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ERICA M. HAMILTON
COMMISSION SECRETARY
Commission.Secretary@bcuc.com
web site: <http://www.bcuc.com>

April 1, 2009

SECTION 5

TRANSMISSION INQUIRY

EXHIBIT A-3

Dear Chief and Council:

Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission
Project No. 3698545/Order G-30-09
Inquiry into British Columbia's Long-Term Transmission Infrastructure

Section 5 of the Utilities Commission Act directs the Commission to conduct an inquiry to make determinations with respect to British Columbia's long-term infrastructure for electricity transmission, and to begin the inquiry by March 31, 2009. The Government specified terms of reference for the inquiry on December 11, 2008.

The general purpose of the inquiry, as stated in the terms of reference, is for the Commission to make determinations with respect to B.C.'s electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity needs for a 30-year period. In doing so, the Commission must assess the electricity generation resources in B.C. that will potentially be developed during that 30-year term, grouped by geographical location, and the most cost-effective and most probable sequence(s) of development by geographic area.

The Commission, in making its assessments must take a long-term view of transmission development to support efficient development of transmission that would avoid multiple transmission lines when, for example, one appropriately sized transmission line would serve the needs in the foreseeable future. The Commission must also take into consideration various factors such as utility long-term resource plans, domestic load requirements, export opportunities for clean, renewable or low-carbon electricity, and areas in B.C. that may be inappropriate for development of generation resources including, but not limited to, parks and protected areas. The terms of reference specify, however, that the Commission must not make determinations on the merits of specific generation projects or with respect to the specific routing or technology of transmission projects.

The Commission must publish its draft report by June 30, 2010 and, following the release of the draft report, must allow a 30 day period for public comment and an additional period of time for responses to the public comments, before incorporating the comments, as appropriate, into the final report and providing it to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

The above description is merely a summary of the terms of reference for the inquiry. The complete terms of reference can be found on the home page of the Commission's website at www.bcuc.com. On March 24, the Commission issued Order G-30-09 establishing a preliminary workshop and a Procedural Conference to discuss issues related to the timelines and the Terms of Reference, and directing BCTC to publish a Public Notice in newspapers around the Province. The Order and Public Notice are attached. The Commission will issue further letters, notices or procedural orders offering direction and guidance to participants and informing parties of further events.

By way of this letter, the Commission is inviting participation in the inquiry by interested First Nations or First Nations groups. First Nations groups may participate individually or through another First Nation organization such as the First Nations Energy and Mining Council. First Nations are invited to attend the preliminary workshop and Procedural Conference, but not attending will not preclude the ability to make submissions or engage in the proceedings at a later date.

The Commission also understands that the Province has requested that BC Hydro undertake consultation with First Nations regarding any evidence and submissions that BC Hydro and BCTC will be providing to the inquiry. The Commission wishes to be clear that the consultation to be undertaken by BC Hydro does not preclude any First Nation or First Nation group from providing evidence or submissions to, or otherwise participating in, the Transmission Inquiry directly.

Those who wish to participate in the Workshop and/or Procedural Conference are asked to contact me in order to receive any preliminary materials or to be notified in the event of a change in the time or location, by April 9, 2009, as follows:

Telephone:	(604) 660-4740	B.C. Toll Free:	1-800-663-1385
Facsimile:	(604) 660-1102	E-mail:	commission.secretary@bcuc.com

Those who wish to participate in the Inquiry but do not plan to attend the Workshop or the Procedural Conference are asked to register with the Commission Secretary by May 1, 2009.

Interested Parties who do not wish to become full participants but who wish to receive copies of Commission Orders related to the Inquiry and the final report of the Inquiry Panel, are also asked to register with the Commission Secretary.

Yours truly

Original signed by:

Erica M. Hamilton

Attachment

cc: Ms. Joanna Sofield
Chief Regulatory Officer
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Email: bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com

Ms. Janet Fraser
Director, Regulatory Affairs
British Columbia Transmission Corporation
Email: bctc.regulatory@bctc.com

Mr. David Bennett
Vice President, Regulatory Affairs & General Counsel
Regulatory Affairs Department
FortisBC Inc.
Email: regulatory@fortisbc.com

BCUC – Transmission Inquiry List (no attachment)



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER G-30-09**

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IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

An Inquiry into British Columbia's Electricity Transmission Infrastructure
and Capacity Needs for the Next 30 Years

BEFORE: L.A. O'Hara, Commissioner and Panel Chair March 23, 2009
A.W.K. Anderson, Commissioner
D.A. Cote, Commissioner
M.R. Harle, Commissioner
R.K. Ravelli, Commissioner

