Sound Moms

BRITANNIA BEACH, B.C.
November 18, 2026

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BC Energy Regulator
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Re: Community consultation on air emissions permit application No. 455458

Dear Mr. Beardow and Ms. Curnow,

Mr. Beardow, I appreciated the chance to speak with you and your team at the Britannia Beach Community Hall on November 17. You asked which meeting formats might work better.

At the University of Minnesota, I taught scientists how to involve communities in decisions that affect them. I did not see staff taking notes as neighbours spoke. The addendum offers practical examples for Britannia Beach, and I would be happy to share additional resources or speak with your team.

I received different answers to the same question that evening and was often asked to send an email when a question could not be answered. Ashleigh, a Woodfibre LNG employee, said, "there may not be an independent monitor appointed." That differed from what I had read on a display sign at another open house. I find this discrepancy deeply troubling. When residents receive conflicting information, please direct your staff to investigate, establish what is accurate and follow up with residents in writing. Could you clarify in the November 25 summary whether Woodfibre intends to use an independent monitor and what remains undecided?

At tomorrow's Squamish session, please ask staff to write down questions they cannot answer, check that they have understood the concern and tell the resident when to expect a reply.

What we ask of Woodfibre LNG

- **Start at the November 19 Squamish open house.**
  Please use name tags showing each staff member's name, position title and area of expertise. Given the staffing levels on November 17, we believe brief notes on concerns, answers and next steps are reasonable. That way, a neighbour who has taken the time to ask can leave knowing who will follow up.
- **Share a public meeting summary by November 25.***
  Email it to attendees who request a copy and to hello@soundmoms.com. Invite neighbours to flag anything missed on November 17. For pending answers, identify who will respond and when. Omit residents' names and update the summary after later meetings. Comments close November 29, before the December 2 Britannia Beach open house.[3]
- **Hold and record an online town hall before November 29.**
  We would welcome a town hall where your team can hear our concerns and respond directly. At an open house, a neighbour at one display cannot hear the answer given at another. A facilitated discussion would let everyone hear the same answer and ask a follow-up. Please take questions by voice or chat, publish the recording before comments close and include the main points in the meeting summary. A parent who misses a meeting at bedtime deserves the same answers as a neighbour in the room. We also hope you can offer childcare at in-person meetings.[7]

* Transport Canada recommends sharing a summary of the main points with attendees and other interested people.
Transport Canada guidance on open-house summaries (pp. 30–31)

Why follow-up matters in Britannia Beach

Britannia Beach is home to about 500 people. Lynne Cooke, who has lived here for 41 years, recalls an invitation-only dinner at the pub with no question period. When another dinner was proposed, residents asked for a public meeting. Residents describe having to press Daria Hasselmann of Woodfibre LNG to open the meeting to the community. After the September meeting at the Mine Museum, Nicola Richardson suggested posting a notice at the entrance to town and asked whether the meeting had been recorded.[2] Those are practical ways to reach neighbours who might otherwise miss their chance to participate.[7]

One neighbour says he tried to register for the invitation-only event but received no reply and could not get in. An attendee recalls staff checking names at the door and admitting only those on the list. Alex Morrissey, former president of the Britannia Beach Community Association, submitted several questions in advance and says they went unanswered at the meeting.

My husband emailed Woodfibre on October 20, followed up on November 3 and received a reply on November 9. In our view, most of his concerns remained unanswered.

Taken together, these experiences have made it harder for residents to trust that their concerns reach the people making decisions. When a question goes unanswered, neighbours have no way to tell whether it is still being considered. Hearing your response together, and seeing you follow up afterward, would be a meaningful step toward earning that trust. The addendum offers practical strategies for Britannia Beach, including shared questions, skilled facilitation and public follow-up.[4-7,14]

- **Please check two reports from our waters.**

  We understand that the wake of a vessel identified to us as working for Woodfibre threw a local mother and her child from their jet ski. Last week, another report described a near miss between a vessel identified as working for Woodfibre and two humpback whales. Please check your vessel and contractor records, tell us what you can confirm, and explain what steps you are taking to protect families and wildlife. If a review is still underway, please let residents know when to expect an update.

What we ask of the BC Energy Regulator

- **Convene and chair a community meeting in Britannia Beach.**

  Ms. Curnow, we would welcome the opportunity to ask how your staff assess evidence and weigh public comments. Please hold this meeting while the public comment period is open and allow residents sufficient time afterward to submit informed comments. If the November 29 deadline does not allow for both, we ask that the comment period be extended and the revised deadline announced publicly.

- **Explain what happens if a requirement is breached.**

  If Woodfibre exceeds an emissions limit or misses required monitoring, who investigates? How soon will residents be notified, what corrective action can you require, and where can residents see whether that action was taken? Please place this letter on the record for application No. 455458.

