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DAILY CONSTRUCTION NEWS CLIPPING SERVICE **– March 31, 2016**

HEADLINES

1. **B.C. residents 65% of Site C workforce—not 80%: FOI – Sigurdson quoted**

**Link:** [**http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/b-c-residents-65-of-site-c-workforce-not-80-foi-1.2220482#sthash.bz6jl6rR.dpuf**](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/b-c-residents-65-of-site-c-workforce-not-80-foi-1.2220482#sthash.bz6jl6rR.dpuf)

1. **35 per cent of Site C workers aren’t from B.C.: FOI request – Sigurdson quoted**

**Link:** [**http://energeticcity.ca/article/news/2016/03/30/35-per-cent-site-c-workers-arent-b-c-foi-request**](http://energeticcity.ca/article/news/2016/03/30/35-per-cent-site-c-workers-arent-b-c-foi-request)

1. **Trades cry foul after FOI reveals percentage of BC workers at Site C Dam – Sigurdson quoted**

**Link:** [**http://www.cknw.com/2016/03/30/site-c-dam-workers-bc/**](http://www.cknw.com/2016/03/30/site-c-dam-workers-bc/)

1. **Competition fierce for megaproject jobs – Sigurdson quoted**

**Link:** [**http://journalofcommerce.com/Projects/News/2016/3/Competition-fierce-for-megaproject-jobs-1014627W/**](http://journalofcommerce.com/Projects/News/2016/3/Competition-fierce-for-megaproject-jobs-1014627W/)

1. **Renovated trades building sought by northwestern B.C. college**

**Link:** [**www.terracestandard.com/news/374120861.html**](http://www.terracestandard.com/news/374120861.html)

1. **Site C construction bridge complete—but it ain't here to stay**

**Link:** [**http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/site-c-construction-bridge-complete-but-it-ain-t-here-to-stay-1.2220312#sthash.lDDKkZMF.dpuf**](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/site-c-construction-bridge-complete-but-it-ain-t-here-to-stay-1.2220312#sthash.lDDKkZMF.dpuf)

1. **ICBA looks at state of construction with Industry Outlook event**

**Link:** [**http://journalofcommerce.com/Associations/News/2016/3/ICBA-looks-at-state-of-construction-with-Industry-Outlook-event-1014615W/**](http://journalofcommerce.com/Associations/News/2016/3/ICBA-looks-at-state-of-construction-with-Industry-Outlook-event-1014615W/)

1. **March brings ups and downs for LNG proposals**

**Link:** [**http://journalofcommerce.com/Resource/News/2016/3/March-brings-ups-and-downs-for-LNG-proposals-1014611W/**](http://journalofcommerce.com/Resource/News/2016/3/March-brings-ups-and-downs-for-LNG-proposals-1014611W/)

1. **Qatar 2022: 'Forced labour' at World Cup stadium**

**Link:** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35931031**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35931031)**B.C. residents 65% of Site C workforce—not 80%: FOI – Sigurdson quoted**

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

Only 65 per cent of the 482 people working on the Site C dam in November were from B.C.—below the 75 to 80 per cent previously claimed by BC Hydro and government officials.

That's according to documents obtained through freedom of information (FOI) by BC Building Trades, a labour group that's keeping a close eye on the $8.8 billion project.

Tom Sigurdson, BC Building Trades executive director, said the documents show B.C. workers "are not being given the priority they deserve on this project."

"We have literally thousands of B.C. workers who are unemployed," Sigurdson told Alaska Highway News. "This is a BC Hydro taxpayer-funded project that should have, as a priority, employment for British Columbians."

Three years ago, the Building Trades sought a project labour agreement with BC Hydro to build Site C—an agreement that was eventually abandoned in favour of the current "open site" model.

"We think BC Hydro should have gone with a project labour agreement to guarantee that there be a B.C. workforce on the project," Sigurdson. "So we started to ask the question: what is the B.C. workforce?"

