



The Gitksan & Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT)

The Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) pipeline is proposed to cross (buried underground) ten individual Gitksan huwilp's lax yip (Delgamuukw, Geel, Gitluudaahlxw, Gwiiyeehl, Yagosip, Kliiyeem Lax Ha, Luutkudziiwus, Wii Eelast, Wii Mukwilixw, Guutginuuxs) for a total of 120 kms. The length of the proposed underground pipeline varies on each lax yip depending upon the individual territories.

We are the Simgiigyat whose lax yip will contain the PRGT pipeline if it is built.

All but one wilp participated at the common table. Many efforts were made over almost four years to include participation from all the Simgiigyat at one table to deal with questions and concerns arising from the proposed project and to negotiate a benefits agreement. In the absence of this one wilp's participation the benefits agreement has made allowances for that wilp should they choose to sign.

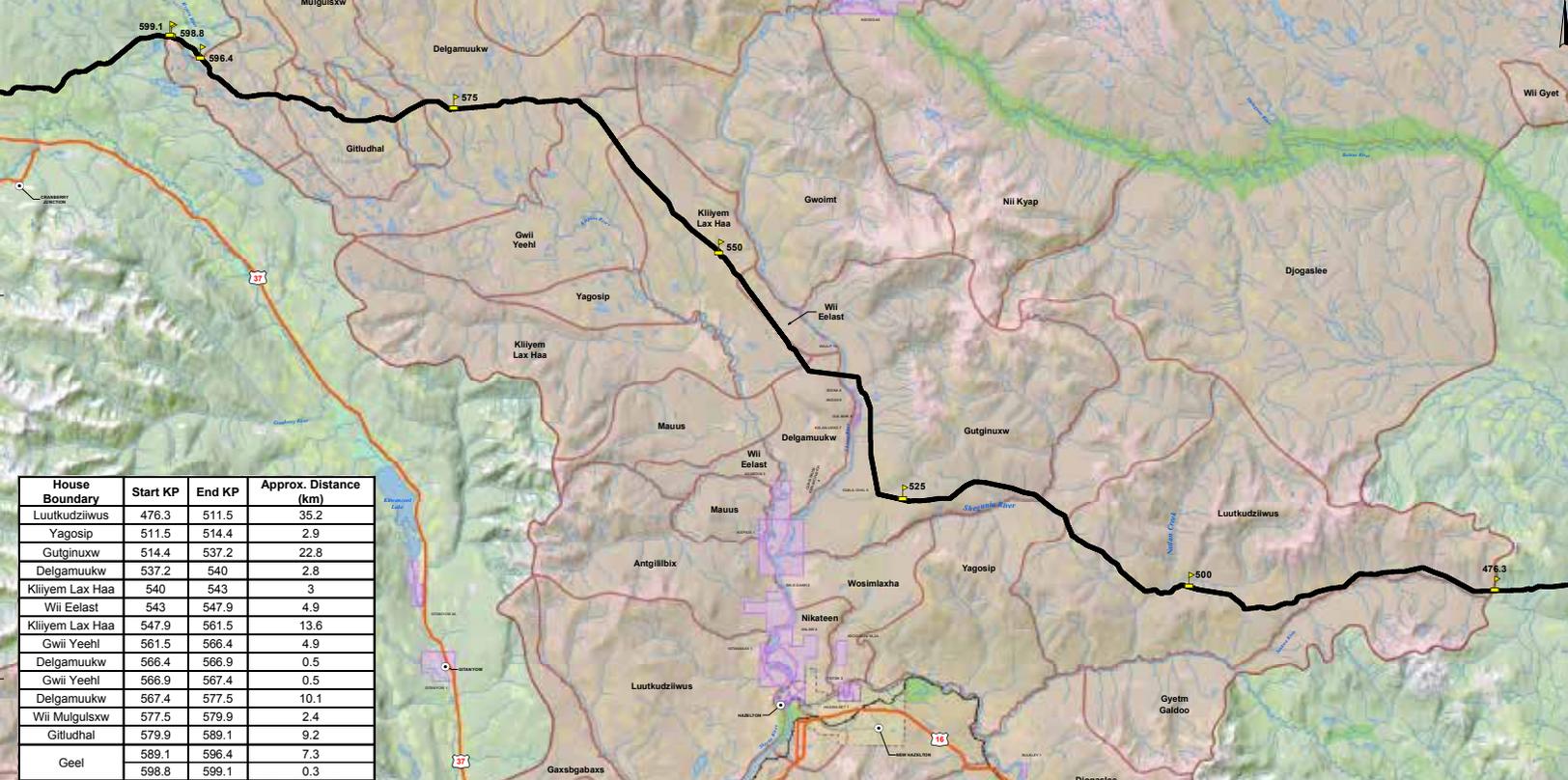
Three other huwilp Simgiigyat were included at the request of the Province of British Columbia as their territories are within the 2km buffer zone of PRGT. These three Simgiigyat, Mauus, Wosimlaxha, and Gyet'mgaldo'o, also sat at the table for the last 3.5 years.

