Woodfibre LNG Project at SWIYAT

Cooling

Background

- Similar to how a radiator cools a car engine, Woodfibre LNG (WLNG) will need a way to cool down its plant during the production of LNG

- Initially, WLNG planned to use a seawater cooling system for this purpose

- Seawater cooling would utilize seawater through an intake pipe at the ocean floor

Squamish Nation Concerns

- A seawater cooling system would require the re-circulation of warm, chlorinated water into Howe Sound. This would be harmful to fish and other marine life

- Warm chlorinated water from seawater cooling system could create significant cumulative impacts

- Herring spawn are very close to the WLNG site, and seawater cooling intake pipes could suck up and kill herring eggs

- Seawater cooling has been banned in places like California, and should not be allowed in Squamish territory

Results

- WLNG's proposed seawater cooling system was approved by the federal and provincial EA processes. However, one of the conditions that were included in the Squamish Nation Environmental Assessment approval was that WLNG would have to conduct further studies into cooling technologies to prove claims that effects on Howe Sound would be negligible

- After further studies, the Squamish Nation rejected WLNG's proposed seawater cooling technology in October 2016 and directed WLNG to use an air cooling system instead

- WLNG agreed to use the air cooling technology recommended by the Squamish Nation, and has amended its Project plan and government EA Certificates to reflect that decision