When asked that question in January, BC Hydro President and CEO Jessica McDonald told Alaska Highway News that in December, [75 to 80 per cent of Site C workers were from B.C](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/q-a-fourteen-questions-for-bc-hydro-ceo-jessica-mcdonald-1.2156843). In December, Energy Minister Bill Bennett told the Vancouver Sun that B.C. residents made up 75 per cent of the Site C workforce.

Sigurdson said the internal document shows those numbers are "a little exaggerated," raising questions about where project officials are getting their workforce numbers.

"I would say that they (Bennett and McDonald) tried to put the best face on the numbers," he said. "But the details that came back (with the FOI) showed that was not true."

While the B.C. government initially worried about having enough skilled workers to build Site C, the downturn in the oilpatch has freed up a sizable workforce—including many in nearby Alberta. Alberta-based firms including Petrowest and Morgan Constuction have both won major contracts on the dam. That's led to concerns from some in the B.C. Peace Region, where the unemployment rate is 9.2 per cent and Site C job fairs attracted nearly 5,000.

BC Hydro did not dispute the 65 per cent figure, but said it was only a "snapshot" of the labour force on an eight year-long project.

"The percentage of B.C. workers referenced by the Building Trades is a snapshot of one month—the number fluctuates from month to month," BC Hydro communications manager Craig Fitzsimmons said in an email. "It's been as high as 82 per cent last August, and has averaged about 70 per cent over the first six months of construction."

"The workforce composition at any givern time is only a snapshot, and the numbers of British Columbians working on the project will fluctuate. However, we fully expect that Site C contractors will hire workers locally and regionally first, then nationally."

Sigurdson said a project labour agreement would have guaranteed a higher percentage of B.C. workers on Site C. Under those agreements, non-union contractors would pay union dues for the duration of the project—guaranteeing access to their own employees and BC Building Trades members.

"You're assured they're getting the skills that are required," he said. "You wouldn't have to have the job fairs going out to do the search. And it would be British Columbia-based (labour)."

**Link:** [**http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/b-c-residents-65-of-site-c-workforce-not-80-foi-1.2220482#sthash.bz6jl6rR.dpuf**](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/b-c-residents-65-of-site-c-workforce-not-80-foi-1.2220482#sthash.bz6jl6rR.dpuf)**35 per cent of Site C workers aren’t from B.C.: FOI request – Sigurdson quoted**

ENERGETIC CITY

According to a Freedom of Information request made by the BC Building Trades in December, only 65 per cent of the 482 construction workers on the Site C project in November were from B.C.

The response from BC Hydro came in 103 days after the request was filed. BC Building Trades says Minister of Energy and Mines Bill Bennett made claims to the Vancouver Sun in December that 75 per cent of the workers were from B.C., before this request was made.

Tom Sigurdson, Executive Director of the BC Building Trades, says the early figures presented justify the concerns had by many that BC workers are not being given the priority they deserve on the project.

“Over 5,000 people attended the job fairs in northern BC hoping for an opportunity, perhaps they should have applied at the Petrowest Head Office in Calgary Alberta,” he said.

Sigurdson continues, noting that there is no shortage of workers who could have done the ground clearing, excavation, road work and camp construction that was done in November.

“If contractors are already drawing 35 per cent of the workforce from out of province at this stage in the project, who knows what will happen as the project moves forward.”

Also requested by BC Building Trades was information on the number of apprentices on the Site C project. That response revealed that only 26 apprentices worked on the project out of a total workforce of 482 in the month of November 2015. BC Building Trades says that’s 5 per cent of the workforce, and well below the government’s stated goal of 25 per cent on public projects.

“On behalf of the British Columbians who are unemployed, the Minister should explain how it is his numbers were so drastically wrong,” Sigurson added.

BC Building Trades also raised concerns last month when Peace River Power Partners placed the ad on a Fort St. John jobs website that described the human resources assistant duties as ‘assisting in the Temporary Foreign Workers processes’ for the project.

