E-23 Letters of Comment dated August 29, 2005 from the following:

Bill & Pauline Carras  
Brenda Lothrop  
Brian Bellbeck  
Carol Cole  
Cindy Orivolo  
Connie Strafford  
Dave & Wanda Hamilton  
Gaille Bisson  
Jane Blamire  
John & Elizabeth Beeching  
Justin Schmid  
Les Halvarson  
Lois Marr  
Loreta & Bill Burden  
Lynn & Dan Carlyle  
M. Gibbons  
Marg Tidswell  
Mark Perry  
Marlene Pauls  
Martin McCarthy  
Marty Butler  
Mary Anne Comadina  
Mesbah Taherzadeh  
Michele McManus  
Penny Powers  
Sebrina Woligroski  
Stella Hansen  
Steven C. Hutton  
Tom Astley  
Tony Gilbert  
Mark Wagner
I am appalled. I do not want to see our children's and their children's heritage sold to the United States. We are Canadian citizens, not a satellite American colony. This is OUR province and it is not for sale!

Very sincerely: Mrs. Pauline Carras,
Prince George, B.C., an extremely concerned taxpayer and proud Canadian
To Whom it may concern;

As a citizen of Canada and the province of BC I have a hard time believing that our government would even consider selling our resources. We can not possibly afford to do this can we? We don't even have good trade relations with the United States. I have yet to hear of a deal with the U.S that has been to our advantage. I couldn't run my Business with deals that weren't beneficial for me so how can we allow a sale that would not be beneficial to our whole province. We need to keep what we got as Canadians, I don't see the U.S Helping us out at all.

Please help keep what is ours ours.

Thank you

Brenda Lothrop
As a resident of B.C. I want to express my opposition to the sale of this resource company to an American firm. I am opposed to the sale to any company whose interests cannot be controlled by Canadians. I am not anti-American just opposed to selling our resource companies to them.

Please re-consider this as it is not in our best interest and we will regret this down the road.

Thankyou, Brian Belbeck
Good Morning,
I am concerned that Teresen Gas may be sold to a private corporation. I am also concerned that the private corporation is likely to be US based. BC is being sold-out. I believe that BC utilities should remain government owned, to maintain the interest of British Columbians. In addition, I believe that continuing to sell-off Canada to the US is a threat to our sovereignty.

Please do not approve the sale of any more of BC utilities.

Thank you.

Carol Cole
AD Nursing, BSc, MSc
I would like to formally oppose the sale of Teresan Gas to Kinder Morgan. Not only will it lead to fewer jobs in Canada (this may take a few years but the jobs will be gone to the US or off shore), it will also give an American company control of one of Canada's natural resources. I was appalled that such a thing could even be contemplated when I first heard the story on the news, and I am hopeful that the Utilities Commission and the Government will both do their part to keep Teresan Gas ownership and jobs in Canada. Thank-you.

Cindy Orivolo
10046 158A St
Surrey BC
V4N 2P9
Dear Sir or Madam,

I want to register my rejection of the purchase of Terasen Gas by a US company, KINDER MORGAN. Please register my opposition and have it documented for the future hearing. Let's keep it in BC!!!!

Thank You,

Connie-Lyn Redl, Williams Lake, BC

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It is so hard to believe that with all the problems we are having with the cattle industry and the soft lumber industry that the powers that be are even playing with such a dangerous idea of selling one of necessities of life to the Americans.

I am dead against such a movement. It is bad enough to have it privatized in Canada but to give it to AMERICAN CONTROL is certainly a political decision that is not in the best interests of British Columbians.

Wanda Hamilton
Box 1348
Fernie B.C
V0B 1M0
Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register our strong rejection of the sale of Terasen Gas to the US company Kinder-Morgan. We should not be selling any of our natural resources outside of Canada... Ross and Gaille Bisson of Salmon Arm, b.C.
I oppose to the sale of Terasen to Kinder Morgan. How dare they sell our children's future and our resources

Jane Blamire  
Design Travel and Tours  
# 137-1835 Gordon Drive  
Kelowna BC V1Y 3H4  
Ph 250-762-9024 Fax 250-764-9094  
jdbdesign@shaw.ca
John & Elizabeth Beeching
e4715 Lanark Street
Vancouver BC V5N 3R9

August 29, 2005

Robert J Pellatt, Secretary
BC Utilities Commission
6th Floor, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Robert J. Pellat,

We are writing to you to express our opposition to the sale of Terasen Gas to Kinder Morgan. The resulting changes will not be in the interest of BC citizens, Terasen customers. Indeed since BC Gas has been privatized a hard nosed approach to customers whose payments are overdue has created hardship for them.

