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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Environment

### **Study shows Kitimat airshed can handle new industrial development**

VANCOUVER – Results from an independent science-based study show, that with proper management, Kitimat’s airshed can safely accommodate new industrial growth.

The Kitimat Airshed Assessment looked at the cumulative effects of industrial air emissions, primarily sulphur and nitrogen oxides, and their potential impacts on both human health and the environment from the following:

- Rio Tinto Alcan’s existing aluminium smelter and its planned modernization;
- A proposed oil refinery;
- Four proposed LNG facilities;
- BC Hydro gas turbine powered electrical generation facilities; and
- Predicted increased to marine shipping in Douglas Channel.

The study shows that by adhering to world-leading emissions standards, nitrogen dioxide levels will be significantly reduced, allowing industrial expansion to be safely managed in the airshed.

Twelve scenarios were evaluated, based on a range of existing and proposed facilities with various levels of emissions treatments. Each scenario considered the potential effects of sulphur and nitrogen oxides on vegetation, water, soil and human health. The study confirmed there is lots of opportunity for industrial growth in the airshed if properly managed.

#### **Learn More:**

The full report can be found at: <http://www.bcairquality.ca/airsheds/kitimat-airshed-assessment.html>

#### **Quote:**

#### **Mary Polak, Minister of Environment –**

“This study tells us that with proper management there is significant capacity in the Kitimat airshed to safely accommodate industrial growth, while still protecting human health and the environment.”

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