Environmental Assessment Certificate Application

LNG Canada Export Terminal

Section 7 – Assessment of Potential Social Effects

October 2014

LNGCANADA

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Mitsubishi Corporation

7 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL SOCIAL EFFECTS

7.1 Social Background

Social effects of the Project are expected to extend beyond the Kitimat area and affect communities elsewhere in northwest BC. Located 60 km from Kitimat, the city of Terrace is the commercial and trading centre for northwest BC. Communities within the greater Terrace area include Kitselas First Nation and Kitsumkalum First Nation. The City of Prince Rupert and nearby Port Edward townsite comprise the marine transportation hub of northwest BC, connected to Terrace via Highway 16 and CN Rail. First Nations communities located near Kitimat or Terrace, or that have asserted traditional territory or Aboriginal Interests along the marine access route from Triple Island to the port of Kitimat, include Gitga'at First Nation, Gitxaala Nation, Haisla Nation, Kitselas First Nation, Kitsumkalum First Nation, Lax Kw'alaams First Nation, and Metlakatla First Nation.

Economic and population growth in northwest BC has historically been tied to resource and industrial development, and has experienced population changes related to the development, construction, operation, and closure of primary sector employers. Over the last 20 years, northwest BC has experienced economic decline and a drop in population, attributable mainly to the closure of large industrial operations, including pulp mills in Kitimat and Port Edward, fish processing plants in Prince Rupert, sawmills in Terrace, and the Methanex methanol plant in Kitimat. Recent industrial and infrastructure projects, including BC Hydro's Northwest Transmission Line, the RTA Kitimat Modernization Project, and port expansions in Prince Rupert, have been sources of employment and economic spinoffs, but have also affected regional communities because of the presence of large transient workforces and associated demands for accommodations and community services. More details on the existing social environment are provided in the baseline section of each VC chapter.