

Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Project

Proposed Environmental and Engineering Field Programs



The Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Project (the Project) is a proposed, single-purpose express natural gas pipeline with the potential to service multiple downstream Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities on British Columbia's (B.C.) north coast. With this project, there is the potential to build two 48-inch pipelines within the same right-of-way, along with accompanying compressor stations from northeastern B.C. to the Prince Rupert area.

Environmental field work programs

Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission Ltd. (WCGT Ltd.), an Enbridge company, has been working closely with potential terminal proponents on developing a LNG project concept that would receive natural gas from the Project. While we continue to develop these opportunities, we are conducting the work required to ready the Project for potential construction, should it proceed.

In 2022, WCGT Ltd. began preparations for a larger environmental and engineering field work program and has been engaging with Indigenous Nations and stakeholders in order to identify areas of interest or concern, mitigate potential impacts, and ensure local participation in these studies. These studies include:

- Aquatics
- Archaeology
- Geophysical surveys
- Geotechnical investigations
- Marine
- Wetlands
- Wildlife
- Vegetation

These studies are anticipated to begin in 2023 to support the development of environmental mitigation plans, detailed engineering and route design. Timelines are subject to change.

Aquatics

- Fish habitat assessments will be completed at newly identified waterbody crossings for which data was not previously collected.
- Fish habitat assessments will also be completed at larger waterbodies (S1 and S2 stream classification) where potential spawning habitat was identified during previous field studies for the Project.
- During field assessments, fish inventory may be completed at newly identified waterbody crossings with no previously documented fish sampling activities.

Archaeology

- Fieldwork will be conducted to test areas of archaeological potential that were identified during the 2021 walk throughs, as well as to assess and test sections of the proposed pipeline corridor that were either incomplete or not conducted during previous fieldwork.
- This work will support engineering design for routing and construction methods.

Wetlands

- Wetland field surveys and impact evaluations will be conducted to collect baseline data at locations in the proposed pipeline corridor that were not previously surveyed, as well as newly identified sites within the corridor.
- Field assessments at wetlands will be completed to verify data collected during the original environmental assessment application and to support the development of required management plans.



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Wildlife

- Amphibian surveys will be conducted to identify amphibian breeding water bodies.
- Aerial and ground-based surveys will be conducted to validate habitat within identified critical habitat polygons.
- Wildlife habitat feature surveys will be conducted to identify potential important wildlife habitat features (such as dens, mineral licks, stick nests).

Vegetation

- Verify locations of potential Rare Ecological Communities and to inform the development of management plans. Some of this work is expected to be done in collaboration with wetlands field work.
- Pre-construction surveys for Plants of Concern.
- Rare lichen and bryophyte surveys are planned within select areas.

Marine

- A combination of desktop review and boat-based surveys will be conducted to describe habitat and biophysical information along proposed marine routes.
- Depending on route selection, studies may include marine mammal and bird surveys and surveys for pelagic fish movements using hydroacoustic surveys.
- Depending on route selection, nearshore/intertidal surveys may be completed for characterization of shoreline and marine habitat for nearshore fish.

Non-intrusive geophysical surveys

- Non-intrusive work will include placing sensors at ground level (grade) to gather data on the local geology.
- Geotechnical engineering experts will study the properties of the surface, rocks, sediment, water flow, ground conditions and any potential slope related geological hazards.
- These studies are an important part of determining the safest pipeline route, and aid in selecting the best method to cross watercourses by providing a clear picture of the subsurface.

Geotechnical investigations

- Geotechnical investigations include surface exploration and subsurface exploration.
- This work involves the clearing of small pads to set up drill rigs to collect subsurface samples.
- These samples will be analyzed to determine geological conditions beneath the surface that allow for better understanding during routing design of potential watercourse crossings.
- All proposed investigative locations are subject to change in part through ongoing engagement with Indigenous groups and may be adjusted to mitigate conflicts with respect to safety, environmental, archeological, or cultural considerations.
- Investigative work will be approved under provincial permitting prior to commencing.



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