



News Release

TRADES NL RESPONDS TO WEST WHITE ROSE CANCELLATION

October 26, 2020 – Trades NL received confirmation from West White Rose project developer SNC-Lavalin, Dragados and Pennecon (SDP) that Husky Energy have cancelled construction on the concrete gravity structure (CGS) for the 2021 construction season, putting thousands of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians out of work.

“This morning’s news confirming cancellation of construction on the West White Rose project is further devastating news for skilled trade workers in our province. Nearly 2,000 women and men of the trades were hoping for that project to resume construction as it would have created jobs for them to support their families and communities.”

- Darin King, Executive Director, Trades NL

The West White Rose project originally halted construction in March due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In April, Husky announced a continued suspension of construction for the remainder of 2020. In September, Husky further announced that they are reviewing their Atlantic operations, including the future of the West White Rose project. Now today, they cancelled any construction for the 2021 season and that abandonment remains a possibility.

“On behalf of our membership, we continue to encourage both the federal and provincial governments to engage with Husky Energy and their new owners, Cenovus Energy, in an effort to resume construction. We understand from Husky Energy that they are engaged with the provincial government and are determining whether some scopes of work can proceed and help position the project for restart when commodity prices recover. Not only are construction jobs at stake here, there are hundreds of other jobs directly impacted, spin-off jobs and future royalties to the provincial treasury at stake. The industry is in a crisis and it will take some bold and creative leadership to find solutions and get people back to work”.

- Darin King, Executive Director, Trades NL

In 2019, construction jobs peaked on the West White Rose CGS project to over 2,700 people.

Trades NL is an umbrella labour organization which promotes and coordinates the interests of 16 building and construction trades unions, representing more than 18,000 skilled trades workers in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. For 70 years, our craft continues to construct, fabricate and maintain some of the world’s most complex facilities.

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