

**Westcoast Energy Inc., doing business as Spectra Energy Transmission (Westcoast)**  
**Section 58 of the National Energy Board Act (NEB Act)**  
**Application for Coquihalla River Crossing 16 Replacement Project (the Project)**  
**NEB File No.: OF-Fac-Gas-W102-2016-13 01**  
**Filed 16 December 2016**

**Response to Information Request No. 2**

**Environment Matters**

**2.1 Spotted Owl Habitat Offsetting**

- Reference:**
- i) Westcoast, Information Request No. 1, Response No. 1.2, Page 3 of 20 (PDF page 3 of 62), [A81620-2](#)
  - ii) British Columbia Ministry of Natural Resource Operations, [Order – Wildlife Habitat Areas 2-494 to 2-510](#) (WHA Order), Pages 2 and 6 of 12 (PDF pages 2 and 6 of 12)

**Preamble:** Reference i) indicates that discussions with British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) included potential offsetting measures for disturbance within the Sowaqua Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA), which is considered long-term habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl [also referred to as Spotted Owl].

The Board is aware of BC's WHA Order (reference ii) which has a no net loss policy for long-term owl habitat areas (LTOHA) within the Sowaqua WHA.

The Board notes that the Project is located within a LTOHA and that Westcoast did not state whether or not it plans to offset the Spotted Owl habitat within the Sowaqua WHA that will be lost as a result of the Project.

- Request:** Please provide the following:
- a) a detailed summary of Westcoast's discussions with BC MFLNRO regarding offsetting for the Spotted Owl habitat;
  - b) confirmation that Westcoast plans to offset the Spotted Owl habitat that will be lost as a result of the Project, and if so provide a detailed summary on its plans; and
  - c) in the event Westcoast cannot confirm b), please provide a rationale as to why not.

**Response Westcoast's**

- a) Offsetting for Spotted Owl habitat was first discussed in the December 5, 2016 phone call between Westcoast and BC MFLNRO referenced in Westcoast's response to Information Request 1. During the call, FLNRO suggested that offsetting could be financial contribution (approximately \$10,000/ha) or habitat purchase. Further offsetting discussions occurred on

February 6, 2017 where FLNRO suggested that Westcoast propose appropriate offsetting measures. Since then, Westcoast has provided further Project information to BC MFLNRO but has not had any further discussions regarding offsetting. In addition to reaching out to BC MFLNRO on January 17 and 30, Westcoast again reached out to BC MFLNRO on February 16. BC MFLNRO has not yet responded to Westcoast.

- b) Westcoast confirms that it plans to offset the Spotted Owl habitat that will be lost as a result of the Project.

Cleared temporary workspaces within the WHA (approximately 0.63 ha) will be restored using native re-vegetation and additional restoration measures detailed in the EPP (e.g., salvage and redistribution of coarse woody debris). The new permanent right-of-way within the WHA (approximately 0.38 ha) will be maintained in an early seral state and cannot be restored. Westcoast is in consultation with BC MFLNRO to determine the offsetting requirements for the Project footprint within WHA.

Westcoast plans to offset with a financial contribution (in-lieu payment) to the Spotted Owl Management Program which, under the direction of the BC government, facilitates population management initiatives for Spotted Owl in BC. Westcoast plans to work with BC MFLNRO to determine an appropriate habitat valuation, and the total value of the compensation will be determined following Project completion when the actual permanent and temporary disturbance areas within the WHA are confirmed.

- c) Not applicable.