

## The Prince Rupert Gas Transmission pipeline (PRGT)

The PRGT fracked (natural) gas pipeline was granted an environmental assessment certificate by the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO) in November 2014<sup>1</sup>. The original routing for this 48" diameter pipeline was approximately 900 km from near Dawson Creek to Lelu Island, south of Prince Rupert.<sup>2</sup> In the Hazeltons area, the route would traverse the Suskwa Valley, cross the flank of Sidina Mountain to cross the Skeena River, then parallel the Kispiox Valley Road and the Mitten Road.<sup>3</sup> PRGT (then owned by TC Energy) did not start construction on the project. It applied for, and received, a 5-year, one-time, extension to its environmental certificate in 2019.<sup>4</sup> This certificate extension expired on November 25, 2024.

In March 2024, TC Energy sold PRGT to the Nisga'a Lisims Government and Houston-based Western LNG.<sup>5</sup> Western LNG is funded by American-owned Blackstone,<sup>6</sup> the world's largest infrastructure financing company.<sup>7</sup> In February 2024, the BC Energy Regulator (BCER) split Section 5 of the PRGT route (Skeena River to Nass River estuary) into Section 5A (Skeena River to Nass Valley) and Section 5B (Nass Valley).<sup>8</sup> It did this in consultation with the Nisga'a Lisims Government but without any greater public knowledge or public input, and with no consultation with the affected Gitanyow and Gitksan Wilps in Section 5. The permit splitting was not discovered by the public until July 2024, as the splitting had not been posted on the BCER website until that time.

PRGT applied for two route amendments in 2024; one to allow its western endpoint to be the proposed Ksi Lisims LNG plant on Pearse Island in Portland Canal near Gingolx;<sup>9</sup> the other to change the origin point of the pipeline in northeastern BC and move it off the territory of the Blueberry First Nations.<sup>10</sup> These amendments were to shorten the pipeline to approximately 750 km.

In May 2024, PRGT announced plans to start construction on Section 5B in the Nass Valley.<sup>11</sup> Between August and November 2024, PRGT carried out minimal route preparation on 42 km of alignment, amounting to less than 5 percent of the pipeline length. The right of way was not fully cleared. No trenching took place. No pipe was bought or installed. No major stream or river crossings were engineered.<sup>12</sup> Based on this work, on November 19, 2024, PRGT applied to the BCEAO for a "substantial start" determination of the project,<sup>13</sup> which would allow its decade-old environmental assessment certificate to stand. Without a positive determination in hand, PRGT would have had to reapply for an environmental assessment certificate and begin the process anew.

The BCEAO granted the substantial start decision in favour of PRGT on June 5, 2025.<sup>14</sup> The BCEAO approved the PRGT marine route amendment on July 4, 2025,<sup>15</sup> and the eastern route amendment on August 28, 2025.<sup>16</sup> The BCEAO approved the Ksi Lisims LNG plant on September 15, 2025.<sup>17</sup>

It is a BCER permit condition that construction of PRGT cannot begin elsewhere until Ksi Lisims LNG has a final investment decision from its backers – the Nisga'a Lisims government, Western LNG, and Rockies LNG.<sup>18</sup> The LNG plant and PRGT completion are estimated to cost \$36 billion.<sup>19,20</sup> It should be noted that when the 670-kilometre Coastal GasLink pipeline was proposed in 2012, its cost was estimated at \$6.6 billion.<sup>21</sup> When completed in 2024, TC Energy had spent \$14.5 billion.<sup>22</sup>

### What is LNG?

Liquefied natural gas (LNG) is created by cooling and compressing fracked (natural) gas to -162°C. LNG is then loaded onto specialized marine vessels for shipment. None of the gas that PRGT would transport would be used in BC. It would all be exported as LNG to be burned in Asia.<sup>23</sup>

LNG is a fossil fuel. It is not a "green" fuel. It is not a "transition" fuel. It is not a "bridge" fuel.<sup>24,25,26</sup> The NDP government is promoting that BC must provide its "clean" LNG to Asia<sup>27</sup> to reduce the burning of coal to produce electricity, and thereby reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

The truths are:

- China is not replacing coal-fired electricity plants with LNG-fired plants.<sup>28</sup> In 2023, China built 95 percent of the world's new coal-fired electricity plants.<sup>29</sup> As of July 2025, China had 1,195 coal-fired plants<sup>30</sup> and was planning to build three times as many new coal-fired plants as the

rest of the world combined (two plants per week).<sup>31</sup> China will simply add new LNG-fired electricity capacity to the pyre, accelerating climate change.

- The principal component of fracked natural gas and LNG is methane.<sup>32</sup> Methane is 80-times more potent as a climate modifier than is carbon dioxide,<sup>33</sup> which is a principal by-product of coal combustion. Methane accounts for 30 percent of global warming.<sup>34</sup>

### **Interest of the Kispiox Valley Community Centre Association (KVCCA)**

The KVCCA has opposed PRGT from the project's inception in October 2013. The organization and its individual members have made a multitude of submissions to the BCEAO, BCER, and elected representatives and Ministers during this time, expressing opposition to the environmental and social risks of the project, and questioning the impartiality and integrity of the assessment process itself.<sup>35</sup> Almost all of these submissions have gone unanswered. The few replies received were of a "form letter" nature that did not sincerely address concerns raised. In response to this, and to affirm the intent of Kispiox Valley residents, the KVCCA wrote and published the *Kispiox Valley Declaration* in 2016.<sup>36</sup> More than 80 percent of valley residents supported the *Declaration*. In July 2024<sup>37,38</sup> and in September 2025,<sup>39</sup> the KVCCA was party to judicial reviews filed in the BC Supreme Court regarding PRGT, brought to address the BCER permit splitting and the BCEAO substantial start decision.

