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From: [Lussier, Jason AFF:EX](#)

Sent: Friday, January 7, 2022 4:46:43 PM

To: [Deltaport \(IAAC/AEIC\)](#)

Cc: [Hannigan, Jessie EAO:EX](#)

Subject: AFF Comments on Draft Joint Guidelines and Assessment Plan

Sensitivity: Normal

Good afternoon,

Thank you for inviting the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (Ministry) to participate in the review of the Draft Joint Guidelines and Assessment Plan for the Deltaport 4 project. Ministry staff make the following comments regarding the draft documents and potential impacts of the project generally:

- Although the project area is outside of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), rail upgrades may be necessary to support the additional port capacity and this may in turn result in the loss of ALR land. Ministry staff recommend that an Agricultural Impact Assessment of the project and associated rail upgrade requirements be conducted in order to determine the degree of impact on agricultural lands and nearby agricultural operations.
- If the project proceeds, a Dust Mitigation Assessment and Plan should be developed and implemented to ensure that the construction of the project and operation do not have impact on nearby farms. Particular attention should be given to the assessment of contaminated dust and impacts on soil and water.
- Increased truck traffic and road or rail development associated with the project may impede access to farmland, affect farm vehicles, lead to increased dust, and disturb livestock. Widening of roads may cut into agricultural land, further reducing the land base available for farming. Information on the potential impacts of road and rail traffic to agriculture land should be included in the assessment.
- Both vibrations and noise may disturb livestock, leading to stress, reduction in animal welfare, comfort, and decreased livestock productivity. It should be understood whether vibrations and noise from the project will affect any nearby agricultural operations (this could be determined through an Agricultural Impact Assessment or other assessments).
- Irrigation water intakes are located near project area. The presence of these water intakes and potential impacts to agriculture should be considered in the assessment.
- Although the project is not located on agricultural land, the addition of the facility may have cumulative effects on the area (such as increased traffic, encouragement of additional industrial development). These considerations should also be included in the assessment.
- Targeted engagement with the local agricultural community is encouraged to further discuss how the proposed development and disturbance will be minimized, and impacts mitigated. The assessment may also include targeted engagement and outreach to the Delta Agriculture Advisory Committee if not done so yet.

Thank you for providing Ministry staff with the opportunity to comment on the Draft Joint Guidelines and Assessment Plan and we look forward to further engagement on the Deltaport 4 project.

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