Natural gas, a non-renewable resource, should be in the public domain as a heritage of citizenship. As such, BC citizens should decide domestic and export amounts, not a foreign country taking advantage of a trade agreement. The large corporations that benefit know as a non-renewable resource scientists predict the near future will see a dwindling supply. They care only for immediate maximum profits for investors not the interests of the consumer.

We reserve the right to Cc this letter.

John and Elizabeth Beeching
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in order to share my deepest concern regarding the sale of Terasen Inc. to Kinder Morgan Inc., which you will soon be asked to approve.

Since the implementation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, I have witnessed the increasing loss of control over the country’s energy resources and its infrastructures. From the elimination of the 25-year contingency reserve provision, to the implementation of the proportional sharing provision, most of Canada’s energy decisions have resulted in our country losing sovereignty over our resources.

This sale will undoubtedly rob B.C. communities of the power to influence future energy decisions in the province. It will also reinforce the view that Canadians are, in effect, becoming tenants in their own land.

I urge you to prevent this deal by refusing to ratify it until such time as an exhaustive evaluation of Canada’s energy situation is completed and provincial and national energy strategies are drafted and adopted. As the U.S. Administration is keen to highlight, control of energy resources will be the struggle of the future. Canada needs to start preparing for this struggle and defending infrastructures built and paid for by the Canadian public.

Sincerely,

Justin Schmid
2-2566 Prior Street
Victoria, BC
V8T 3X6
Sir;

Please do not allow the sale of BC owned Terasen Gas to the American company Kinder Morgan Inc. At a time when our natural resources are increasing in value and should belong to the people of B.C., it seems idiotic to give up control of them to a foreign country. Please don't sell the our future wealth down the river to the Americans. Once control is lost, it's gone forever.

Les Halvarson
Box 131
Yahk, B.C. V0B2P0
lhalvarson@cyberlink.bc.ca
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very disturbed to hear of this forthcoming sale of our natural resources to the Americans. Canadians must have control of our natural gas, oil and water resources. The Americans cannot be trusted to keep their word in regards to treaties signed by them, as an example you need to just look at the NAFTA with regards to the softwood lumber duties they impose on us. The Americans cannot be trusted, as Canadians we must be vigilant in looking after our own resources. DO NOT SELL TERASEN GAS TO THEM!!!

Yours truly,
L. Marr

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We, as Canadians, object to this sale.
Keep our natural resources Canadian.
This move should be put to a referendum and decided by the people.

Loreta Burden
William Burden

101 - 7215 Southridge Avenue
Prince George, B. C. V2N 4Z3
250 - 964 - 4386
From: Dan and Lynn [hunt2001@look.ca]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 9:29 PM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Subject: Terasen Gas

I am appalled at the fact that anyone government in Canada would consider selling anything to the Americans at this time. We work in the forestry industry and though all the negotiations went in our favor they still ignore the WTO. What are we going to do when they take possession of our Natural Gas company and then don't pay for it or refuse to keep the rates at a decent level? They do exactly what they chose and we get screwed every time. Stop this before all our resources are gone. Please for our future and the future of our children.

Lynn and Dan Carlyle
From: mgibbons [mgibbons@telus.net]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 9:17 PM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Subject: Terasen Sale

I would like to voice my opinion of the sale of the gas utility to an American Company, what are you thinking of? I along with many British Columbians am against it. Respectfully, M. Gibbons
Smith, Constance BCUC:EX

From: Marg Tidswell [mtidswell@shaw.ca]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 4:58 PM
To: Commission Secretary BCUC:EX
Subject: thetyee.ca Kinder Morgan Marked by Spills (2).htm

Dear Sir/Madam: Please add this to my earlier email.
Margaret Tidswell, #10 - 1075 Gilford St., Vancouver, B.C. V6G 2P3, mtidswell@shaw.ca

Kinder Morgan Marked by Spills

Terasen suitor's many pipelines figure in several U.S. disasters, including a very deadly one.

By Jeremy Nuttall
Published: August 23, 2005

Kinder Morgan Pipeline

Kinder Morgan, the company that hopes to take over the B.C. gas utility Terasen, is "the poster child for pipeline problems," according to Carl Weimer, executive director of the Bellingham, Washington--based Pipeline Safety Trust.

Weimer says Kinder Morgan has a poor safety record, which he attributes to the company taking over a huge network of pipelines in a short time frame. "They've expanded rapidly and a lot of the pipelines they took over are older pipelines. And that has undercut some of the safety," he says.

Weimer, whose trust is funded by a court-ordered endowment created after an Olympic Pipe Line Co. pipeline in Bellingham burst and then exploded in 1999, killing three and destroying Whatcom Creek, says ongoing internal inspection is...
the best way to stay on top of pipeline maintenance. Weimer adds that Terasen has a good record on this front. “Hopefully the personnel won’t go through a dramatic change” during the takeover, he says, given Terasen staff’s credible record.

According to Terasen, many of their pipelines are approaching 50 years of age, and some, particularly under Vancouver, are as old as 70 years. Many of the lines Kinder Morgan took over in the U.S. are around 50 years old, says Weimer, which has resulted in several failures on its network.

**Explosion killed five**

The most dramatic and deadly incident had another cause, however. Five people were killed last November in Walnut Creek, California, after an excavator ruptured a high-pressure petroleum line. Gasoline filled the pipe trench and was ignited by a welding torch.

Kinder Morgan spokesman Rick Rainey told The Tyee that the incident had nothing to do with the company’s practices. “It was a backhoe operator that ruptured our pipeline, so that had nothing to do with integrity,” he says.

However, the California Department of Industrial Relations didn’t see it exactly that way. In its 20-page report on the Walnut Creek explosion, the department said the main contributing factor was that the pipeline was not properly marked: “The primary cause of the incident was that the location of the petroleum line was not known to employees working in the area.”

**Negligence cited**

In the end, Kinder Morgan was cited for two counts of “serious willful” and fined a total of $140,000. In the report, “willful” is defined as a situation “where evidence shows that the employer committed an intentional and knowing violation -- as distinguished from inadvertent or accidental or ordinarily negligent -- and the employer is conscious of the fact that what they are doing constitutes a violation, or is aware that a hazardous condition exists and no reasonable effort was made to eliminate the hazard.”

Right underneath that violation “serious” is defined as “cited where there is substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a condition which exists -- or from practices, operations or processes at the workplace.”

The fines to the three other companies involved amounted to $51,750, less than half of what Kinder Morgan was fined for its part in the accident, even though Kinder Morgan insists the accident was not really its fault.

Another blemish on Kinder Morgan’s environmental record is a 2004 70,000-gallon diesel spill into a Northern California marsh from an old, corroded pipeline. However, according to Rainey, the company had wanted to replace the very pipeline that leaked into the marsh, and would have done so, except that California’s “cumbersome permitting process” held up the company’s attempts to
“It took us three years to even get permits. Had it been done a little more timely,” says Rainey, “we wouldn’t have had the issue of the rupture.”

Still, Kinder Morgan **pled guilty** in the case and paid about $3 million in penalties and restitution. The company didn’t notify the California government about the spill until 18 hours after it had occurred, a failure for which it was cited. Kinder Morgan attributed the delay to the time it took them to identify the leak and be certain there was a one.

**Houses sprayed with gas**

Not all of the leaks have been hard to locate. In 2003 in Tuscon, Arizona, 19,000 **gallons of gasoline spilled** out of another Kinder Morgan pipeline, spraying a housing development and flooding nearby streets. The resulting pipeline closure caused major gas shortages in the state.

In December 2004, a **Kinder Morgan pipeline burst** in the Mojave Desert in California. For 12 hours, it spewed diesel more than 70 feet into the air. The fuel seeped an estimated 50 feet below the surface and the clean up involved removing 7,500 tons of dirt from the site.

Rainey defends Kinder Morgan’s history and says that overall, “despite a couple of recent high-profile incidents,” the company has a clean record. “We have a very aggressive integrity management program, and that will be applied,” he says of the standards the company will promote in B.C.

**Safety commitment lauded**

According to Rainey, since the company was formed in 1997 it has increased its pipelines by 6.5 times yet spends 10.5 times more on safety and maintenance. He says the incidents have little to do with negligence. “It’s certainly not for lack of dedicating financial resources to make sure [pipelines] are safe,” he says.

Rainey says Kinder Morgan’s record is considered better than the industry average — according to his company’s records. That sentiment is echoed by Terasen’s director of public affairs, Cam Avery. “In most quarters they’ve got above-industry-standard record,” says Avery, adding that B.C. standards would apply if Kinder Morgan succeeds in its takeover bid. “Terasen gas is regulated in British Columbia according to British Columbia standards.”

Rainey also stresses the company is actively trying to improve its practices. “Commitment to safety is our top priority,” he says.

However, Kinder Morgan has been cited for not complying with government safety standards, and for not performing **emergency training**. In December 2004, Kinder Morgan was fined $26,630 and promised to buy emergency equipment for a California town after failing to conduct the minimum 10 emergency drills at a Nevada oil-holding facility and for neglecting to conduct two oil-spill response drills. The safety drills were required by the Environmental Protection Agency.
Out of Enron

Kinder Morgan was formed by Richard Kinder and Bill Morgan, both former executives of the infamous energy giant Enron Corporation. Richard Kinder was the president of Enron until 1997, when he handed the reins over to Kenneth Lay, who now faces fraud charges related to the collapse of the company.

As with Lay, Kinder and his family are strong supporters of George W. Bush. Kinder’s wife raised more than $200,000 for Bush during the 2004 election, and had pledged $100,000 to the Bush campaign in 2001. According to Mother Jones, during that 2001 campaign Kinder and his wife served as regional co-chairs for Bush’s Presidential Exploratory Committee, and Kinder has given $379,745 US to the Republican party.

Terasen stockholders will vote on the sale of Terasen to Kinder Morgan in late October. If the deal is approved, Terasen could be under Kinder Morgan control by December.

Scott Webb, a Terasen gas utility spokesperson, says there is some nervousness within Terasen about the deal. There’s “a little bit of uncertainty,” he says. “This all happened very fast.” Webb added that some Terasen employees are excited that Terasen may be acquired by a company that really wants to own it.

The B.C. Ministry of Energy and Mines and the Ministry of the Environment were approached for comment on safety and regulatory issues in B.C. but were not available by press time.

Jeremy Nuttall is a Penticton radio reporter and freelance writer.

Technorati: Blogs discussing this story

commentor: Fiat lux posted: 5 Days Ago

Another desperate attempt by the Campbell gang to sell BC's resources off to foreign corporations to prevent their coming under public control again under NAFTA and WTO rules.

The purpose of these so called "free trade" agreements is not to "lower costs", but to hand all resources and services over to international corporate control. In the warped minds of some people this means "democracy".

Watch for ever increasing prices with the profits removed from BC, mass firings of service personnel, outsourcing and loss of services. And, if anybody dares to complain, being slapped with defamation lawsuits. This has been the pattern of all privatizations around the world.

PPP means "Plundering the Public Purse" and here's a great example of it. Can anybody name a single privatized service where standards may have improved and costs to the public lowered?
All we can find anywhere on Earth are secret deals, like the sale of BC Rail, loss of services and disasters caused by profit demands and the former politicians blessed with lucrative directorships. Ed Deak, Big Lake, BC.
If I recall didn't Enron build up its energy holding quite quickly, then purposely neglect them in order to cause accidents driving power prices up?

I wonder if Kinder Morgan contributed to the provincial Liberals, as you know, in BC, you get what you pay for.

I still think Campbell is a American agent, who is desperately trying to sell off everything that makes BC, BC, in hopes that if and when Canada splits up, the Americans will have complete control over us!

Fiat lux: At the rate that the USA ignores NAFTA and WTO rules, why should any future Canadian government abide by them? I know what I would do with BC Rail, BC Ferries, MSP, et al, were I premier. There are some things that worked fine under public control.

Right on!

We must take back what Cambell has given away! Like where is the passenger service that Liberals promised? All the BC Rail line is now is a secondary line to take empties North, with a few loaded cars for 'local' service.

The Campbell Quislings. are some of the most evil politicians we ever had.

Too bad that we are sheep and do nothing, as this corrupt bunch of traitors squander are precious resources.