We have each provided our individual consent for the portion of the pipeline that is proposed to cross our individual lax yip. This decision follows ayookim Gitksan: that each wilp is autonomous and that only the Simoogit can provide consent for anyone to cross or use the lax yip.

Ayookim Gitksan restricts our authority to our lax yip — we have no say regarding another wilp lax yip or another Nation's territory; for example, Lelu Island or where the gas extraction occurs. (Lelu is in the territory of the Lax Kw'alaams who voted by a more than 2 to 1 margin to support the proposed PNW LNG terminal.) Our ayookw provides that those outside our wilp have no say on what happens on our lax yip. This means that the current blockade in the Suskwa Valley cannot be recognized as it is sponsored, funded, and managed by the Skeena Watershed Conservation Coalition who are trespassing without consent and who seem solely interested in protecting their sport fisheries.

The undersigned hereditary chiefs have been meeting and evaluating this project for close to four years, and on behalf of our huwilp have consented that the pipeline can be placed underground on our wilp lax yip for 20 years. We have each negotiated benefit agreements with PRGT and with the Province of British Columbia that will have lasting benefits for the Gitksan.

Over the last four years each Simogyat has, with the assistance of expert and professional advisors, studied this project, its economic benefit to each of our huwilp and the greater community. As well and most crucially we have reviewed its environmental impact on each of our lax yip, including effects on the salmon and the way of life on our traditional territories.



HOW WE REACHED OUR DECISION?



Before we consented to the pipeline’s trespass of our territories:

- We held over 45 meetings with PRGT, project opponents, industry experts, and the provincial government.
- We visited to see first-hand new gas pipeline installations and gas pipeline compressor stations in operation.
- We have held community meetings to answer questions and to address concerns.
- We conducted a traditional land use study across the directly impacted lax yip.
- We conducted a social-economic impact study for the entire Gitksan territory and people.
- We hired our own, independent legal, environmental and scientific experts who took our questions and concerns about impacts on our land, rivers and streams, the salmon in the Skeena River and wildlife and provided their own, independent analysis for consideration by both ourselves and the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO).

What many in our community don’t remember, or know, is that the Pacific Northern Gas (PNG) pipeline runs through Telkwa and up past Smithers on its way to Terrace.

It has been in the ground and operating safely since 1968. Our salmon, wildlife and traditions have not been harmed. But in 1968 First Nations were not consulted. There was no consent. There were no lasting benefits for the people.

This time we have been consulted. We have had a say. We have negotiated meaningful, lasting benefits with PRGT and the Province of BC.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED BENEFITS IN COMING YEARS?

These benefits are for the betterment of life for all Gitxsan.

Approximately 200 jobs will be created for our people in building the project and a work camp, clearing the bush and trees, working in the camp, and providing safety and security services with other opportunities to come.

Gitxsan people will be first in line for those jobs.

