



# Protecting people and the environment

Our commitment to responsible natural gas pipeline construction and operation

At Enbridge, ensuring the safety of both people and the environment is our top priority. From planning, to building and operating a pipeline project, we are committed to minimizing impacts on the surrounding environment and communities. At the same time, we prioritize providing economic opportunities and benefits to local and Indigenous communities during all phases of a project and into its ongoing operation.

## The Project: Sunrise Expansion Program

Westcoast Energy Inc. (Westcoast), an Enbridge company, is proposing the Sunrise Expansion Program (Project), which is an expansion of the southern section of the Westcoast system. The Project is needed to meet market demand for natural gas.

For nearly 70 years, the Westcoast system has been transporting natural gas for markets throughout British Columbia (BC), Alberta, and the U.S. Pacific Northwest. This natural gas is used to heat homes, hospitals, businesses, and schools. It is also used as a fuel for electric power generation and is a staple in many industrial and manufacturing processes that produce hundreds of products that improve our lives.

The Project consists of installing pipeline loops along the existing Westcoast system and additional compressor units at existing compressor stations. Some of the compressor units will be powered by electricity which will require installation of overhead powerlines.

Westcoast requires approval from the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) for the Project. If approved, construction may start as early as Q2 2026, with planned in-service by Q4 2028.

## Planning the Project

In early 2023, Westcoast began engaging with potentially affected Indigenous groups, landowners and other stakeholders to understand their interests in the Project and to incorporate local knowledge and feedback into Project planning.

## Stakeholder and Indigenous engagement

The Project is made stronger through active and ongoing feedback from stakeholders and Indigenous groups. From participation in field work studies, to attending open houses and hundreds of individual meetings – local input into the Project has been incorporated every step of the way. Since early 2023, highlights of Westcoast's engagement program include:

**500+**

meetings and presentations with Indigenous groups

**900+**

meetings with landowners

**60+**

meetings and presentations with municipal and regional district representatives

**9**

public open houses

**50+**

community sponsorships and events

**2,000+**

visitors to the Project's virtual open house

**40,000+**

views on the Project webpage

## Understanding Project effects: Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment

Westcoast has conducted an extensive Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment (ESA) for the Project, completing thousands of hours of investigative field studies and surveys to assess potential effects on the environment and local communities. The results from these studies are being used to develop mitigation plans to mitigate effects on the environment and surrounding communities. These are all detailed in the ESA, submitted with the Project application to the CER.

**\$10.7 million**

in Indigenous business spend on the Project as of April 1, 2024 through various scopes of work required for the ESA.

Westcoast has collaborated with environmental experts, Indigenous groups, landowners and other stakeholders to consider potential effects. In 2023 alone, Westcoast spent a total of 75,000 hours conducting environmental and cultural surveys, with over half of the fieldwork hours completed by Indigenous partners.

The ESA is comprised of thousands of pages of technical reports that describe Westcoast's studies and findings for various topics on the environment, as well as the social, cultural and economic well-being of potentially affected communities and Indigenous groups. These topics are listed below:

### Environment

- Landscape and weather
- Soil and soil productivity
- Vegetation
- Water quality and quantity
- Fish and fish habitat
- Wetland function
- Wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Species at risk
- Air quality
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
- Noise

### Socio-economic

- Human occupancy
- Heritage resources
- Traditional land and resource use
- Indigenous rights
- Social and cultural well-being
- Human health
- Navigation
- Infrastructure and services
- Jobs and economy

The following summarizes some of the key studies completed and underway and describes measures that have been proposed to mitigate potential effects of the Project.



### Wildlife and wildlife habitat

The environmental crews documented various wildlife populations, including snails, frogs, lizards, birds, beavers, bears, and caribou. The ESA also considered the activities associated with Project construction and operation that may interact with wildlife and wildlife habitat. Wildlife protection strategies for each wildlife group have been outlined to help protect their populations, habitats and movements, which include measures like adjusting work areas to avoid impacts to

wildlife habitat and planning construction outside of critical timing periods for wildlife species. Worksite restoration activities will also be undertaken following construction to return work areas to their original state.

**2,700+**

biophysical field surveys completed in 2023.