An independent baseline for Britannia Beach

Our children play along a shore our neighbours worked for years to restore. Before flaring begins, families in Britannia Beach deserve a reliable record of the air we breathe here. Ms. Curnow, if a permit is issued, we ask you to use section 14 of B.C.'s Environmental Management Act to require a qualified monitor independent of Woodfibre to collect 12 consecutive months of local air quality data before any flaring, including during commissioning. Independent monitoring should continue afterward.[10]

Woodfibre describes a facility that could operate for 40 years.[1] That is long enough for our children to grow up and raise families here. Pink salmon returned to Britannia Creek after remediation and water treatment.[8] Humpbacks, orcas and Pacific white-sided dolphins are again seen in Howe Sound.[9] Many residents are firmly opposed to the project. Others want assurance that Woodfibre will control its emissions and that the regulator will enforce clear limits.

A complete year of measurements in Britannia Beach before flaring would allow winter-to-winter and summer-to-summer comparisons at the same location. B.C. guidance describes at least a year of continuous monitoring as ideal for a new baseline.[11] A Health Canada and New Brunswick study likewise planned a full baseline year to capture seasonal variation.[12]

Britannia Beach sits across Howe Sound from the facility. Squamish Elementary is at a different point in the airshed and in a different position relative to the flare. Terrain, winds and nearby emission sources can influence what each monitor records.[11] Woodfibre describes Squamish Elementary as a regional comparison station.[13]

- **Require Woodfibre to resubmit its monitoring plan.**
  The independent monitor should choose representative sites, operate the equipment, collect and validate data, report directly to the regulator and publish results without company approval. Please explain who selects and pays the monitor and how conflicts of interest will be managed.
- **Set enforceable limits and make the evidence public.**
  Please set deadlines for publishing results, notifying residents of exceedances and taking corrective action. If the regulator proposes to rely on Squamish Elementary readings for Britannia Beach, please identify the pollutants, dates and gaps, and publish the evidence that the data represent our shoreline across all four seasons.

Mr. Beardow, before the November 19 Squamish open house, please confirm who will take meeting notes, who will follow up on unanswered questions and whether your team will publish the summary by November 25. Ms. Curnow, please confirm the meeting date and the deadline for submitting comments afterward. It would be our pleasure to share both dates with our neighbours. Thank you both for your time.

With best regards,

Kristi L. Kremers

Kristi L. Kremers

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ADDENDUM

What the evidence says about effective engagement

Source	Finding or guidance	Application in Britannia Beach
Newig et al. (2023) [4] Meta-analysis of 305 environmental governance cases	Giving participants more say predicted stronger environmental provisions in decisions. More intensive discussion predicted stronger conservation provisions only.	Identify the questions still open to input, who decides them and when. After review, show which suggestions affected a decision and explain why others were declined.
Reed (2008) [5] Environmental management literature review	The review recommends early and continuing participation, systematic identification of affected groups, clear objectives and skilled facilitation.	Invite residents to submit topics before the session. Give a neutral facilitator time for shared questions and follow-ups. Keep a private question option for those who prefer it.
B.C. Environmental Assessment Office (2024) [6] Provincial policy	When considering additional engagement for certain reviews, the office weighs likely effects on nearby communities, public interest and earlier engagement.	Ask nearby neighbourhoods which questions earlier sessions left unanswered. Use those questions to prepare a Britannia-specific briefing and select presenters with relevant expertise.
OECD (2022) [7] Participation guidelines	The OECD recommends removing barriers to participation, including childcare and eldercare costs, and making responses to public input accessible in a timely way.	Offer phone, online and written participation. Publish the full captioned recording and a transcript. Give questions from home the same response and follow-up as questions from the room.

Woodfibre's commitments

Community Services and Infrastructure Management Plan, s. 6, p. 54: receive and respond to concerns.
Construction Marine Transportation Management and Monitoring Plan, p. 36: track and investigate reports.

References

[1] Woodfibre LNG, economic impact study announcement, October 22, 2026. The estimate is $13.6 billion.
[2] Lynne Cooke, recorded interview, 0:00-1:14. Nicola Richardson, email to Woodfibre LNG, September 21, 2026.
[3] Squamish Nation, public comment notice and Woodfibre LNG, open house schedule, October 29, 2026.
[4] Newig et al., Does stakeholder participation improve environmental governance? Global Environmental Change 82.
[5] Reed, Stakeholder participation for environmental management. Biological Conservation 141, 2417-2431.
[6] B.C. Environmental Assessment Office, Public Engagement Policy, section 2.2.
[7] OECD, Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes, guiding principles on transparency and accessibility.
[8] Auditor General of British Columbia, Britannia Mine Water Treatment Plant Project, July 2012.
[9] Ocean Watch: Howe Sound Edition (2017), chapter on cetaceans.
[10] Environmental Management Act, S.B.C. 2003, c. 53, s. 14(1)(c)-(e).
[11] B.C., British Columbia Air Quality Dispersion Modelling Guideline (July 2022), ss. 8.1.3-8.1.4, p. 71.
[12] Natural Resources Canada, Annex B: Shale Resources Compendium, New Brunswick air quality study design.
[13] Woodfibre LNG, 2024 Annual Air Quality Monitoring Station Report, regional station comparisons.

[14] IAP2, Public Participation Toolbox, "Techniques to Bring People Together." The guide describes public meetings as a forum for residents to raise questions and comments in a group and recommends designing them for interaction between technical staff and the public.