The references to temporary foreign workers in the advertisement were edited out in a subsequent posting.

In light on that incident, Sigurdson questioned why a Site C contractor would hire someone to search for temporary foreign workers when there are many skilled British Columbians still looking for work.

**Link:** [**http://energeticcity.ca/article/news/2016/03/30/35-per-cent-site-c-workers-arent-b-c-foi-request**](http://energeticcity.ca/article/news/2016/03/30/35-per-cent-site-c-workers-arent-b-c-foi-request)**Trades cry foul after FOI reveals percentage of BC workers at Site C Dam – Sigurdson quoted**

CKNW

BC Building Trades isn’t happy with the numbers that come out from an FOI they filed.

Executive Director Tom Sigurdson says the FOI was in relation to the number of workers from B.C. employed at the Hydro Site C Dam project during the month of November last year.

Figures returned revealed only 68% of the 482 workers on the project at that time were from here.

Sigurdson says comparing that to Mines Minister Bill Bennett’s previous claims 75% of the workers were from this province, that’s not right.

“I would think that, given the level of unemployment in British Columbia, that project should have 100 percent British Columbian employment.”

He’s hoping BC Hydro and the Minister will come to the table to make sure that those who live in this province have a chance to find employment with this project.

BC Hydro Chief Communications Officer Steve Vanagas expects the number of BC workers on-site to fluctuate from month to month.

Vanagas says they are currently at around 70%.

“It’s been as high as 80% over the last year, and in the last month its been in that 70% range.”

Vanagas says their contractors are focused on hiring B.C. workers first, with the remaining jobs going to Canadians.

“I can tell you that the contractors are focused on filling all possible jobs with locals first, and then the remaining jobs going to other Canadians”

**Link:** [**http://www.cknw.com/2016/03/30/site-c-dam-workers-bc/**](http://www.cknw.com/2016/03/30/site-c-dam-workers-bc/)**Competition fierce for megaproject jobs – Sigurdson quoted**

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

Fierce competition for construction contracts and jobs has erupted at two northern B.C. megaprojects, in part as a result of the downturn in Alberta's oil patch.

The two projects are the $8 billion BC Hydro Site C dam, seven kilometres from Fort St. John, and the $2.5 billion announced by Veresen Inc. on natural gas processing plants located near Dawson Creek.

BC Hydro has approved two contracts: a $470 million, eight-year contract to ATCO Structures & Logistics to build, install and operate a 1,600 man construction lodge at Site C and another $1.75 billion civil works contract to consortium Peace River Hydro Partners.

Veresen has announced through Cutbank Ridge Partnership (CRP) a $930 million Saturn Phase 2 processing plant upgrade as part of the Veresen Midstream infrastructure development. It follows announcements late last year that saw $715 million allocated for the Tower and $860 million for the Sunrise natural gas processing plants near Dawson Creek.

"We are driven more by the natural gas sector than by Site C," said Dawson Creek mayor Dale Bumstead, adding the Veresen plants are good news along with Pembina and TransCanada pipeline plans for projects in late 2016.

"It is really a competitive environment right now," said Bumstead.

"Alberta has also been impacted and everyone is looking for work to survive. Two or three years ago, you couldn't find a truck to haul water and now they are all lining up. That competition has created a tight atmosphere for any bidding."

Bumstead is also part of a group of regional mayors looking to keep jobs local and are attempting to gain consensus on a definition for hiring local.

"The competition is fierce for projects going on in the region," said Dawson Creek and District Chamber of Commerce executive director Kathleen Connolly.

Site C job fairs are attracting large crowds of unemployed.

"They were mainly just dropping off resumes," said Ken Morland, chairman of the newly-formed Northern Regional Construction Association (a merger of the BC Construction Association North and construction associations in Prince George, Williams Lake, and Fort St. John).

More than 5,000 job seekers and 700 businesses attended BC Hydro and its contractors Site C job fairs and business networking sessions in Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Mackenzie, Prince George, Quesnel and Tumbler Ridge.

