# No to GNL Québec

GNL Québec is proposing to build a 750-km-long gas pipeline, a gas liquefaction plant and a marine terminal to export natural gas by supertankers. The project would see Western Canadian fossil fuel exported to global markets via **Abitibi, Témiscamingue, Haute-Mauricie, Saguenay Lac-Saint-Jean, the Saguenay Fjord, the St. Lawrence and the communities of Matheson, Timmins and Kirkland Lake in Ontario. The proposed route crosses territory inhabited by First Nations for millennia.** The science is clear: 80 % of known reserves of petroleum, coal and gas must remain in the ground. We cannot build new infrastructures to produce and consume more fossil fuel. According to the latest IPCC report, we only have 10 years left to limit the most catastrophic effects of climate change.

The GNL Québec project would exacerbate our climate crisis by opening up new markets to North American natural gas, a fossil fuel. This project alone would generate 7.8 million tonnes of GHG, enough to cancel out Quebec's GHG reduction efforts.

## The facts on liquefied natural gas

Natural gas is a fossil fuel whose main ingredient (84%) is methane, a gas whose global warming potential is 84 times higher than that of CO2 over a 20-year horizon, and up to 34 times higher over a hundred-year horizon.[1]

The GHGs emitted by liquefied natural gas stem from the CO2 and methane emitted at various points in the life cycle of liquefied natural gas: during extraction, whether by conventional methods or not (fracking); transport via pipeline; processing at the liquefaction plant; storage; tanker loading, transport and unloading; regasification and downstream, where the gas is burned for industrial, commercial or residential purposes (and potentially displacing renewable energy sources).

According to an environmental impact study that Énergie Saguenay commissioned the International Reference Centre for the Life Cycle of Products, Processes and Services (CIRAIG) to conduct, a study that took account of all the GHG emissions upstream and those generated by the Énergie Saguenay plant, annual GHG emissions associated with the Énergie Saguenay project amount to 7.8 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent. This is equivalent to cancelling out in a single year the majority of Quebec's emissions reductions since 1990.

## A 780-km pipeline in our natural environments

The GNL Québec project also poses a grave threat to biodiversity. It could affect 17 threatened or vulnerable wildlife species, including the wolverine and the Blanding's turtle,

and 18 at-risk species of flora. Construction of a pipeline would lead to the destruction and fragmentation of critical habitats for a number of species.

The gas transported by a 750-km pipeline would be primarily from fossil origins and extracted by fracking, an unconventional technique of hydrocarbon production that contaminates drinking water sources[2], results in methane leaks[3] and even causes earthquakes[4].

Building this gas pipeline would affect numerous river and wetland crossings. The corridor under consideration encompasses over 20,400 km of waterways.

## Belugas under threat

Every year, the marine terminal planned for the end of the route would handle at least 300 supertankers (three or four a week) carrying liquefied natural gas (LNG) making their way to the Énergie Saguenay marine terminal via the Saguenay – St. Lawrence Conservation Area and the Saguenay Fjord National Park. These ships would pass by the fjord and through the river, in the very heart of the critical habitat of the St. Lawrence beluga, an iconic but endangered species thus imperilling such species as the beluga whales – an at-risk species according to the Species At Risk Act. Other at-risk species, such as the blue whale, fin whale, harbour porpoise and various seabirds, also risk being affected.

The GNL Québec project is one of four industrial projects[5] that could be carried out near the Saguenay Fjord in the coming years. These projects would increase shipping traffic by 280 % along the fjord and by 10 % in the St. Lawrence estuary, with potential negative impacts on efforts to restore the beluga population.

## We must say NO to this new project, reminiscent of Energy East!

The GNL Québec project would use Quebec as a transit zone for fossil fuels from the West by connecting to the same TransCanada pipeline initially proposed for Energy East. And as in the case with Energy East, this project would significantly impact the global climate, along with Quebec's natural environments and biodiversity.

The population has already paid a steep enough price to fund the climate crisis through investment by the provincial and federal governments in the tar sands, the Anticosti oil development fiasco and the purchase of the Trans Mountain pipeline. We must not be complicit in this new fossil fuel project that would exacerbate our climate crisis.

Given all its impacts on the climate crisis, natural environments and biodiversity, we oppose the fossil gas project by GNL Québec.

## What can you do to stop this project?

Sign our petition to say no to GNL Québec! Talk to your family, friends and colleagues about it. Share our posts on social media. With such a small window of opportunity to save our planet from catastrophic global warming, a new fossil fuel project is the last thing we need.

- [1] IPCC Report, 2013
- [2] U.S. EPA. Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas: Impacts from the Hydraulic Fracturing Water Cycle on Drinking Water Resources in the United States (Final Report). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC, EPA/600/R-16/236F, 2016, https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/hfstudy/recordisplay.cfm?deid=332990
- [3] Robert W. Howarth, Renee Santoro, Anthony Ingraffea; Methane and the greenhouse-gas footprint of natural gas from shale formations. Climatic Change (2011) 106: 679–690. doi: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10584-011-0061-5
- [4] Gail M. Atkinson, David W. Eaton, Hadi Ghofrani, Dan Walker, Burns Cheadle, Ryan Schultz, Robert Shcherbakov, Kristy Tiampo, Jeff Gu, Rebecca M. Harrington, Yajing Liu, Mirko van der Baan, Honn Kao; Hydraulic Fracturing and Seismicity in the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. Seismological Research Letters (2016) 87 (3): 631–647. doi: https://pubs.geoscienceworld.org/ssa/srl/article-abstract/87/3/631/315665/Hydraulic-Fracturing-and-Seismicity-in-the-Western?redirectedFrom=fulltext
- [5] BlackRock Metals Foundry, Arianne Phosphate mine, GNL Jonquière, port on the northern shore of the Saguenay and GNL Québec (Plant and expansion of Grande-Anse port).
- [6] Investissement Québec has already agreed to pay $30 million to supply drinking water to the area where the GNL plant would be built. https://ici.radio-canada.ca/nouvelle/1139707/conseil-municipal-saguenay-entente-eau