



**DELTA FARMERS' INSTITUTE** (Established 1898)

PO Box 18565, Delta, BC, V4K 4V7

Administration: Leisa Yee

Phone/Fax: 604-940-2024

President: David Ryall

Email: [lyeedfi@telus.net](mailto:lyeedfi@telus.net)

June 10, 2015

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq  
Minister of the Environment  
Les Terrasses de la Chaudière  
10 Wellington Street, 28<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

via email: [leona.Aglukkaq@parl.gc.ca](mailto:leona.Aglukkaq@parl.gc.ca)

**Re: FortisBC -Tilbury Island LNG expansion project in Delta, B.C.**

Dear Minister Aglukkaq;

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Delta Farmers' Institute. We have been established since 1898 and currently represent over 100 members of the farming community in Delta BC. It is our goal to keep the business of agriculture economically viable and sustainable for future generations.

Farming is an important socio-economic asset in Metro Vancouver, generating 25% of BC's food production on 1.5% of the province's agricultural land. Delta alone produces over \$300 million in farm receipts. We are unique as over 90% of farms are family owned and operated by multi-generational families on large parcels of some of the best soils and climate for agriculture in Canada. Farmers want and need more farmland.

We appreciate the benefits of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and its potential economic spin offs to BC's economy; however it should not be at the expense of our farmland and businesses. Recently many of our farmers were notified of construction plans for the FortisBC Tilbury Island LNG expansion project. It is with great concern that actively farmed prime agricultural land is expected to be compromised for this project.

Over 10 or more agricultural businesses will lose farmland and be negatively affected by the FortisBC proposal that includes construction of a 230KV over-head electric transmission line from the Tilbury LNG plant to BC Hydro's substation. A few of these farmers are now facing a third and fourth expropriation from federal and municipal infrastructure development. Project construction is expected to complete in fall 2016.

In the best interest for all, we request your assistance, and:

- 1) That a **federal** environmental assessment is conducted by a review panel that includes impacts to agricultural businesses and farmland;
- 2) that the **federal** environmental assessment sets a standard for waterway valuation that includes all aspects of the use and impacts of the FortisBC LNG Tilbury facility expansion, the new WesPac terminal and the Fraser River, including channel traffic.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. We look forward to hearing your view on this project. If you have any questions and would like to discuss this further, please contact me at 604-817-0481 or via email at [ryall@gipaanda.bc.ca](mailto:ryall@gipaanda.bc.ca).

Sincerely,



David Ryall  
President

cc:

Scott Hamilton, MLA  
Vicki Huntington, MLA  
Kerry-Lynne Findlay, MP  
Mayor and Council, Corporation of Delta  
Ian Paton, Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair, Corporation of Delta  
Frank Leonard, ALC Chair  
Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture  
Mary Polak, Minister of Environment  
Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines  
Rich Coleman, Minister of Natural Gas Development  
Michael Mulcahy, President FortisBC  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency