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From: Cecil Robinson<contact information removed>
Sent: July 17, 2016 7:13 PM
To: EA Review / Examen EE (CEAA)
Cc: Trudeau, Justin: HOC; The Honourable Catherine McKenna; The Honourable Jim Carr; LeBlanc, Dominic: HOC; The Honourable Mark Garneau; Bennett, Carolyn: HOC; The Honourable Kirsty Duncan
Subject: Comments on Environmental Assessment Processes

Review of Environmental Assessment Processes Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
CEAA.EAReview-ExamineEE.ACCE@ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Sent via email

July 17 2016

RE: Comments on environmental assessment processes: Draft Terms of Reference for Expert Panel.

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Expert Panel that the Hon. Catherine McKenna will establish to review environmental assessment (EA) processes.

We must ask ourselves the right question first.

I note in the "context" section of the TOR that a top priority for the Minister of Environment and Climate Change is to "help get resources to market".

But there is a higher priority question that must be answered first: "will Canada's marketing of this resource result in increased global greenhouse gas emissions?"

We must stop pretending that this question does not exist.

At present, it appears that only direct and upstream greenhouse gas emissions of new projects will be assessed. This must be changed to include downstream emissions.

If we expand our production of fossil fuel, it will be sold.

When it is sold, it will be burned.

When it is burned, it will increase global greenhouse gas emissions.

Those increased emissions would be Canada's responsibility, because we chose to make the fossil fuel available in the first place.

This is inescapable common sense.

To deny this would be a childish lie to ourselves and to the world.

The National Energy Board's legislated mandate must be expanded to regulate not only in the Canadian public interest as it now states, but in the international interest as well.

Is our Canada really still at the stage of a little child, able to think only of itself?

Or have we grown up enough to feel adult responsibility for our family and community- our global neighbours and the Earth itself?

Will our actions harm them?

Will the new EA legislation ensure that Canada meets and exceeds our international climate change commitments under the Paris Agreement, or not?

In addition, please consider the following amendments:

- The new National Energy Board membership should include youth and indigenous elders.
- It will take time to finish crafting worthwhile new EA legislation, and we must take at least two steps in the interim :
One is to restore the lost protections of the Fisheries Act to all fish and fish habitat.
The second is to restore the lost protections of navigable waters, as promised by the Liberal Party of Canada in the last election.
- The TOR should be amended to include a public review and comment period for the draft Panel Report.
- There must be a requirement in the TOR that the Panel Report include a demonstration of how comments received are reflected in the Panel's conclusions and rationale.

I suggest that the new EA legislation will fail to regain the necessary level of public trust if the above changes are not made.

Reducing climate change really is the overarching challenge that we face.

We all want to address so many critical issues, in Canada and around the world.

Hunger, poverty, health, education, abuse, inequality, injustice .

But how do we expect to sustain progress on these issues into the future?

We won't, if our attention is increasingly demanded by rising sea level, flooding agricultural land and cities, acidified oceans, and millions of climate refugees arriving on our shores.

It is time to remember what integrity means.

It is time to find our courage to speak the truth.

And to act on that truth.

Now.

My children and yours are out of time.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Regards,
Cec Robinson

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Sent from my iPad