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. Section 5(4) of the Utilities Commission Act ("UCA" or "Act") provides that the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("Commission") must conduct an inquiry ("Inquiry") to make determinations with respect to British Columbia's infrastructure and capacity needs for electricity transmission for the period ending 20 years after the day the inquiry begins, or a different period if so specified by terms of reference issued by the Minister responsible for administration of the Hydro and Power Authority Act ("Minister"); and
- B. Section 5(5) of the Act provides that the Inquiry must begin by March 31, 2009; and
- C. Section 5(6) provides that the Minister may specify, by order, terms of reference regarding the manner in which and the time by which the Commission must issue its determinations arising from the Inquiry; and
- D. On December 11, 2008, the Minister issued Terms of Reference for the Inquiry which identify that the general purpose of the Inquiry is for the Commission to make determinations with respect to British Columbia's electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity needs for a 30-year period commencing from the date the Inquiry begins; and
- E. The Terms of Reference direct, in part, that the Commission must publish the draft report on its determinations on or before June 30, 2010; and
- F. The Terms of Reference further direct the Commission to invite and consider submissions, evidence and presentations from any interested person, including, without limitation, First Nations, communities,

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ORDER
NUMBER** G-30-09

2

municipal and regional governments, other utilities, power producers, ratepayer groups and environmental non-governmental organizations; and

- G. The Terms of Reference provide that the Commission may make use of procedures to resolve specific issues within the Terms of Reference, including as the Commission considers appropriate, workshops, mediations, dispute resolution mechanisms, pre-hearing conferences, working groups and oral and written public hearings; and
- H. The Commission has determined that it will be useful to hold a Preliminary Workshop for participants to discuss issues related to the Terms of Reference and the process to be used for the Inquiry, and that the Workshop will be followed by a Procedural Conference.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. The Preliminary Workshop will take place on Friday, April 17, 2009 commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room, 12th Floor, 1125 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.
2. The Procedural Conference will take place on Monday, April 27, 2009, commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the Commission Hearing Room to discuss Inquiry procedures and timing, but will not address the scope of the issues.
3. British Columbia Transmission Corporation is directed to have the Notice of Preliminary Workshop and Procedural Conference, attached to this Order as Appendix A, published extensively in daily and weekly newspapers in British Columbia as soon as possible.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 24th day of March 2009.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

L.A. O'Hara
Commissioner

Attachment



LONG-TERM ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION INQUIRY

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY WORKSHOP AND PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Terms of Reference issued by the Government on December 11, 2008, the British Columbia Utilities Commission ("Commission") is conducting an Inquiry to make determinations with respect to British Columbia's electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity needs for a 30-year period. In order to reach its determinations, the Commission must assess (a) the electricity generation resources in B.C. that will potentially be developed during the 30-year period, grouped by geographical location, and (b) the most-cost-effective and most probable sequence(s) of development by geographic area.

In making its assessment, the Commission must consider various factors such as utility long-term resource plans, domestic load requirements, export opportunities for clean, renewable or low-carbon electricity, and areas in B.C. that will be inappropriate for development of generation resources, including but not limited to, parks and protected areas. The Commission must not make determinations on the merits of specific generation projects or with respect to the specific routing or technology of transmission projects.

As required by Section 10(a) of the Terms of Reference, the Commission is inviting submissions, evidence and presentations from any interested person, First Nations, local governments, utilities, power producers, ratepayer groups, environmental non-government organizations, and others on the matters that are the subject of the Inquiry.

A full version of the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry can be found on the Commission's website at www.bcuc.com.

PARTICIPATION

The Commission is hosting a Workshop on the Terms of Reference and Inquiry issues and processes. The Workshop will be followed by an initial Procedural Conference to discuss Inquiry timing and procedures. The times and place for both are shown below. Subject to comments heard at the Procedural Conference, the Commission is considering a subsequent Procedural Conference on the scope of the issues to be considered in the Inquiry.

Participant Registration:	Thursday, April 9, 2009
Workshop:	Friday, April 17, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Procedural Conference:	Monday, April 27, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
Location:	Commission Hearing Room 12 th Floor 1125 Howe Street, Vancouver, B.C.

Those who wish to participate in the Workshop and/or Procedural Conference are asked to contact Ms. Erica Hamilton, Commission Secretary, in order to receive any preliminary materials or to be notified in the event of a change in the time or location, by Thursday, April 9, 2009, as follows:

Telephone: (604) 660-4740
Facsimile: (604) 660-1102

B.C. Toll Free: 1-800-663-1385
E-mail: commission.secretary@bcuc.com

Those who wish to participate in the Inquiry but do not plan to attend the Workshop or the Procedural Conference are asked to register with the Commission Secretary by May 1, 2009.

Interested Parties who do not wish to become full participants but who wish to receive copies of Commission Orders related to the Inquiry and the final report of the Inquiry Panel, are also asked to register with the Commission Secretary.