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April 7, 2006

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British Columbia Utilities Commission  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 900 Howe Street  
Box 250  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6Z 2N3

Attention: Robert J. Pellatt  
Commission Secretary

Dear Mr. Pellatt:

**Re: Vancouver Island Transmission Project  
BCUC Project Number 3698395**

BC Hydro has reviewed the correspondence submitted by BCTC, IRAHVOL and Sea Breeze. Until receiving Sea Breeze's submission of this afternoon, BC Hydro did not believe it was necessary to comment on this issue. Now it does.

BC Hydro opposes any suggestion that argument in this proceeding should be delayed. BC Hydro continues to be anxious to obtain a final determination as to how capacity short-falls on Vancouver Island are to be served and strongly objects to any delay in that determination.

The fact that the VITR bid process for the cables is concluding while argument is in process is pure coincidence. The Commission would not normally have tender prices before determining an application for public convenience and necessity. The irony of Sea Breeze implying the contrary could not be greater in light of its inability to even locate any evidentiary record of the EPC cost estimate it suggests that it received from ABB as disclosed in its response to an undertaking provided to Ms. Hansen at Transcript volume 30, page 5676 and found in Exhibit C31-57.

The withdrawal of Sea Breeze's application for VIC also renders the relevance of the cable prices less relevant than when the question first arose.

In these circumstances, BC Hydro respectfully submits that the schedule suggested by BCTC's counsel in its letter of April 6, 2006 is completely reasonable and any comments that intervenors

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do have on the bid prices ought to be received by the Commission as supplementary submissions in accordance with the schedule set out in that letter.

Yours very truly,  
LAWSON LUNDELL LLP



Chris W. Sanderson, Q.C.

cc. Registered Intervenors