | Fax: | |
| Email: | angeles.albornoz@canada.ca | | |

1. (a) Indicate whether the description of potential environmental effects presented in the Project Description is sufficient in characterizing project effects to the components of the environment, as defined under section 5 of CEAA 2012, that relate to your mandate, including whether these effects may be adverse.

Yes

(b) Identify any additional potential adverse environmental effects of the Project that are not described in the Project Description and their linkage to components of the environment under federal jurisdiction (as defined under section 5 of CEAA 2012).

n/a

c) List any species at risk as defined by the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) or species of conservation concern that have been assessed by COSEWIC that may be affected by the Project and are not identified in the Project Description. This information will inform the Agency's Section 79(1) notification obligations under SARA.

n/a

2. (a) List the potential powers, duties, or functions that your department may issue to enable the Project to proceed, why they might be issued, and which project components and activities are related to the powers, duties, or functions.

n/a

(b) Identify the potential environmental effects, associated with that power, duty or function identified above, as described in subsection 5(2) of CEAA 2012. Please include in your response a description of the scope or extent (i.e., project activities addressed and components of the environment included) under this power, duty or function.

n/a

| Act and associated power, duty or function | Project components or activities associated with the power, duty or function | Changes to the environment resulting from the project components or activities |
|--|--|--|
| n/a | n/a | n/a |

(c) Has your department or agency already exercised the above-noted power or performed a duty or function to enable the proposed Project to proceed in whole or in part? If yes, please describe. ☐ Yes ☒ No

3. (a) Under the former Act, did your department or agency determine that an EA of this Project was likely? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, provide additional details regarding the timing, reason for determination, and the proponent notification of the decision.

If no, provide additional details regarding the timing, reason for determination, and the proponent notification of the decision.

(b) Has your department or agency taken an EA course of action decision under paragraph 20(1)(a) or (b) or subsection 37(1) of the former Act in relation to the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe. This information is requested in order to determine application of section 128(1) of CEAA 2012.

4. Identify and describe the specialist or expert information or knowledge within your department that would be relevant to the conduct of the environmental assessment of the Project, should an environmental assessment be required. -Provide the contact information for individual that will provide the specialist or expert advice.

Please see additional information in the attachment.

<Original signed by>

Angeles Alborno

Print Name of Project Contact

A/Environmental Assessment Officer

Title of responder

Signature

July 21, 2016

Date

Please respond to the above questions by July 21, 2016 via email at Rob.Hajdu@ceaa-acee.gc.ca. Thank you.

**Natural Resources Canada's Supplemental Information in relation to
the Federal Authority Advice Record for the Pacific Future Energy Refinery Project, B.C.**

July 21, 2016

Context

The mandate of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) is to develop, implement and deliver policies, programs, science and technology for the responsible development and use of Canada's mineral, energy and forestry resources. NRCan is a science and technology leader in the fields of earth sciences, energy, forests and minerals and metals.

NRCan's geosciences and minerals and metals science programs advance the knowledge of Canada's landmass and mineral resources as well as science and technology for ensuring high standards of environmental performance in mineral processing and waste management. NRCan also has significant experience participating in environmental assessments for mining projects across Canada.

NRCan administers the *Explosives Act* and Regulations, which control the manufacture, testing, acquisition, possession, sale, storage, transportation, importation and exportation of many types of explosives, including: blasting explosives, fireworks, pyrotechnics, ammunitions and propellant powders. NRCan's Explosive Regulatory Division works to ensure compliance with the *Explosives Act* and Regulations and provides licencing services to manufacturers, importers and distributors of explosives within Canada. These licences, certificates and permits cover a wide range of operations from the construction of complex explosives facilities to the authorization of explosives for importation into Canada.

Supplemental Information

Question 2(a). List the potential powers, duties, or functions that your department may issue to enable the Project to proceed.

As indicated in the 'Federal Authority Advice Record' it is unlikely that NRCan will be a Regulator under the *Explosives Act* given that the Project Description does not include information on the manufacture or storage of explosives. Should the use of explosives be considered further in the project, NRCan will review the information and determine whether a licence will be required.

Question 4. Identify and describe the specialist or expert information or knowledge within your department.

NRCan is in possession of the following specialists or expert information relevant to the conduct of an EA for the project:

- Seismicity
 - NRCan notes that the Proponent has not provided information on seismicity in the project description and recommends they include this information in the EIS, as the project is located in a seismic area.
 - For information only, the Proponent should be aware that the new National Building Code of Canada Standards (2015) were recently released and their use is currently in place.
- Geohazards and Landslides
- Groundwater quantity
- Bitumen properties and behaviours in collaboration with ECCC
- Air quality (venting, flaring, fugitive emissions) and validation on estimates in collaboration with ECCC
- Bitumen upgrading and refining process

If it's determined that an environmental assessment is required for this project, NRCan may further revise its areas of expertise as additional information in relation to the project design and the potential for environmental effects become available.