MOTION

5.   Acting on the Climate Emergency by Opposing the Tilbury LNG Phase Two Expansion Project (Member's Motion B.3)

At the Council meeting on September 21, 2021, Council referred the following motion to the Standing Committee on Policy and Strategic Priorities meeting on September 22, 2021, in order to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Boyle

WHEREAS

1.   The deadly impacts of climate change are already affecting Vancouverites through extreme weather events, including heat waves and air quality advisories due to wildfire smoke;

2.   These and other impacts of climate change disproportionately affect vulnerable and marginalized people in ways counter to the City of Vancouver's equity goals;

3.   Vancouver's Climate Emergency Action Plan commits the city to reducing carbon pollution 50% by 2030. Metro Vancouver's Clean Air Plan proposes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region by 45% below 2010 levels;

4.   The Tilbury LNG proposal in Delta and associated upstream fracking operations would create 1.98 to 2.67 MT of carbon pollution per year, similar in scale to the entire City of Vancouver's 2.5 MT annual emissions. If approved, this single facility will counteract all the work Vancouver is doing to address the climate emergency;

5.   FortisBC recently submitted a Detailed Project Description to the BC Environmental Assessment Office and the Impact Assessment Agency, which will now decide whether to request amendments to the Detailed Project Description or make the decision to proceed to an environmental assessment, exempt the project from an environmental assessment or terminate the project. If the project proceeds, there would be at least three opportunities for public comment and the process would not finish until late 2021 at the earliest;

6.   Thirteen Indigenous Nations are participating in the environmental review process and have shared concerns about Tilbury LNG's impacts on their rights and cumulative effects of development on their territories. These include the Chawathil, Cheam, Cowichan, Halalt, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Katzie, Kwantlen, Musqueam, Tsawwasen, Tsleil-Waututh, Ts'uubaa-asatx Nations and the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance;

7.   Richmond City Council and Port Moody City Council both voted to oppose Tilbury LNG in 2020. Delta has provided some comments about fire safety and continues to engage with the review but has not yet taken a position on the proposal. Hundreds of residents in the area have also expressed concerns to

various levels of government;

8.   Tilbury LNG does not align with regional air quality objectives and may release contaminates like sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, particulate matter and hydrocarbons into Metro Vancouver's air shed. It also poses safety risks from the transport and storage of a volatile material within a densely populated area;

9.   FortisBC has applied to the BC Utilities Commission with the intention of recovering the costs of the Tilbury LNG expansion by raising prices for its gas customers. If successful, ratepayers would be responsible for an estimated $778 million in higher utility bills;

10.   The International Energy Agency says no new fossil fuel projects should be approved if the world is to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and therefore maintain a safe climate; and

11.   In October 2020, Vancouver unanimously endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, which calls for an end to all new exploration and production of coal, oil and gas.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

A.   THAT Vancouver City Council declare its opposition to the Tilbury Phase Two LNG Expansion Project.

B.   THAT Council direct the Mayor to write a letter to the BC Environmental Assessment Office communicating this opposition;

FURTHER THAT this letter be shared with other local governments in Metro Vancouver.

C.   THAT Council direct city staff to engage in the BC Environmental Assessment process, if the project proceeds to a review. This intervention may include studies on Tilbury LNG's impacts to human health, marine ecosystems and the global climate.

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