



Commission Assessing Judicial Review Decision

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) is assessing an oral decision handed down by the B.C. Supreme Court today. The decision relates to Fort Nelson First Nations' judicial review of permits issued for Rockyview Resources' 32 km gas pipeline project. The Court found the Commission failed to meet its duty to consult in these circumstances and has overturned the permit decisions.

The Fort Nelson First Nation (FNFN) filed an application in July 2017 for a judicial review of decisions made by the Commission to issue permits to authorize Rockyview Resources Inc. to construct and operate a pipeline and storage area. They raised concerns the decisions were made without adequate consultation and without addressing FNFN's concerns regarding the potential impacts to an area caribou herd.

As per its mandate, the Commission receives and reviews a variety of applications for pipeline projects in British Columbia. The Commission consults with First Nations regarding any potential impacts to their rights associated with proposed decisions and Commission specialists review applications against legislative requirements, and for environmental and public safety. Decisions include conditions designed to address concerns, such as those raised by FNFN during this consultation and decision-making process.

The Commission will study the decision, and is committed to making any necessary improvements to its consultation and decision-making processes to address the Court's direction and to facilitate a strong working relationship with Chief Harrison Dickie and his community.

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