### Vegetation, wetlands and watercourses

Field studies have been conducted to assess the potential effects of the Project on vegetation, wetland health and function, and water quality and quantity. This includes the incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge and an assessment of the potential effects of the Project on key cultural species and areas of importance identified by Indigenous groups. Where potential effects have been noted, mitigation plans have been developed to avoid or minimize impacts. For instance, Westcoast proposes to install berms or gates at strategic access points to help prevent access to culturally

important vegetation areas. Plant and timber salvage and reclamation plans will also be developed before construction. Westcoast has also proposed measures to minimize risks of infestation of invasive species and forest pests.

Westcoast has also designed the Project to minimize the number of wetland and watercourse crossings. Westcoast will implement established mitigation measures, and construction best practices during construction and operation to avoid or reduce the potential effects on water quality and quantity.



### Fish and fish habitat

Field studies have been undertaken to understand fish species encountered by the Project and assess the potential effects of the Project on fish and fish habitat. Field studies have been focused on the potential changes to fish habitat, riparian habitat, fish mortality, fish passage and changes in movement of aquatic organisms.

Where potential effects have been noted, mitigation measure have been developed to eliminate or reduce the potential effects. This includes measures such as planning construction around sensitive life-cycle periods, implementing erosion and sediment control measures during construction, and implementing water quality monitoring programs during construction activities.



### Air quality and GHG emissions

The ESA includes an assessment of the potential effects of the Project on air quality and GHG emissions both during construction and during operation of the Project. Three of the four additional compressor units proposed to be installed for this Project will be powered by electricity. With these electric additions, the Project will prevent a total of 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions per year that otherwise would have been generated if gas-driven units were selected. That is equivalent to removing over 100,000 cars off the road each year.



### Lands and soils

Construction activities such as vegetation clearing and soil handling for trenching and excavating have the potential to affect soil productivity and as a result impact land use and ecosystem function. Environmental studies have been undertaken to assess the potential effects of the Project on soil quality, quantity and productivity during construction and operations. Where potential effects have been noted, mitigation plans have been developed to protect soils. These include measures to avoid compaction during construction, and to prevent wind and water erosion.

The project will prevent  
**360,000 tonnes**  
 of carbon dioxide equivalent  
 emissions per year by using electric  
 powered compressor units.



That's equivalent to  
**100,000**  
 cars off the road each year.



### Traditional land and resource use

Westcoast is working with dozens of Indigenous groups to support community-led Indigenous knowledge studies, including traditional land and resource use and cultural heritage assessments to inform the design of this Project. Westcoast also implemented a training program and employed local Indigenous participants for the field studies as team

members of environmental crews, cultural guardians and wildlife watch specialists. Local knowledge on the ground during these studies supported Westcoast's understanding of Indigenous interests, views and values to minimize potential Project effects on Indigenous rights. This work is ongoing and will continually be integrated into the Project.



### Jobs and economy

The Project is estimated to add to Canada's GDP by \$3.3 billion and BC's GDP by over \$2.5 billion over a 35-year period. In the same time period, the Project will also generate federal and provincial tax revenues amounting to nearly \$700 million, and municipal property tax revenues in BC amounting to over \$8 million. These tax revenues can be used to build roads, hospitals and schools and other local community infrastructure

and service improvements. During the peak construction period, over 2,500 workers are expected to be employed, with construction expected to last approximately 18 months starting as early as Q2 2026. To minimize potential effects and increase local benefits to communities during construction, Westcoast is collaborating with local governments, regulatory authorities, landowners as well as Indigenous groups to create socio-

economic plans, tailored to meet the needs and requests of affected areas. This includes managing available local services and infrastructure such as healthcare, water and food access. All workers will also undergo workplace health and safety training, cultural awareness training, and training relating to human rights protection and human trafficking prevention awareness.

**\$3.3 billion**

added to Canada's GDP over a 35-year period.

**\$8 million**

added to BC's economy through municipal property tax revenues which can be used to pay for hospitals, roads and schools.

**2,500 workers**

expected to be employed during peak construction.

### Contact us

#### Email

BCprojects@enbridge.com

#### Phone

1-833-267-2220 (toll-free)

#### Mail

Enbridge Inc.  
3985 22 Ave  
Prince George, BC V2N 1B7

For more information on the Project, visit [enbridge.com/sunrise](https://enbridge.com/sunrise) or scan the QR code:

