

From: Doug Broadfoot [d.broadfoot@dccnet.com]
Sent: Saturday, August 20, 2005 2:53 PM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Subject: Clarification regarding my intervention status

BCTC VITR - Exhibit C40-2

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged



Letter to Richard
Neufeld.doc ...



Letter to Premier
Campbell.doc...

Further to your letter to me regarding my interventions status. I

wish to maintain my registration separate from TRAHVOL as I am representing my family and a committee of concerned parents at South Delta Secondary High School. My intervention will focus on the impacts to children's health attending the school. Please accept the attached letters as exhibits from me. Thank you.

Maureen Broadfoot
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March 3, 2005

Premier Gordon Campbell
P.O. Box 9041, Stn. Prov. Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9E1

Premier Campbell,

I am writing to request that you intervene in BCTC/BC Hydro's proposal to install higher voltage overhead transmission lines through residential areas of Tsawwassen. Proceeding with this route will put our community at risk of adverse health effects from EMF and will have devastating financial impacts to hundreds of residents who live near the right of way.

The residents were first informed by BCTC in December 2004 that they were planning to install 230kV lines through the existing hydro right of way to provide power to Vancouver Island. This right of way was granted 50 years ago when there were few homes and no schools in the area. It now runs directly through the backyards of over 200 homes, over the sports field of our high school (and within 20 meters of the school) near a pre-school, two elementary schools and an extended care facility. The proposed upgrade will increase the lines from 50 MW to 1200 MW-an increase of 23 times the power.

We were shocked that no public consultation whatsoever had taken place to consider health, social or economic impacts before BCTC announced this plan to the community, considering it had been on BC Hydro's books for over ten years.

While there are a variety of scientific opinions on the health effects of EMF, it is no longer debatable that there is risk as well as a great deal of public apprehension. The World Health Organization classifies EMF as a 2B carcinogen "based on a fairly consistent doubling of risk of childhood leukemia at magnetic exposures above 4 milligauss". There is also a growing body of scientific research linking EMF to adult diseases including breast cancer, miscarriage, brain cancer, depression and Lou Gehrig's disease (California Department of Health Sciences 2002).

In response to this research, The World Health Organization has advised governments and utility companies to practice a policy of "prudent avoidance" and suggest "changes to planning procedures to reduce exposures from high voltage overhead lines". Many countries and communities around the world are practicing the Precautionary Principle including Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Spain, California and Connecticut to name a few.

BCTC has confirmed that the EMF levels of the proposed overhead transmission system will be between 80 and 120 mG. These are extreme levels of EMF and are forty times higher than the WHO warning for childhood leukemia of 2-4 mG.

BCTC has stated publicly “We can assure people that any alternatives considered will comply in all respects with the recommendations of the World Health Organization”. Clearly, installing industrial scale transmission lines through the middle of our backyards and over our parks and schools does not comply with the WHO Precautionary Principle.

Bob Elton, President and CEO of BC Hydro said in a recent speech made to the Vancouver Board of Trade, in reference to stakeholder engagement “The other area of change that we need is to learn to listen better. If BC Hydro were an animal... it would have a large forehead to fit a very large brain, a large mouth, so we could talk a lot. A big heart, because our people care a lot. But the ears? The ears would be very small, or stapled shut. We have to open our ears.”

Please open your ears to our concerns Mr. Premier. This community has been dealing for three months with the stress of potential adverse health effects and financial impacts of the proposed overhead system. We have had two public meetings attended by hundreds of residents, have over 2000 signatures on our petition, have written countless letters of protest and have volunteers spending enormous amounts of their time working to stop this. We have met with BCTC and provided them with several viable alternatives. We have also met with Minister Neufeld and our MLA Val Roddick to request that BCTC be mandated to drop this plan and focus on the other routes that won't jeopardize our community.