The NDP leader is a wet noodle and her term will be one of dissapointment, a la Larry Campbell and jim Greene. God help us all!

The The; I am assuming that if you were Premier you would simple nationalize everything and go the way of former communist counties who self destructed. I don't think I would vote for you.
After the caviar, the filet mignon with a fine vintage red, the peche Melba......Perhaps over the brandy and cigars. "It's a deal."

You get to feel expansive. Heck, who wouldn't?
I mean....getting to rub shoulders with such movers and shakers - even got to call the VP, "Dick".

Not a lot left to give away but, what the heck!
I know that I'm going to be set. What do those suckers know anyway - Canadian taxpayers....buncha supine slobs.

**commentor: jamez**  posted: 5 Days Ago

I'll tell you this much, Gas, hydro, medical, dental and anything else a citizen of a country needs to have a healthy life, should be nationalized. A taxpayer's health and well-being shouldn't come into the control of any corporation.

**commentor: The The**  posted: 5 Days Ago

Ron Erwin: Yep, that's me, a real commie.

In fact, I am anything but a communist, but I do hold opinions on entities that the government has recently privatized or contracted to private operators.

Would you call WAC Bennett a communist, the Social Credit premier who nationalised the ferry system and gave British Columbia the infrastructure it has today? I doubt it. He wasn't much of a "free enterprise" premier like Gordon Campbell is these days, but he was anything but left wing.

The truth is that I've experienced the other side of life. In the UK everything was privatized by Thatcher. The services are horrible and everything has gone down hill.

**commentor: clubofrome**  posted: 5 Days Ago

Corporate criminals are no different than the habitual criminals who break into your homes and cars. Getting caught is cost of doing business. The car thief will be back in another stolen car the same day he is released, and Kinder Morgan will continue to ignore safety regulations and willfully disregard the environment. Kinder and Morgan are two former Enron Execs. 2 + 2 = ?
Bush supporters too! What a shock.

**commentor: Banquos ghost**  posted: 5 Days Ago

Ron Erwin, I take it will be perfectly pleased to forward his hard won
Canadian earnings for natural gas usage to a Texas company as long as it means he doesn't have to think critically about Campbell's Liberals.

No accounting for some people. Literally as well as figuratively, in Ron's case.

Bit by bit the US takeover continues. Like frogs in a slowly warming pot of water, we barely notice. And for many, it simply isn't a matter of much moment.

US owned Canadian subsidiaries of lumber companies pay large tariffs out of Canada into a US fund that will eventually be doled out, under the terms of the Byrd Amendment, to US sawmills. Then those mills can undertake the upgrades that have heretofore made them non-competitive.

It's OK with Canada. Oh there'll be a huff and a puff and a pose but we won't actually *do* anything. To actually *do* anything would be most un-shop-keeper like and mustn't have that.

A US attorney in Washington will undertake to confiscate privately owned land in BC on behalf of the US federal Dept. of Justice. Probably successfully.

We'll huff and puff some more but the bottom line at the end of the day will be that the US government will be the owner of a small patch of Canadian soil. With more to follow soon thereafter no doubt. Any pretext will do.

The BC government removes the foreign ownership limitations on Terasen Gas and, what do you know? Controlling foreign ownership shows up. Does anyone really think that Campbell and Company thought that *no* foreign ownership would appear? Of course not. They thought that foreign ownership *would* appear. That's why they removed the limitation. Now we're jumping down each other's throats to castigate or defend the Campbell government. We're losing sight of the stark fact that once we've had our spat with each other we'll still be left paying a Texas company for the privilege of heating our homes and offices with natural gas pumped from the ground of BC.

We're doing a masterful job of instructing and coaching the empire below the 49th in how to manipulate us and divide us from one another.

And if it's one thing the Bush administration knows how to do it's drive wedges.