Our Gitxsan-owned businesses, Lax Yip Forestry, Gitxsan Transportation, Gitxsan Safety Services, and Gitxsan Environmental Services will all have work on the project. There will be subcontracting opportunities for other businesses as the project develops that will employ numerous Gitxsan and earn more revenue for our people.

There will be continued training opportunities for our people so that after the pipeline is built they will be able to work on other projects in our territory or elsewhere.

Even before the PRGT agreement, we have trained 160 participants, 119 of whom have graduated with relevant certifications and 64 who have obtained gainful employment through the Skills & Training program.

Though the PRGT route directly impacts the lax yip of ten of us, the Agreements we have signed with PRGT and the Province of BC ensure that more than half of the annual revenues flowing from these Agreements will flow to benefit the Gitxsan communities.

We have set up a Trust, managed by an outside, independent accounting firm, that will establish a Legacy Fund and distribute the interest earned to the Lax Yip Society. These funds will be used to support community projects and services we have talked about for years. Some potential projects include an assisted living complex for seniors, the ice arena, and a Chiefs office. We are sure that other deserving ideas and opportunities will come forward.

We believe that supporting this project and the benefits that will flow from it for years to come will help give us the certainty our people need to improve daily life for all of us and our children.



Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is a trenchless method of installing pipe in a number of geotechnical conditions such as watercrossings. Both banks and the riverbed were not touched during construction.

Above left: West side of river during installation of a pipeline under the Peace River using HDD

Above right: East side of the river crossing during installation.

Timeline of events:

September 2013: PRGT South Central Route selected. Consultation began.

October 2013: Environmental Assessments began.

December 2013: Gimlixtwit advising all Hereditary Chiefs of the proposed project.

January 2014: Skeena Fisheries Commission Report.

April 2014: Community Meeting & Presentation of \$1 million for Upper Skeena Recreation Facility.

May 2014: Compressor Station visit

2014-2016: Review of Environment reports, Fisheries reports, consultation with other impacted First Nations, meeting with experts and legal professionals. Negotiation of Benefits Agreement and Project Agreement.

September 2016: Gitxsan sign Project Agreement

September 2016: Chiefs call Gimlixtwit

September 2016: Positive CEAA decision

October 2016: Gimlixtwit

TBD: Petronas makes Final Investment Decision

Frequently Asked Questions:

Will PRGT lead to fracking in Gitxsan territory?

No. PRGT is designed and permitted to carry natural gas from northeast BC to Prince Rupert. Gas will not be collected from the Gitxsan territory.

Can PRGT be converted to carry oil once it is in the ground?

No. The provincial government has regulations in place that prevent the conversion of pipelines from gas to oil.

Won't the plant at Lelu Island wipe out Skeena River salmon?

The proposed terminal is in the territory of the Lax Kw'alaams. We note that the Lax Kw'alaams people voted by a more than 2 to 1 margin to approve the PNW LNG project. The federal government's approval of the proposal includes 190 conditions, many of which include steps to protect salmon.

Won't construction of the pipeline destroy our natural environment?

The PNG gas pipeline has been in the ground in the area since 1968 and most people don't know where it goes. Once the pipe has been laid in the ground the surface will be restored and plant and animal life will return, just as it did after the PNG line in 1968.

Where do we find more information to make an informed decision?

Gitxsan Development Corporation will post the reports for review at Gitxsanbusiness.com.

Thank you for taking the time to review this publication. We the Simgiigyat have spent 4 years reviewing this project and all potential impacts it has on our people, traditional practices and lax yip. We agree this project offers the Gitxsan people strong benefits and opportunities for the future.

Delgamuukw (Earl Muldon), Geel (Catherine Blackstock), Githuudaahlxw (Alvin Weget), Gwiiyeehl (Brian Williams), Kliiyem Lax Ha (John Olson), Luutkudziiwus (Gordon Sebastian), Yagosip (Bill Turner), Wii Eelast (Jim Angus), Wii Mukwilixw (Art Wilson).