The Peace River Hydro Partners, which is hiring through Petrowest Corporation in Fort St. John, will hire 600 workers by early summer of this year, before peaking at 1,500 workers in 2018.

Keen competition has also sparked controversy, especially for Site C. News reports generated from anonymous emails to local politicians charged ATCO had promised camp workers displaced from one of its Alberta camps new jobs at the Site C dam; ATCO rebutted saying Alberta workers would not have priority.

As well, there was an employment notice posting for a human resources officer to assist with the temporary foreign workers processing and create a foreign workers report for Peace River Hydro Partners.  This drew criticism from locals and from building trades organizations. It was quickly withdrawn.

The BC and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council has also voiced concern over awarding the civil contract to Peace River Hydro Partners, made up of out-of-province members as it claims ACCIONA is a Spanish firm, Petrowest is Alberta-based and Samsung E&C America Inc. is a division of a Korean firm.

Tom Sigurdson, BC Building Trades Council executive director, said that under previous legacy agreements for dam construction in B.C., the crown corporation agreed to hire trades locally. However, this current Site C project fails to place the same importance on hiring B.C. workers and Alberta companies and workers have come in.

"While I am sympathetic to those unemployed in Alberta, I am even more sympathetic to those unemployed in B.C. who had skills and ability to work on this project," he said, adding there is no need to bring in temporary foreign workers as B.C. skilled labour has historically built B.C.'s hydro projects.

"There are literally thousands of B.C. workers that have the appropriate skills," he said.

IUOE Local 115's business manager, Brian Cochrane, has also voiced criticism on the attempt to hire an individual to manage a foreign workers program. While BC Hydro has reaffirmed a commitment to hiring local, Cochrane said: "We need a concrete agreement jobs on the Site C project will go to local First Nations and British Columbians before anyone else, especially temporary foreign workers."

Locally, there is also mounting pressure to keep jobs in towns around Site C.

"We are hearing from local contractors that there is a fear in Fort St. John and in Taylor that too many contracts are going to non-local contractors and workers," said Rob Fraser, mayor of the District of Taylor, which is located one town over from Fort St. John.

Fraser, who sits on a number of regional and economic development boards, said northern governments are attempting to build a relationship with the main contract proponents in order to emphasize hiring locally.

He said a coalition of area resource communities also want to ensure that if B.C. contractors bid against out-of-province contractors that "it is a level playing field" and that taxes applicable to B.C. contractors, but not other provinces, are considered into the bid process.

"If you look at those numbers (the 5,000 job-seekers), probably 85 per cent of them are from B.C.," estimated Tony Zabinsky, president of the Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce, as the downturn in oil and gas has walloped not just locals but fly-in-fly-out employees.

The chamber has been a strong supporter of keeping jobs local and is planning another business networking session with the main contractors in late April or early May, he said.

While larger contracts have gone to ATCO and the Peace River Hydro Partners, two other firms, Edmonton-based Morgan Construction and Environmental (land clearance on the dam's north bank) and Chetwynd-based Paul Paquette and Son's Contracting (land clearance on the south) are active in the area.

Some work is going to local companies and ATCO is hiring some local contractors to help construct camp breezeways and stairways, Zabinsky said.

"Everything is just ramping up right now," he said.

Jennifer Moore, regional development officer with the North Peace Economic Development Commission, said her organization has been pushing to meet with contract proponents to stress hiring local. But, the surplus of labour and equipment has also created opportunity for developers looking at start projects.

"You are not paying a premium right now," she said as there is excess labour and machines available.

"Now is the time to get projects rolling because when there is the green light on projects such as the LNG development and commodity prices come back, you are going to be a day late and dollar short."

**Link:** [**http://journalofcommerce.com/Projects/News/2016/3/Competition-fierce-for-megaproject-jobs-1014627W/**](http://journalofcommerce.com/Projects/News/2016/3/Competition-fierce-for-megaproject-jobs-1014627W/)**Renovated trades building sought by northwestern B.C. college**

TERRACE STANDARD

NORTHWEST Community College and the provincial government are in negotiations leading to an extensive renovation of its trades training building at its main Terrace campus.

