



MEMORANDUM

Date: September 6, 2016

To: All British Columbia Chiefs and Councils
Delegates to March 2016 Workshop

Re: Enhancing First Nations Participation in British Columbia Environmental Assessments

BACKGROUND:

The First Nations Energy and Mining Council (FNEMC) has been actively engaging with the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO) throughout 2015/16.

The next activities, set out in the joint Work Plan, focus on receiving feedback and input on enhanced opportunities for First Nations in the BC EA Process.

WORKSHOPS:

BCEAO and FNEMC will jointly host at least five Regional Workshops with First Nations throughout BC during mid-October and November 2016. The objective of these Workshops is to provide a forum through which First Nations will receive an overview of the outcomes of the dialogue between BCEAO and FNEMC, after which suggested recommendations will be reviewed and discussed.

FNEMC is currently confirming with other First Nation Organizations to coordinate Workshop events that may be occurring during the same time period. The details as to regions, locations, dates and times will be made available in September. At present, the regional locations being considered are: Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, Lower Mainland, and Vancouver Island. The Workshop session will be co-facilitated by Aaron Bruce (FNEMC) and Cory Waters (BCEAO).

At the conclusion of the Workshops with the First Nations, BCEAO is planning Workshops in conjunction with industry forums to seek feedback and input from Industry representatives, EA Practitioners and ENGOs. FNEMC has been invited to attend and participate in these Workshops.

FINAL REPORT:

The feedback received through the various Workshops will greatly inform the preparation of the Final Report which will be developed jointly by BCEAO and FNEMC for March 31, 2017.

FNEMC will be contacting your offices shortly to confirm interest in attending and will follow up with more details about the Regional Workshops, once confirmed. Should you have any questions or comments regarding the attached or the Regional Workshop planning, please contact Joanna Prince at 604-924-3844 or by email joanna.prince@fnemc.ca

Sincerely,
Dave Porter
CEO