

# Port authority approves new grain terminal

## North Vancouver mayor satisfied city's concerns have been met

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Construction of a \$500-million state-of-the-art grain terminal, which had led to concerns on the North Shore, has been approved by the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.

North Vancouver city Mayor Darrell Mussatto said that the project, which is to be at the foot of Brooksbank Avenue, now meets the city's approval.

"I haven't heard of any snags, but I think every one of our concerns will be addressed to our satisfaction," Mussatto said in an interview Tuesday. "There's no deal breakers in there."

The city had more than a dozen conditions, including solving safety issues to the satisfaction of the city fire department, ensuring that noise and dust was minimized for the surrounding community, that there be an overall rail network plan to address potential issues, that the huge construction project use local labour and suppliers as much as possible, and that potential effects on the adjacent Lynn Creek estuary be identified and offset.

The port authority issued a permit on Friday to G3 Global Holdings to construct an export grain terminal on federal lands managed by the port authority.

G3 has previously indicated it will start construction this year.

In a release, the port authority said it issued the project permit following "a thorough review of the application," that included consultation with the community, municipalities, agencies, stakeholders and aboriginal groups.

A project review report cited by the port Tuesday said, among other things, that G3 is committed to ensuring air emissions will be below Metro Vancouver regional standards, that G3 has committed to use local labour and suppliers during construction "where possible," that G3 has committed to a significant reduction in construction vehicle traffic, and that there are no known impacts to Lynn Creek.

The project was approved subject to 74 conditions, the port added. Construction must start by May 31, 2017 and be completed by May 31, 2020.

The plan includes removal of existing buildings and facilities, and construction of the huge new grain terminal and a berth for ships. An estimated six million tonnes of grain would be moved annually through the facility, which includes 48 concrete grain-storage silos.

The grain would arrive by train and leave by ship. A rail loop would normally accommodate one or two trains of up to 135 cars each daily.

According to G3, all cleaning and conveying equipment will have provisions for dust containment, including being totally enclosed.

A port representative could not be reached for comment Tuesday, but G3 CEO Karl Gerrand said earlier this year that the project would provide between 175 and 200 construction jobs, and would have 50 to 60 permanent employees.

He said the terminal is needed because of aging infrastructure and rising global demand for Canada's grain, and that many of the North Shore's concerns had been met.

“(A train) comes across (Burrard Inlet), turns, and goes right into our site and completely coils on our site, so all that North Shore (train) traffic that has concerned the local community doesn't happen,” added Gerrand, noting that the plant would be more modern than the four existing grain terminals on Burrard Inlet.

The permit conditions include: noise monitoring to “validate effects on the surrounding community,” an air emissions management plan in accordance with port guidelines, developing a comprehensive operations environmental management plan, avoiding disturbing the riparian vegetation adjacent to Lynn Creek, ensuring that all general construction be conducted between Monday to Saturday from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and establishing a spill prevention, containment and cleanup plan.



North Vancouver District Mayor Richard Walton said in an email Tuesday that the district hasn't issued a statement on the approval, adding: “It is within North Van city's jurisdiction.”