Built in 1970 and one of the original building dating back to the college’s origins as a vocational school, the current 75,000 square foot structure has been consistently tagged by the college as out-of-date and insufficient to meet the kind of trades training now needed.

“Subject to government approval, the business plan will determine the final cost, scope and timeline of the project,” said college official Heather Bastin last week of the negotiations.

In 2012 the college laid out an ambitious plan for a $45 million trades training building project of 120,000 square feet and began lobbying the province for approval.

But that plan has now been sidelined with the decision to focus instead on renovating the current structure, said Bastin.

“These would be renovations and not a new structure,” she said.

“After conversations it was decided that renovations would be the better way to go.”

Just as important as the actual renovations would be making a myriad of arrangements so that classes and students would not be disrupted while the work is going on.

“Our commitment is maintain a full course offering,” said Bastin. “That planning is part of the business case we’re developing.”

While it is far too early to estimate the kinds of dollars nowadays that would be required, the 2012 college document did indicate then that $6 million alone would be needed to bring the trades building up to current standards.

In speaking to Terrace city council in the fall of 2012 regarding the college plan, then-college president Denise Henning noted one deficiency.

“We have more women in trades, young mothers and single mothers and we have two toilets for women,” said Henning of facilities in the building.

“I would be remiss as the president of Northwest Community College not to go for an ideal situation,” she said of the original $45 million plan.

Henning also said the college would be reaching out to the region’s large industrial players for financial assistance.

Corporations have already been contributing money to the college for course offerings.

The emphasis on trades training has resulted in recent influxes of provincial money to purchase new equipment for student training.

That’s partially in response to the potential for the region to be host to large-scale industrial development, primarily liquefied natural gas plants, and the need to train northwestern B.C. residents to work on those projects.

Northwest Community College has also been the benefeciary of provincial construction money on its campuses elsewhere.

That includes a new Prince Rupert campus built at a cost of $12 million and a $16.7 million campus in Smithers.

**Link:** [**www.terracestandard.com/news/374120861.html**](http://www.terracestandard.com/news/374120861.html)**Site C construction bridge complete—but it ain't here to stay**

ALASKA HIGHWAY NEWS

BC Hydro contractors have linked Site C work sites on the north and south banks of the Peace River with a construction bridge—but despite the best efforts of several regional politicians, the crossing is only temporary.

Hydro announced the completion of the bridge Wednesday, saying the 329-metre span was built on time and on budget.

The bridge is needed for construction to begin on the dam's main civil works—including the 60-metre earth fill dam and generating station. It will be dismantled when construction is completed in 2024.

However, residents in both Fort St. John and Chetwynd have pushed for a permanent bridge to add to the three spans that currently cross the Peace River.

A fourth crossing would supplement the Highway 97 bridge at Taylor, which is frequently reduced to single-lane traffic for repairs to its aging metal deck.

Chetwynd Mayor Merlin Nichols said a permanent bridge is not currently among the district's Site C lobbying priorities. However, he said the new span, along with road improvements, could cut travel times between Fort St. John and Chetwynd in half.

"There are many in Chetwynd who would like that access," he said.

Fort St. John pushed for a permanent bridge during negotiations with BC Hydro prior to the dam's approval, but came up short.

"Honestly, we tried, I don't know how many times we tried," Mayor Lori Ackerman said at an event announcing the city's Site C [community measures agreement](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/fort-st-john/fort-st-john-to-get-1m-a-year-during-site-c-construction-1.2165191) in February.

While the trucking and natural gas industries supported the proposal, Dawson Creek, Hudson's Hope and Taylor worried it would divert vital traffic.

"We thought there should be a permanent crossing there, especially given how dangerous both Taylor hills are," said Fort St. John communications manager Julie Rogers. "If you're a truck driver and you can avoid those hills and just come straight across, that'd be awesome."

