

The Pipeline from Nowhere: WFLNG-FortisBC

Three lines of evidence indicate the Woodfibre LNG project will be six times (6x) larger than the public and the BC Environmental Assessment Office have been told.

Woodfibre Liquefied Natural Gas appears to have far bigger export plans than they are admitting.

In section 2.4.1 of the WFLNG BC Environmental Assessment (BCEAO) application, WFLNG states: "The initial search for suitable project locations focused on sites suitable for a large-scale LNG facility *and potential for future expansion.*" When queried as to whether or not WFLNG intends to expand this project, WFLNG's Vice President Corporate Affairs Byng Giraud's response has always been that *the plant will be sized according to the available gas supply.*

FortisBC appears to be aware of expansion plans.

FortisBC, the company who will deliver the gas supply to WFLNG, has said throughout the EA process that **expansion is possible**, though FortisBC staff were unaware of any *formal* expansion plans. On March 21st, 2014, at a WFLNG/BCEAO Open House, FortisBC Project Director Art Kanzaki publicly stated that in fact *there are plans to expand the project beyond what is currently proposed.*

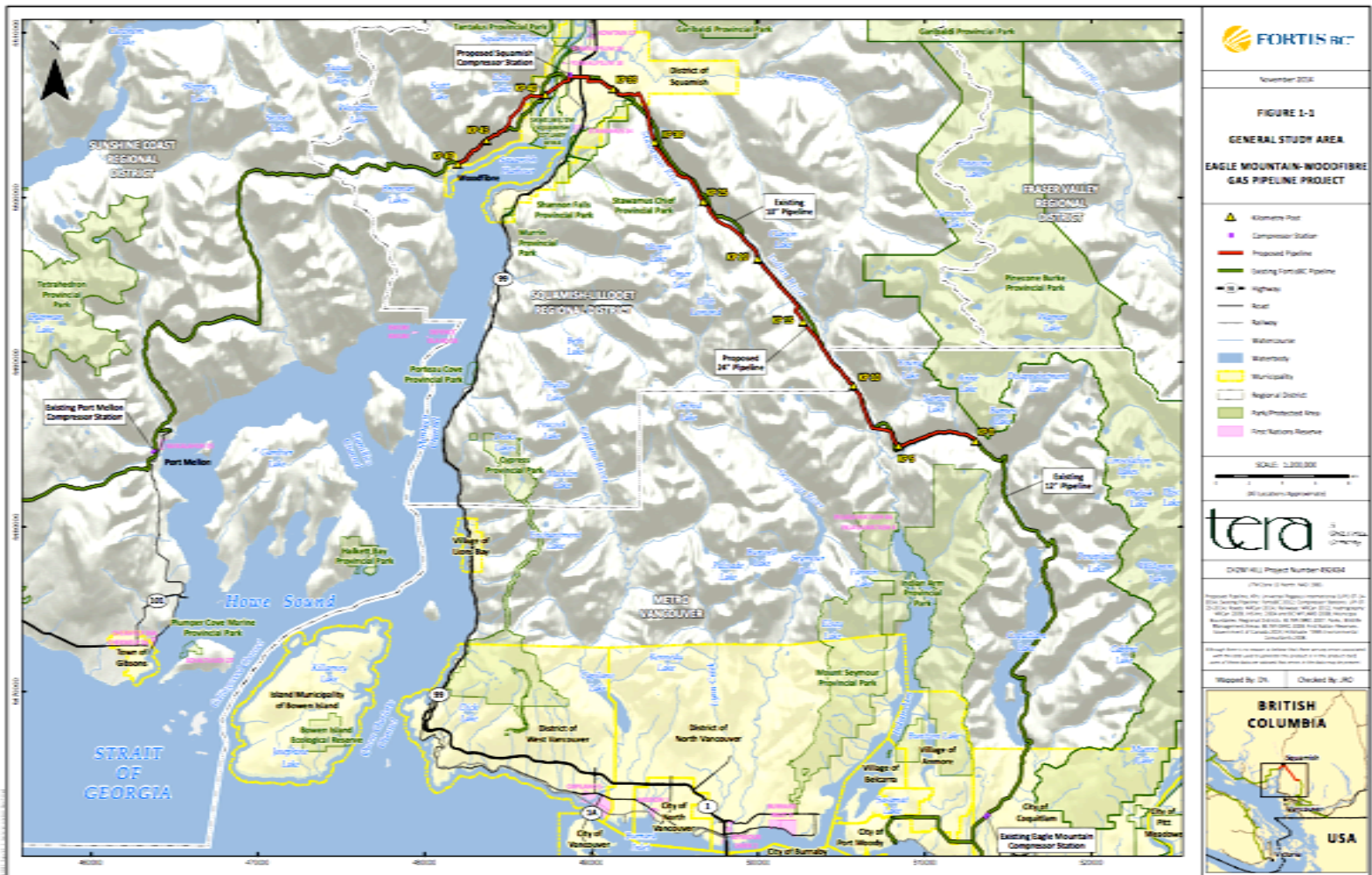
Evidence that shows WFLNG is planning for a plant 6x larger than they described in the Environmental Assessment (EA) process comes from the size of the installations they would put in place:

