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5.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROGRAM

ANEI has undertaken a public consultation program to:

- ensure early public notification of the Project;
- communicate the process for consultation and completion of the environmental assessment;
- provide the first, best and most accurate information available to the public; and
- receive information on public and stakeholder comments and concerns about the proposed Project.

The public consultation program focuses on engaging area residents, First Nations, businesses, and users of the Point Tupper Industrial Park, as well as other individuals or groups that express a specific interest in the Project. ANEI is committed to effective and open consultation to ensure that potentially affected members of the public are fully aware of the Project and have the opportunity to make their views known. The receipt of information on public and stakeholder comments and concerns will help ensure that all important issues are considered in the environmental assessment.

The public consultation program has included:

- preliminary consultations;
- launch of a project internet site;
- a project bulletin;
- a public open house; and
- meetings with stakeholders.

Further consultations are ongoing.

5.1 Preliminary Consultations

An initial scan of potential stakeholders was conducted to identify appropriate contacts for organizations and businesses potentially affected by the Project, as well as additional groups and individuals that may have an interest in the Project. Representatives of certain groups including First Nations, fishers, harbour and port authorities, port businesses, and environmental non-government organizations (ENGOs), were contacted by telephone to confirm their interest in the Project and identify their preferred methods of future communications. Contacts were also asked whether other individuals, groups or organizations may have an interest in the Project and, thus, should also be contacted. These preliminary consultations formed the basis for the development of a stakeholder database, which has been used to maintain a complete list of stakeholders and members of the public who have expressed an interest in the Project. The database is also being used to track the issues that are raised during the environmental assessment process.

5.2 Project Internet Site

On August 26, 2003, ANEI launched a company and project internet site to serve as a primary source of corporate and Project information. The internet site is publicly accessible and provides information on:

- the services provided by ANEI and management of the company;
- an overview of the LNG industry, including information on safety, terms and definitions, and frequently asked questions;
- an overview of the Bear Head LNG Terminal Project;
- information on the Project Team; and
- information on the Public Consultation Program and downloadable digital files of project bulletins as they are released.

The information will be updated periodically as the environmental assessment for the Project proceeds.

Complete contact information for ANEI is also provided on the internet site. This includes an e-mail address, telephone number, and mailing address. Those visiting the site are encouraged to contact ANEI if they have any comments or questions. Table 5.1 summarizes the monthly and daily average per month visits to the ANEI website.

Month	Total Visits	Daily Average Visits
August	448	14
September	822	27
October	595	19
November	576	19
December	612	21
January	431	16

A print out of the ANEI home page is included in Appendix D.

5.3 Project Bulletin

A project bulletin was prepared to introduce the Project, provide an update on the environmental assessment of the Project, describe the Public Consultation Program, announce the first public open house, and provide contact information (Appendix D). During the week of September 8th, 2003, the bulletin was delivered to all stakeholders identified during the preliminary consultations (approximately

80 individuals) and to area residents and businesses. A total of 6,338 businesses and residences received the unaddressed mailout, including those served by post offices in the communities of: Port Hawkesbury; Port Hastings; Arichat; D'Escouse; Petit de Grat; Sampson Cove; West Arichat; Louisdale; Cleveland; Mulgrave; Boylston; Guysborough; and Canso.

Both English and French versions of the bulletin were delivered to the Acadian communities on Isle Madame. In addition to the mailing, a downloadable digital format of the bulletin (English and French versions) was made available on the Project internet site.

5.4 Public Open House

An open house public meeting on the Bear Head LNG Terminal Project was held on Thursday, September 25, 2003, from 4 PM to 8 PM in Port Hawkesbury, NS. The open house was announced in the Project bulletin, on the Project internet site, and in a dedicated advertisement placed in the September 19th edition of the local newspaper, the Reporter. In addition, the event was announced and discussed by various local print and radio media.

Members of the Project Team were in attendance to provide information to the public and to receive comments. Using storyboards, video, and computer animations, the open house presented information on:

- the project design and location;
- safety and risk management;
- the environmental assessment process;
- the studies that are being undertaken as part of the environmental assessment; and
- the preliminary list of key environmental and socio-economic aspects to be addressed by the environmental assessment.

The open house was attended by approximately 170 individuals. Members of the public were encouraged to register their attendance. These individuals were placed in the stakeholder database to be provided with further project updates.

In addition to the presentation materials, attendees were provided with an information sheet addressing frequently asked questions concerning the characteristics of LNG, the LNG industry, and LNG handling and storage. Attendees were also provided with a comment form, which they could complete and leave with the Project Team during the open house or return at a later date.

All substantive issues raised with the Project Team during the open house and on comment forms returned to ANEI were noted and entered into the issues tracking database.