She said the city suggested tolling the bridge, but added the idea gained little traction.

**Main civil works underway**

The opening of the bridge will be accompanied by a major ramp up in construction.

BC Hydro says that with the bridge in place, Peace River Hydro Partners can begin construction on the Site C earthworks—the earthfill dam that will eventually block the Peace River.

Between 50 and 100 vehicles and pieces of machinery are expected to cross the bridge per week for three to four weeks in April. The bridge was built by Prince George's Ruskin Construction.

Site C opponents are in the BC Court of Appeal next week with a [lawsuit aimed at blocking the project](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/after-injunction-to-remove-camp-site-c-opponents-back-in-court-1.2219165).

**Link:** [**http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/site-c-construction-bridge-complete-but-it-ain-t-here-to-stay-1.2220312#sthash.lDDKkZMF.dpuf**](http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/regional-news/site-c/site-c-construction-bridge-complete-but-it-ain-t-here-to-stay-1.2220312#sthash.lDDKkZMF.dpuf)**ICBA looks at state of construction with Industry Outlook event**

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

The Independent Contractors and Businesses Association of British Columbia (ICBA) is once again taking stock of the current state of the construction industry in B.C. with the help of several experts.

The association is holding its second annual Industry Outlook on April 28 at the Delta Burnaby Hotel and Conference Centre in Burnaby, B.C. with representatives from several construction and construction-related industries addressing attendees on current economic trends and giving their predictions for the state of the industry in 2017.

Ken Peacock, the chief economist and vice-president of the Business Council of British Columbia will take a close look at the state of the B.C. economy, while BC Hydro senior construction manager Graham Fenwick will explain the company's capital spending plans.

Urban Analytics INC. managing principal Michael Ferriera will look at residential construction and Site Economics Ltd. principal Richard Wozny will focus on commercial and retail construction.

Port Metro Vancouver real estate vice-president Tom Corsie will look at the port's infrastructure plans.

Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers B.C. operations manager Geoff Morrison will look at the oil and gas sector, and mining in the province will be covered by Karina Brino, the president and CEO of the Mining Association of B.C.

ICBA president Philip Hochstein will also offer his views on the present and future of the B.C. construction industry.

"The construction industry doesn't build anything for itself, it builds for everyone else, and this is a rare opportunity to hear from others from the various sectors we build for," Hochstein said. "It's a chance to hear what's coming up in the next 12 to 24 months, and it's of interest to everyone."

Following panel discussions there will also be opportunities for attendees to participate in a question and answer session.

**Link:** [**http://journalofcommerce.com/Associations/News/2016/3/ICBA-looks-at-state-of-construction-with-Industry-Outlook-event-1014615W/**](http://journalofcommerce.com/Associations/News/2016/3/ICBA-looks-at-state-of-construction-with-Industry-Outlook-event-1014615W/)**March brings ups and downs for LNG proposals**

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

March featured some good news and some bad news for British Columbia LNG advocates.

The relatively small Woodfibre LNG project has moved near the front of B.C.'s pack of nearly two dozen proposed liquefied natural gas projects, while the much larger Pacific NorthWest (PNW) LNG, poised for a final decision from Ottawa, has hit a snag with environmental officials.

Last week, the province announced the Woodfibre project had received environmental approval from the federal government.

In Ottawa, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna issued a decision stating that the Woodfibre LNG project is "not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects."

The federal decision follows the October 2015 provincial approval of the project and concluded the project's environmental assessment review process.

"Receiving federal environmental approval marks the conclusion of more than two-and-a-half years of intensive work by the Woodfibre LNG team and our engineering, environmental, and shipping consultants," said Byng Giraud, country manager and vice-president, corporate affairs with Woodfibre LNG Limited, "something every member of the Woodfibre LNG team can be proud of."

Giraud indicated that if permitting steps go according to plan, the two-year build could start early next year.

