

February 6, 2020: Teck Oil Sands Mine Decision Survey

Today we have some questions about issues in Canada. As always, there are no right or wrong answers, we just want your honest opinion.

[text]

Let's focus for a moment on a couple of resource development projects.

QA1. A proposed oil sands mine in northeastern Alberta called Teck Frontier is currently up for approval from the federal government – a decision expected to come at the end of February.

How closely would you say you've been following this issue? Would you say you are:

Following it in the news and discussing it with friends and family

Seeing some media coverage and having the odd conversation about it

Just scanning the headlines

Haven't heard anything about it until now

[Standalone text screen]

People who support the project say if built, it could employ up to 9,500 during construction and over its lifespan, and generate \$70 billion in revenue for federal, provincial and municipal governments over the next 40 years. The 14 First Nations and Metis communities that would be directly affected support the project.

People who oppose the project say building the mine would mean cutting down more than ten square kilometers of old-growth forests, damage to fish habitat and a significant increase in carbon pollution. They point out some Indigenous groups in B.C. oppose the project.

QA2. Based on whatever you've seen or heard, including in this survey, would you say you support or oppose the construction of the Teck Mine?

Strongly support

Moderately support

Moderately oppose

Strongly oppose

Not sure/Can't say

Base=moderately/strongly oppose in A2

QA3. The company in charge, Teck, says it intends to become "carbon-neutral" across all operations – including the proposed mine – by 2050. Teck hasn't defined exactly how it will achieve this but says it will seek to use cleaner power sources and be more energy efficient.

Does this pledge from Teck to be carbon neutral by 2050 make you any more likely to support the project?

Much more likely to support

A little bit more likely to support

No, this would not change my opinion

QA4. Some analysts are skeptical that the Teck project will be completed due to issues such as the price of oil and pipeline capacity. Others are confident it will be finished. Ultimately, if the project is approved, do you think it will be completed?

Yes, if approved it will absolutely be built
I think so, better than 50 per cent chance
Probably not, less than 50 per cent chance
No, even if approved it will not be built
Not sure/Can't say

Now a couple questions about another energy project.

QA5 and QA6 held for future release

QA7. A company called Coastal Gas Link is working on a natural gas pipeline to transport natural gas from northeastern BC to Kitimat BC, on the Pacific coast. That's where another company – LNG Canada – is building a terminal to export liquefied natural gas to Asia.

The project has received approval from the B.C. government. 20 First Nations band councils support the project. Part of the pipeline route crosses the Wet'suwet'en First Nation's traditional territory. Five of six band councils in the Wet'suwet'en nation are also in support. However, Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs oppose it. People across the country have blocked highways, ports and rail lines to protest the project and to support the hereditary chiefs.

How closely have you been following these protests against the Coastal Gas Link pipeline?

Very closely
Closely
Not that closely
Not following it at all

QA8. Based on what you have seen, read or heard including as part of this survey, do you support or oppose each of the following:

The people protesting against the Coastal Gas Link pipeline project
The Coastal Gas Link project itself
The idea of the company consulting more with the hereditary chiefs opposed to the pipeline

Strongly support
Moderately support
Moderately oppose
Strongly oppose
Not sure/Can't say

QA9. And, what do you think will ultimately happen with the Coastal Gas Link pipeline? Do you think:

It will go ahead despite the protesters

It will probably go ahead even if the protests slow it down

It will likely never happen, especially with these latest protests