5.5 Stakeholder Meetings

ANEI made presentations to members of municipal councils for the Municipality of the County of Richmond (September 22, 2003), the Town of Port Hawkesbury (September 23, 2003), and the Municipality of the District of Guysborough (September 24, 2003). During these presentations, information was provided on the Project with respect to: the need; the location and design features; the benefits and commercial advantages; and the status (*i.e.*, project design, environmental assessment, and public consultation).

Further meetings with government agencies, labour organizations and business groups were conducted. A complete list of stakeholder organization meetings is provided in Table 5.2. This included a meeting with the Strait Region Mayors and Wardens Committee, which has representation from the Municipality of the County of Richmond, the Municipality of the District of Guysborough, the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's, the Municipality of the County of Inverness, the Town of Mulgrave, the Town of Antigonish, and the Town of Port Hawkesbury.

Organization	Organization Type
Cape Breton Labour Council	Labour
Strait Area Chamber of Commerce	Business
Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce (Energy Committee)	Business
Mayor and Council, Town of Port Hawkesbury	Municipal Government
Warden and Council, Richmond County	Municipal Government
Warden and Council, Guysborough County	Municipal Government
Strait Area Mayors and Wardens Committee	Municipal Government
OTANS Board of Directors	Business
Strait Watch	Environmental Non-government Organization
NDP Caucus	Provincial Government
Liberal Caucus	Provincial Government
PC Caucus	Provincial Government
Minister of Energy	Provincial Government
Minister of Economic Development	Provincial Government
Minister of Tourism and Culture	Provincial Government
MLA, Richmond	Provincial Government
MP, Cape Breton Highlands	Federal Government

5.6 Media Coverage

Table 5.3 summarizes media stories on the Bear Head LNG Terminal Project that appeared in news and industry publications in the months following the public launch of the Project.

Month	Number of Project Related Articles
August	30
September	20
October	3
November	4
December	6

5.7 Ongoing Consultations

ANEI is committed to the continued development of open and effective consultation with all potentially affected members of the public. Other avenues will be provided (*e.g.*, open houses, project bulletins, focus group meetings) as necessary or upon request to share information on Project development and issues of public concern. Both federal and provincial governments will publicize the environmental assessment report and solicit comments from the public, which will be considered in the respective Ministers' decisions on the acceptability of the proposed Project pursuant to their responsibilities under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Nova Scotia Environment Act*. Dialogue with representatives of First Nations organizations will be ongoing.

5.8 Issues Raised During Public Consultation

A variety of issues and concerns were raised during the public consultation programs described in the sections above. In some cases the issues were resolved through provision of Project information (*e.g.*, at the open house or through mailed information packages). ANEI has committed to addressing other issues and concerns through this environmental assessment which will be made available during a public review process. All key issues were considered in the issues scoping process described in Section 7.1, including a list of environmental components (*i.e.*, issues) addressed in this document.

A description of the issues raised during the open house or received by e-mail or telephone is provided in Table 5.4. Also noted is the location in the environmental assessment where the issue is addressed.

Table 5.4 Issues Raised During Public Consultation		
Issue Type	Issue Details	Where Addressed in EA
EA Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need public education at each step of the project so that the public is well informed. 	Section 5 (Public Consultation Program)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pilots want the facility to be safe, and feel they have valuable information to share. 	Section 5 (Public Consultation Program); Sections 6.2.2 and 8.2.2 (Marine Transportation)
EA Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to satisfy environmental concerns with the current knowledge and technology available. 	Section 1.4 (Regulatory and Planning Context); Section 7 (Effects Assessment Methodology)
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should anything go wrong with the terminal, local residents will be most affected. 	Section 8.3 (Assessment of Malfunctions and Accidental Events); Appendix C (Risk Assessment Component Study)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents want a level of comfort that this facility will be safe for piloting. 	Section 8.2.2 (Marine Transportation); Section 8.3 (Assessment of Malfunctions and Accidental Events)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information reportedly from assessments for other LNG terminal projects have indicated that one must be at least 75 miles away from the LNG terminal as the ships/plant are actually "H-Bombs" waiting to explode. The LNG terminal in Los Angeles is protected by the US Coast Guard and the public are not permitted closer than 2 miles. 	Section 3 (Risk Assessment Summary); Section 8.3 (Assessment of Malfunctions and Accidental Events); Appendix C (Risk Assessment Component Study)
Fisheries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over potential loss of fishing gear and exclusion from fishing grounds due to ship activity (specifically, mackerel across the straight and lobster at Bear Head site). 	Sections 6.2.3 and 8.2.3 (Fisheries and Aquaculture)
Navigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to upgrade navigational aids (<i>i.e.</i>, lighthouse) if more ships are to be brought in. 	Sections 6.2.2 and 8.2.2 (Marine Transportation)
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment opportunities needed in the area. 	Sections 6.2.7 and 8.2.7 (Economic Development)