

Comments re Terms of Reference

A meaningful public consultation and involvement needs to be in place to build trust and to build public engagement. If the process is only tokenism people will be disenfranchised. Ongoing involvement is needed with community committees or groups that represent the values that are determined for that area, regionally and beyond. The public needs to take ownership for the decisions but can only do so if it is in their ability to be part of the decisions. Consideration of the length of timelines should be cognizant that people are not professionally involved in these projects and require time to read and analyze and prepare comments.

The public needs to have access to funds to review projects. Limited or no funds have been made available. This places groups at a distinct disadvantage.

A definition of environmental assessment needs to include values that are relevant to the environment. Socio Economic values are present and need to be assessed as well but the environmental issues should take precedent particularly as the understanding of our relationship with the world evolves – re climate.

Environmental values need to be broad as projects are part of systems of the environment. Consideration of upstream and downstream effects on a large global scale, along with interactions with other projects.

Cumulative affects needs to be included in an integrated way. The science and understanding of cumulative effects has evolved and the sophistication of this process needs to apply. Project review need to be assessed with the total accumulative effects that have occurred to an area.

The baseline of a healthy sustainable ecosystem has shifted as the land based has been altered. A reconsideration of what that base line should be reviewed in all assessments. For example that fact that a stream has a run of 1,000 salmon is not reflect a historical run of 10,000. The current baseline may be not indicative of what is healthy and sustainable and may only be the edge of the tipping point.

Decommissioning and pollution of an area should be more rigorous. There should be placement of a Bond on the project to cover the advent that pollution of an area is not cleaned up or that decommissioning of a site has not taken place or completed.

Respectfully submitted

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