### **Specific Concerns of the KVCCA**

Socio-economic: Pipeline construction is an industrial takeover.

- Industrial traffic 24/7 for 4+ years
- Travel delays with checkpoints, bridge bottlenecks
- More traffic = higher chance of vehicle accidents
- Private security profiling of residents
- Possibility of RCMP Critical Response Unit being deployed<sup>40, 41</sup>
- Restricted access to traditional territories for firewood, berry picking, fishing, other wild foods
- Real estate speculation
- Higher property taxes
- Housing shortage, lack of rental housing; in 2021 house rents increased along the TransMountain Pipeline route to \$8000/mo.; rooms to \$2200/mo.<sup>42</sup>
- Evictions of convenience
- Increase in homelessness (Terrace witnessed a significant increase during LNG Canada construction)<sup>43</sup>
- Increase in crime, including property theft
- Greater risks to women and girls
- More drugs in the community, more addictions, more deaths
- Hospital and 9-1-1 services overwhelmed; more sexually transmitted diseases<sup>44,45</sup>
- Landfill and sewage lagoon inundated
- Boom and bust economy; a few short-term, high-paying jobs will trap locals into debt
- Increased cost of living
- Grocery stores cleaned out
- Local infrastructure hammered; governments unable to fund upkeep and repairs<sup>46</sup>

Man-camps:

- PRGT intends to build an 1,100 person camp in the Kispiox Valley, to be used for 42 months.
- Man-camps bring prostitution, crime, the drug trade, and increased risks to local women.<sup>47,48</sup>
- Project documentation indicates the possibility of 5 large man-camps in the area.<sup>49</sup>
- The population of any two camps would equate to 80 percent of the regional population.<sup>50</sup>
- The camps would primarily house transient workers, not locals.

Health:<sup>51</sup>

- air pollution,<sup>52</sup> noise pollution, light pollution
- herbicide application on the pipeline right-of-way for 40 years
- multiple stresses from disruption to the routines of life

Compressor station:

- PRGT will build a compressor station on the east bank of the Skeena River, 7.5 km east of the Kispiox Valley community grounds.<sup>53</sup>
- This compressor station would operate 24/7 for the 40-year life of the project.
- PRGT estimates that this compressor station, housing three turbines powered by burning gas from the pipeline, and including a flare stack, would release 226,902 tonnes of greenhouse gases each year.<sup>54</sup>
- This is greater than 7.2 times the amount that the population of the Hazeltons area currently creates each year.<sup>55,56</sup>

Compressor station air pollution includes 36 substances known to be toxic to people and wildlife.<sup>57,58,59</sup> All of the Hazeltons area would be affected by this change to the airshed. Studies<sup>60</sup> have shown that these substances can cause:

- Headaches
- Nausea
- Cancer
- Heart diseases
- Lung diseases
- Asthma
- Stroke
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Reproductive/birthing problems
- Mental health issues
- Neurological disorders
- Sleep disruption
- And that they can make existing medical condition worse

Environmental:

PRGT will greatly increase fracking in northeastern BC and add to the drought burden and environmental harms of that area.<sup>61</sup>

PRGT and Ksi Lisims LNG will increase BC's greenhouse gas emissions 6 percent, by adding 3.77 mega-tonnes of emissions to BC's total.<sup>62,63</sup> When the LNG is burned in Asia, it will add 32.2 mega-tonnes more to the global total.<sup>64</sup> PRGT and Ksi Lisims LNG will make it impossible for BC to reach its legislated climate targets.<sup>65</sup>

From the outlet of Babine Lake to the Cranberry River, PRGT will cross 289 streams and rivers. Most of these crossings would use the "open cut" method, where the pipe is trenched directly across the riverbed. In some of the crossings, the watercourse would be dammed and pumped dry before the pipe was laid across. Drilling into the bedrock is planned to tunnel the pipeline under the Nilkitkwa, Shegunia, Skeena, Kispiox, and Cranberry rivers.<sup>66</sup>

The future of Skeena and Nass salmon is on the line. Construction of Coastal GasLink showed that neither industry nor its regulators cared to prevent permanent damage to streams and rivers and the fish that live in them.<sup>67</sup> BC residents should expect no different with PRGT in the Skeena watershed.

When completed PRGT would be pressure-tested in sections with water.<sup>68</sup> Each kilometre of the 48"-diameter pipeline would require 11,674,540 litres of water. This water, taken from local watersheds such as the Skeena, equates to the daily water use of 52,352 Canadians.<sup>69</sup> Testing the entire length of the pipeline would nearly equate to the daily water use of all Canadians.<sup>70,71</sup> After testing, the water – contaminated with biocides and oils – would be discharged back into watersheds.

With talk of an "energy corridor,"<sup>72</sup> the PRGT route could be doubled with an oil pipeline.

## Sources

If a link fails to load from this document, please copy the link and paste it into your browser.

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Ksi Lisims LNG <https://projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/p/60edc23bc69c5e0023a12539/project-details>

For industry documentation of PRGT and Ksi Lisims LNG:

PRGT: <https://www.westernlng.com/projects/prince-rupert-gas-transmission-project>

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