1. **The BC Hydro power upgrade** soon to be built for Woodfibre LNG will give it about 6x more power than it needs for present plans. (See "Woodfibre LNG Hydro Upgrade" in ["Detailed Technical Explanations"](#).) This BC Hydro upgrade is omitted in the EA.
2. **New and upgraded compressor stations** are much larger than would be needed for the project as described in the EA. Natural gas is moved through pipelines via compressor stations. The Fortis pipeline upgrade to supply WFLNG includes significant compressor station upgrades in three locations. These upgrades would provide far more compression than needed for what is currently proposed and more than enough compression to deliver 6x more gas than what is currently proposed. (See "Compressor Station Upgrades" in ["Detailed Technical Explanations"](#).)
3. **The proposed new pipeline only goes part way back to the Eagle Mountain compressor station in Coquitlam and if/when completed, supply to WFLNG, would increase six-fold.** To feed WFLNG, a new 24" pipeline needs to be built. The proposed new pipe, would connect to an existing 12" pipe ("Map of Fortis' New Pipeline for Woodfibre" below). This patched-together set-up has the new pipe starting out in the middle of nowhere, rather than starting at the source—Eagle Mountain Compressor station in Coquitlam. The set-up make no sense! (See "Fortis Natural Gas Pipelines—Present and Future" in ["Detailed Technical Explanations"](#).)

Given that expansion of existing facilities is subject to far less EA scrutiny than a new proposal would be, this situation begs the question: **Is WFLNG telling the truth about the real size of this project or are they counting on lax scrutiny for expansion plans after the project is approved at this size?**

WFLNG says that their plant will be sized to fit available gas supply. FortisBC has admitted there are expansion plans. WFLNG is planning and paying for access to six times more electric power and six times more compressor station "push" than is needed for present plans. A completed 24" pipe from Coquitlam to WFLNG would give WFLNG six times the gas presently described in their plans.

Map of Fortis' New Pipeline for Woodfibre



red = new 24" pipeline
green = old pipeline

Proposed plan: 2.4 million tonnes of LNG exported annually.

LNG tankers would load 40x/year (40 trips = 1 trip in + trip out every 8–9 days or 1 tanker passing through Howe sound every 4–5 days.)

Potential 6x increase: 14.4 million tonnes of LNG exported annually

LNG tankers would load 240x/year (240 trips = 1 trip in + trip out every 1.5 days or a tanker passing through Howe Sound **once every 18 hours.**)

Six-fold expansion of the Woodfibre LNG plant would significantly increase environmental impacts, wave impacts on Howe Sound beaches and infrastructure, and the serious public health and safety risks associated with LNG tankers carrying massive volumes of highly dangerous, flammable cargo through Howe Sound.

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