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VIA E-MAIL

December 14, 2005

**BCTC-VITR & Sea Breeze-VIC
Exhibit A-44**

Mr. Karsten Holmsen
540 Shannon Way
Delta, B.C. V4M 2W5
kholmsen@telus.net

Mr. John Cross
1269 Malvern Place
Delta, BC V4M 3H8
johncross@dccnet.com

Dear Messrs. Holmsen and Cross:

Re: British Columbia Transmission Corporation ("BCTC")
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") Application
Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project ("VITR")
Sea Breeze Victoria Converter Corporation ("Sea Breeze")
CPCN Application for Vancouver Island Cable Project ("VIC")
Projects No. 3698395 and 3698405, Orders No. G-70-05 and G-97-05
Presentations at Town Hall Meetings

This is in response to your letters and comments requesting that the Commission extend the 10 minute time limit for presentations at the Town Hall Meetings (Exhibits C1-19 and C16-3). Commission Counsel has also received several communications that relate to the nature of presentations at the Town Hall Meetings. This response is further to the December 8, 2005 letter from Commission Counsel entitled "What can I expect at the Town Hall Meetings and Oral Public Hearing?" (Exhibit A-41).

The Commission holds Town Hall Meetings mainly for the participation of those individuals who are not otherwise actively involved in the proceeding. The Town Hall Meetings are generally held at times and in locations that may be more convenient for these individuals, than attendance at the Oral Hearing that is scheduled to begin on January 23, 2006. Nevertheless, a participant who is not otherwise actively involved in the proceeding may request permission of the Chair to make a presentation at the Oral Hearing.

Parties who register as Intervenor generally participate actively in the proceeding. As discussed in Exhibit A-41, Intervenor have the right to cross-examine witnesses, present their own evidence and witnesses, bring motions and make Final Argument. A presentation by an Intervenor at the Oral Hearing should be a short Opening Statement that introduces the Intervenor's witness panel and outlines the position of the participant. It should not go over the written evidence that the Intervenor filed earlier and should not introduce new evidence. An Intervenor who chooses to make a presentation at a Town Hall Meeting will not be permitted to make a further presentation during the Oral Hearing without leave from the Chair.

If an Intervenor chooses to make a presentation at a Town Hall Meeting, a party who is adverse in interest or Commission Counsel may request permission of the Chair to cross-examine the Intervenor on their presentation at the Oral Hearing. Any such requests must be made in writing to the Commission by 12:00 Noon on Friday, January 20, 2006. If the Chair approves the request and the Intervenor is not available for cross-examination at the Oral Hearing, the presentation can be struck from the record or the Commission Panel may choose to attach little or no weight to the evidence.

The Commission Panel considers that the Town Hall Meetings are mainly for the participation of parties who are not otherwise actively involved in the proceeding, and believes that lengthy oral presentations at either the Town Hall Meetings or the Oral Hearing do not contribute to an efficient hearing process. Therefore, the Commission Panel denies your request to extend the time limit for presentations at Town Hall Meetings. Presentations at the Town Hall Meetings and presentations at the Oral Hearing by participants, who are not otherwise actively involved in the proceeding, will be limited to 10 minutes.

On another matter, the Commission Panel is concerned about the potential cost of providing hard copies of the transcripts of each day's proceeding to the relatively large number of Intervenors who have registered in this proceeding. Exhibit A-41 states that active Intervenors are entitled to receive one hard copy and an electronic copy of daily transcripts at no cost, and that Intervenors are to make transcript requests in writing to the Commission by January 12, 2006. The daily transcripts are available on the Commission's web page at www.bcuc.com, and a hard copy will be provided to the Public Libraries in Tsawwassen and Ganges, and the Resource Room at the hearing. Any Intervenor who requires a hard copy of the transcripts for future proceeding days must advise the Commission in writing by January 12, 2006. After the Oral Hearing commences, Intervenors are expected to pick up their copy of the transcripts at the hearing. Intervenors who do not pick up their copy of the transcripts will not receive a hard copy of the transcripts on subsequent days.

Yours truly,

Original signed by:

Robert J. Pellatt

JBW/cms

cc: Mr. Marcel Reghelini
 Director, Regulatory Affairs
 British Columbia Transmission Corporation
 Mr. Brian Chernak
 President & CEO
 Sea Breeze Victoria Converter Corporation
 Registered Intervenors
 Mr. Hal Bemister
 Allwest Reporting Ltd.