



FRASER RIVERKEEPER®

October 23rd, 2014

Joe Daniels, Riverkeeper
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Premier Christy Clark; Ministers Mary Polak and Rich Coleman
Legislative Assembly
501 Belleville St.
Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 2L8

Dear Premier and Hon. Ministers:

As you are aware, the VAPOR Society and Otto Langer is taking your decision to issue the Vancouver Airport Fuel Facilities Corp. an Environmental Certificate to the BC Supreme Court for a Judicial Review due to the manner in which the public was involved in the environmental assessment. The issuing of this certificate will allow jet fuel barges, tankers, a terminal and tank farm in the Fraser River. The case is to be heard on Nov 26 -27, 2014 in Vancouver Supreme Court.

We at Fraser Riverkeeper agree with VAPOR and Mr. Langer's view that your approval has not been based on the best available science and has largely ignored the considerable public opposition to the project; in addition to the unanimous opposition of Richmond and Delta City Councils. During a four-year review process neither the government, its environmental assessment process, or VAFFC gave the public the opportunity for any real hearing on the project.

Fraser Riverkeeper supports the public's right to challenge these sorts of poorly made decisions in our court system; however, such challenges are costly and should be avoided where we have a fair and open environmental review process, as well as strong leadership from government. We urge that your government review how you conduct environmental assessments and revise your legislation and procedures to insure that the public is given better opportunities to make their opinions heard. Furthermore, government must have a process in place that will consider better options than simply those preferred by the proponent who purchased the land for the project long before an EA was even contemplated.

At a time when Canadians are faced with a government agenda of economic growth at any cost, when environmental review and enforcement staff have been downsized, when the Federal environmental protections that have kept our fish and waters safe for generations have been utterly defanged; it falls to provincial government to show strong, thoughtful leadership in safe-guarding Super Natural BC. The approval of this project not only represents a failure in leadership, it also damages our democracy as it signals to BC citizens that the rights of deep-pocketed developers and special interests trump their own.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Daniels', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Daniels
Riverkeeper
Fraser Riverkeeper