The Woodfibre project underwent a substituted environmental assessment process, whereby the province's Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) co-ordinated the review process on behalf of both the EAO and the Canadian Environment Assessment Agency (CEAA).

The next steps are for the proponent to obtain approvals and permits, including regulatory authorizations from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada.

While the approval is good news for the province's plans to develop a robust LNG industry, Woodfibre is dwarfed in size by other proposals. Its facilities would export 2.1 million tonnes of LNG annually, while Pacific NorthWest LNG and LNG Canada plan to export around 15 million tonnes a year. The Pacific NorthWest project would cost around $36-billion while Woodfibre would be a $1.6 billion investment.

The Woodfibre project processing and export facility is located at the former Woodfibre pulp mill site, about seven kilometres southwest of Squamish, B.C.

The project must meet all provincial and federal requirements, including environmental assessment conditions related to pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning in order to responsibly manage potential effects associated with the proposed project.

The Woodfibre LNG site is located on the traditional territory of Squamish Nation. In October 2015 Squamish Nation Council announced it had approved an Environmental Assessment Agreement and issued a Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment Certificate for the Woodfibre LNG project.

The agreement includes legally binding conditions that Woodfibre LNG Limited is required to meet for the project to move forward.

The project is moving ahead with design, awarding KBR a multi-phased contract for front-end engineering and design (FEED).

Under the terms of the contract, KBR's Houston office will provide FEED services for the proposed liquefaction plant and export facility.  This work will include FEED optimization, pre-FEED, FEED, and development of a fixed price offer for engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) services.

"KBR is a world leader in LNG engineering and design," said Giraud. "The award of the FEED contract to KBR ensures the Woodfibre LNG project is engineered and designed to world-class standards, and marks another important step towards making the project a reality."

While Woodfibre's process moved forward last month, Pacific NorthWest LNG's Lelu Island site hit a snag. A long-awaited decision from Ottawa on the project has been delayed by at least three months. According to a letter from the CEAA, new questions have arisen about the construction schedule.

The CEAA letter states that Pacific NorthWest LNG officials explained to them early last month that it would not be possible to control in-water marine construction to specific times to limit impacts on herring spawning, salmon rearing, eulachon and marine mammal migrations, despite this being a proposed condition for approval.

Lelu Island, near Prince Rupert, is at the mouth of the Skeena River, described in a letter by the CEAA as one of the largest and most diverse wild salmon watersheds in the world. Project officials informed the CEAA that the work "must generally be able to proceed on a continuous basis, night and day."

The CEAA stated the delay is to assess the impact of the demanding construction schedule on the local population and environment.

Provincial officials, who have been anticipating the massive investment of an LNG industry, are eager to see the project move forward.

"I'm confident that any remaining questions can be answered completely and quickly. They have to be. Jobs for British Columbians should not be held by unnecessary delays," said Rich Coleman, B.C.'s minister of energy and mines in a statement.

"After all, this just isn't any project. At $36-billion and 18,600 jobs, PNW LNG would be the largest private sector investment ever in Canadian history."

**Link:** [**http://journalofcommerce.com/Resource/News/2016/3/March-brings-ups-and-downs-for-LNG-proposals-1014611W/**](http://journalofcommerce.com/Resource/News/2016/3/March-brings-ups-and-downs-for-LNG-proposals-1014611W/)**Qatar 2022: 'Forced labour' at World Cup stadium**

BBC NEWS

Image copyright Getty Images Image caption Amnesty said the Qatar government was "apathetic" about preventing abuses

Rights group Amnesty International has accused Qatar of using forced labour at a flagship World Cup 2022 stadium.

Amnesty says workers at Khalifa International Stadium are forced to live in squalid accommodation, pay huge recruitment fees and have had wages withheld and passports confiscated.

It also accuses Fifa of "failing almost completely" to stop the tournament being "built on human rights abuses".

Qatar said it was "concerned" by the allegations and would investigate.

