

## **Mayor's Report**

### **Westridge Marine Terminal Expansion Proposal**

On September 25<sup>th</sup> [Kinder Morgan Canada](#) (KMC) released details of the [preliminary design](#) of the proposed expansion of the [Westridge Marine Terminal](#) (WMT) on Burrard Inlet. The proposal involves expanding from today's single ship berth to three new vessel berths arranged at an oblique angle to the shoreline, as shown in the illustration below:



While the [information released](#) on September 25<sup>th</sup> provided many details regarding the proposed expansion, there were important considerations which we think need to be addressed, and these were raised in our [September 30<sup>th</sup> letter to KMC](#).

First, the expansion project proposes a five-fold increase in the number of tanker shipments from the WMT, from the current one tanker per week to an estimated five tankers per week. The single greatest source of complaints from residents in proximity of the WMT is the bright lights and noise from the ships using the anchorages east of the Second Narrows. Since the tankers are KMC's clients, we would like to know how KMC proposes to minimize and/or mitigate the bright lights and noise from on-board the vessels both at anchor and at dock.

Second, while it is already a requirement that oil containment booms be deployed around tankers berthed at the WMT docks, there is no mention as to the technology and efficacy of the containment booms proposed for the expanded WMT facility. One of the "lessons learned" from the 2007 oil spill was that the type of containment boom utilized during the 2007 event was not appropriate for the water conditions encountered in Central Burrard Inlet. There are different types of oil spill containment booms, and containment boom technology has also evolved since 2007. We would like assurances that KMC will utilize the "best available technology" for all oil containment booms used at the WMT facility whether or not the proposed expansion proceeds.

Third, the proposed expansion of the WMT involves tripling the size of the facility's footprint accompanied by a significant encroachment into Burrard Inlet. The proposed increase in the size of terminal has consequences for both Burrard Inlet itself and the communities surrounding Burrard Inlet, but KMC's proposal does not mention recompense for tripling its encroachment. We would like to know what KMC intends to "give back" to Burrard Inlet and its neighbours surrounding the WMT.

Today it is no longer sufficient to just “minimize harm” or “compensate for loss”. Current environmental “best practices” are founded on the ethics of “preserve, protect and enhance”. The environment is a public asset, and the public expects that projects such as the proposed WMT expansion provide environmental enhancements beyond the basic regulatory requirements. In our [September 16<sup>th</sup> letter to KMC](#) we provided some practical examples of legacy enhancements. Thus far, KMC has only referenced the basic regulatory requirement of “habitat compensation for habitat loss in the marine environment” without acknowledging the public expectation of “habitat enhancement”. However, in their [October 9<sup>th</sup> letter to Belcarra](#) KMC did respond as follows:

“An environmental protection plan is being developed for the *Westridge Marine Terminal* as part of the proposed expansion project which will include detailed mitigation plans for the construction phase and ongoing operations. As you suggest and have discussed with our team, expectations today are for best practices to include local enhancements of current environmental conditions. As you know we support this view and we will continue to involve local marine expertise and local communities in the identification and design of the program.”

We have been engaged in a robust dialogue with KMC regarding the proposed expansion of the WMT, and Belcarra Council will continue to monitor this project, ask questions of KMC and others, and continue to provide input on behalf of the Belcarra community.

**Ralph Drew  
Mayor**