Val Roddick has been very supportive of our group, but she can't resolve this without your help. I am a Liberal supporter and voted for Val in the last election. However, this latest issue adds to the concern in this community that your government is not looking out for our health and safety. The FHA just announced that it has denied our request for funding to expand the emergency facility at Delta Hospital (a hospital that we almost lost completely). The planned expansion of Delta Port has raised alarm due to increased traffic and pollution from marine vessels and the greenhouses are contributing to problems in air quality. I don't envy any MLA trying to deal with all of these environmental/health problems, but if the power line issue is not resolved before the election, many people will be disenfranchised with your government.

As Premier of this province you have a moral obligation to protect us, and future generations. Please do the right thing and instruct BCTC that a fifty year-old right of way is no longer a viable option in 2005.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely
Maureen Broadfoot

cc: The Honorable Richard Neufeld The Minister of Health
 The Honorable Val Roddick The Vancouver Sun
 The Minister of Lands, Water and Air Protection The Province
 The Minister of Sustainable Resource Management Delta Optimist

273 Murphy Drive
Delta, BC
V4M 3P1

March 1, 2005

The Honorable Richard Neufeld
Minister of Energy and Mines
PO Box 9060
STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC

Minister Neufeld,

I am writing this letter to request that you immediately intervene in BCTC's plan to install higher voltage overhead lines through residential areas of Tsawwassen. Proceeding with the planned route will put our community at risk of adverse health affects from EMF and will have devastating financial impacts to families living along or near the right of way.

My name is Maureen Broadfoot. I am a member of the Steering Committee for TRAHVOL (Tsawwassen Residents Against Higher Voltage Overhead Lines) and am responsible for media relations within our group. I was one of the residents that met with you to discuss the social and health impacts of the proposed upgrade. I'm a 43 year old, married working mother with two children ages 12 and 14. I live on the ROW and have power lines directly through my back yard.

I am writing this letter to give you a sense of how this is personally affecting me as a member of TRAHVOL and a mother with two children attending the high school. I have done a great deal of research on the effects of EMF and while scientists have not proven a biological connection, there are many credible scientific studies that show a doubling of childhood leukemia at levels over 4 mG and also many occupational studies that show increased risk of breast cancer for women under 50 exposed to 12 mG.

I'm sure you are aware that the World Health Organization has reported this research and has advised governments and utility companies to practice "Prudent Avoidance" when making siting decisions for transmission lines. Many countries and communities around the world are practicing the precautionary principle including Sweden, New Zealand, Australia, Italy, Spain, California and Connecticut to name a few.

We have been informed by BCTC that the new 230kV lines could operate at 1200MW and that the estimated EMF levels will be between 80-120mG. These are extreme levels and are 20-40 times greater than the WHO warning for childhood leukemia. As the mother of two kids who live within 20 feet of these lines and attend the school within 20 meters, I am fearful that their health will be put in serious jeopardy with the installation of the new lines.

In addition, I have a strong family history of breast cancer and have lost my mother to the disease and have had two sisters diagnosed under 50 with estrogen sensitive breast cancer. EMF levels in some homes currently along the ROW are in excess of 12 mG, so I am already living in an unsafe environment, which will only get worse if this project proceeds.

I would sell my home immediately if I could, to remove my family from what I perceive is a dangerous environment, but I have been told by three realtors that right now my house is virtually “not sellable” and that if the overhead upgrade proceeds I will in the same situation. My husband and I have worked very hard for over twenty years and most of our equity is in our home, so our ability to pay for our kid’s education and financial stability is going to be severely impacted.

In addition to the financial and health impacts, I have been working for three months on the TRAHVOL Steering Committee. I have attending numerous meetings with Delta Council, The School Board, weekly Steering Committee meetings and devoted hundreds of hours of my time to ensure that our community is not burdened with a bad decision made by BCTC. The time commitment and constant stress of dealing with the situation is taking a tremendous toll on me and on my family.

I feel strongly that your government has a political and moral obligation to protect people’s health and safety. I have never asked for help before from a politician in my life. I am imploring you to step in and mandate BCTC to drop their current preferred route and focus on the other viable options that won’t jeopardize this community.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response,

Maureen Broadfoot

cc: The Premier of British Columbia
The Honorable Val Roddick