The government said the welfare of migrant workers was a "top priority" and insisted it was committed to systematic reform of Qatar's labour laws.

Fifa, the governing body of world football, said measures had been taken that had already improved the situation for migrant workers.

Last year the country pledged to makes changes to its "kafala" sponsorship system, under which migrant workers cannot change jobs or leave the country without their employer's permission.

But Amnesty warned the proposed reforms would make little difference and said some of the workers were enduring a "living nightmare".

"All workers want are their rights: to be paid on time, leave the country if need be and be treated with dignity and respect," said general secretary Salil Shetty.

Image copyright AP Image caption Abuses of World Cup workers is a "stain on the conscience of world football", Amnesty said

Amnesty interviewed 231 mostly South Asian migrants - 132 working at the stadium and 99 on green spaces in the surrounding Aspire sports complex.

It said staff of one labour supply company used the threat of penalties to exact work from some migrants such as withholding pay, handing workers over to the police or stopping them from leaving Qatar.

This amounted to forced labour under international law, Amnesty said.

The Qatari government said its Ministry of Administrative Development, Labour and Social Affairs would investigate the contractors named in the report.

But Amnesty said every migrant it had interviewed had reported abuses of one kind or another, including being:

* required to pay fees of up to $4,300 to recruiters in their home country to get a job in Qatar
* deceived over the type of work and the pay on offer, which was sometimes half as much as they were promised
* threatened for complaining about their conditions

One metal worker from India who worked on the Khalifa stadium refurbishment told Amnesty he was threatened by his employer when he complained about not being paid for several months.

Image copyright AFP Image caption Qatar's government says it is committed to labour reform

"He just shouted abuse at me and said that if I complained again I'd never leave the country," the worker said.

"Ever since I have been careful not to complain about my salary or anything else. Of course, if I could I would change jobs or leave Qatar."

Another metal worker from Nepal said his life was "like a prison".

Some of the Nepali workers told Amnesty they were not allowed to visit their families after the [earthquake last April](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-32479909) that killed thousands and left millions displaced.

Hassan al-Thawadi, Secretary General for Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, which is responsible for delivering stadiums and infrastructure for the games, told the BBC that addressing the issue of workers' welfare was a "long journey".

"We cannot resolve everything overnight," he said.

"Progress has been made on the ground in relation to a number of these issues. In addition, I think the report indicates the commitment the Supreme Committee has made in relation to workers' welfare and our standards, as well as the openness and transparency with which we have dealt with these matters."

**'Fifa indifference'**

Mr Shetty also had harsh words for Fifa, accusing it of "indifference" to the abuse of migrant workers, which he said was a "stain on the conscience of world football".

The Khalifa Stadium is part of the Aspire Zone sports complex, where facilities have already been used by some of the world's biggest football clubs, including Bayern Munich, Everton and Paris Saint-Germain, which trained there in the winter.

Amnesty has called on big World Cup sponsors such as Adidas, Coca Cola and McDonald's to put pressure on Fifa to tackle the issue.

"It is time for football's leaders to speak out or be tainted by association," Mr Shetty said.

It wants Fifa to get Qatar to publish a comprehensive reform plan before construction on World Cup projects peaks in 2017.

It also wants Fifa to carry out its own inspections of labour conditions in the Gulf state.

The numbers working on World Cup sites are set to rise tenfold to around 36,000 in the next two years, Amnesty said.

Fifa released a statement on Thursday saying that since 2011 it had been meeting key groups, including Amnesty International, to discuss "consistent and sustained implementation of fair working conditions" on world cup sites.

Fifa said: "This is an ongoing process. Challenges remain, but Fifa is confident that the structures and processes set-up so far by the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, which is the entity responsible for the delivery of Fifa World Cup infrastructure, provide a good basis to monitor labour rights of migrant workers."

Fifa's head of sustainability, Federico Addiechi, said measures taken by the committee "have already improved the situation for migrant workers".

**Link:** [**http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35931031**](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35931031)

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