To the Yukon Utilities Board,

Please accept my views on Yukon Energy Corporation's (YEC) plans to construct and manage a liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facility in Whitehorse.

I believe that this project is not in the public interest, based on several points.

- If $40 million dollars is to be spent on an energy project, I'd rather have that money go towards developing renewable energy resources. I believe that the LNG facility is posited as an infrastructure necessity by YEC if it wants to go ahead with replacing diesel with natural gas generators. I am uncomfortable with the perception that natural gas can be a beneficial "interim" or "short-range" solution to our energy needs. What I'm seeing is that it is not currently a sustainable fuel. There are too many costs attached to the use of LNG to make it an attractive fuel for even backup power; compared with diesel at least we know what we have. Since natural gas is mostly harvested using hydraulic fracturing (fracking), and we know now that sources of LNG for YEC would be coming from fracked wells, then we need to consider all costs attached to the life cycle of obtaining, transporting and burning of this fuel. These costs include (and all of these costs are reasons enough alone to preclude use of LNG) the unknown fugitive emissions which we know are being released from natural gas wells (both current and retired), the simply obscenely excessive amount of water that is required for hydraulic fracturing, and the toxic mix of chemicals that is inevitably stored in a way that has not been shown to be safe for the long term. Either above ground or below ground storage has its problems. We are not equipped to regulate water use, water storage, or measurement of emissions in the Yukon Territory, and surprisingly other jurisdictions are not adequately equipped to deal with these aspects of natural gas harvesting.
- LNG storage requires incredible amounts of energy compared to storage of diesel, maintenance of hydroelectric power, maintenance of solar or even wind power facilities. Perhaps local storage does not cost as much, but compressing it does and this adds to the overall cost.
- I don't see how anyone can have confidence in predicting costs of acquiring LNG in the future. We have already seen YEC's preferred source dry up; the replacement source from fracked wells in northern B.C. (which have their own increasingly obvious social costs,) could just as easily be sent to Prince Rupert for a higher price.
- It is time to invest in the Yukon's home-made energy grid and that should include more hydroelectric power in suitable sites, and an increasing mix of wind and solar installations. This will eventually make us more energy-independent, even in the realm of transportation if we move towards driving electric or hybrid vehicles. This is not outside of our scope. In a globalized world, why can we not use technologies that are working in other countries and adapt them to our climate and circumstances? I don't believe that renewable sources can be effective backup power sources, hence I suggest studying the replacement and/or refurbishment of current diesel generators further before committing to an LNG facility.

Respectfully,
Gerald Haase
Marsh Lake