Well we're getting a doozie of a wedgie.

commentor: shuswapgord posted: 5 Days Ago
Thank God for private ownership, let government govern and corporations make profits for us shareholders. Since I don't rely on government for my retirement I have to get my monthly stipend somewhere.

commentor: Te Aro Arahina posted: 5 Days Ago
What kind of idiot would place their faith in the deregulation of utilities industries after Enron? Must be someone who counts on dying off in the next ten years.

commentor: jamez posted: 4 Days Ago

Why are both parties so silent on this?

commentor: jamez posted: 4 Days Ago

Gord man, forget profits... it’s not about that. The people in Enron thought they were getting profits... instead they all lost, some their life savings. This company is a child of that company.

commentor: Fiat lux posted: 4 Days Ago

What I find very amusing is that people who shout loudest against governments and interference with corporations, then lose large amounts, some of their life savings, in some fraudulent shyster deals and companies, stand in front of TV cameras and write letters to the papers, demanding government actions to save their necks. Government is OK when they’re in trouble of their own making, but otherwise can go to hell? Brilliant logic. No interference with theft and crime, as long as the proceeds and up in their own pockets.

There was a proverb in the Sumerian civilization, who must have gone through the same problems with predator enterpreneurs 10 years ago: “In a city without dogs the wolf is the master”.

I’ve been in independent business continuously for 48 years, but never invested a penny in any other except my own, so I have little sympathy for those who play the stockmarkets and lose their shirts. Let alone relying on borderline and outright crooks for survival. Ed Deak, Big Lake.

commentor: bigEd posted: 4 Days Ago

Ed Deak’
Your right on the mark
Ed.R in Nanaimo

commentor: Jeeves posted: 4 Days Ago

Banquos ghost:

Thanks for that. I sense some mild sarcasm in your post.

But what can one do if his only weapon is a ballot?
Currently on American television beer giant Anhauser Busch (makers of Budweiser) has a commercial touting themselves as the only "American owned" brewery in the U.S., that means the profits stay in the U.S. and is good for America.

Why is it that Canada’s right wing think it is so wonderful for foreigners to own Canadian assets?

Is Anhauser Busch wrong?

The stock market: Another rigged game....and the back bone of our economic invention.

I’m hoping that Ron Erwin will explain to us how it is so wonderful to have our assets, especially resources, owned by foreigners. Why is that better?

I hate to say it but this is just the beginning in a mass movement of privatization. We may have started with Terasen, transit, ferries, but wait until it’s our roads, healthcare, the air we breathe and the genes that make up our cells. Then, we’ll actually get up and considering crashing Campbell’s Victorian palace like the Bolivians fought for the right to drink water.

When the dust settles it will be a lot easier to pay bills. Just one monthly cheque off to Pepsico.

I heard Wally Oppal saying our justice system needs to be more like the US today. How long before we contract that out?
jamez, to be perfectly fair to Oppal he was speaking about the time it can take to try complex cases, even to get them to trial.

The Pickton case is an example. The Air India case is another.

Pickton was arrested 3 years ago and we still have no solid idea of when there might be a trial.

Oppal said that it *may* be a good idea to examine some options that *could* include *some* of the procedural implementations that the US system includes, like pre-trial depositions and so on.

The public purse funds these legal proceedings. The courtroom/judge/sherrifs/jury costs/crown counsel costs/investigation costs and so on. The time spent increases the dollars enormously. So the comments were directed at that and they included the provisos that anything attempted must also include attention to the Charter.

commentor: ursus  posted: 4 Days Ago

hey folks ronny irwin doesn't care about losing our assets to the americans he is an american probably working for el gordo and company, have you noticed his posting times seems to be his day job to post here.

commentor: jamez  posted: 4 Days Ago

What gets me is the way British Columbians look at things as either NDP or Liberal. Can't we look at the in terms of good and bad? My Uncle is a Conservative and a Liberal, however he is furious at this deal. Why? Because, using his brain he concluded it was a hosejob..more BC residents need to think that way, instead of just playing partisan politics.

commentor: Mel from Calgary  posted: 4 Days Ago

If you like medicare, If you don't want crown corporation sold or sold to foreigners, If you don't like deficits, If you don't like toadying up to the americans...

Then stop voting for political parties that do!!

commentor: jamez  posted: 4 Days Ago

Yeah, but I don't want Unions running everything either... there's no party out there I can vote for.

commentor: Mel from Calgary  posted: 4 Days Ago
At least unions are trying to improve salaries and working conditions which is more than can be said of letting our new feudal lords -the corporation- decide these things.

commentor: ursus  posted: 3 Days Ago

good points Mel from Calgary in both posts, jamez is a perfect example of what is wrong in B.C. today, if you don't like what a party is doing pick the lesser of two evils in your mind and get off your ass and get involved instead of making comments like your last one!

Apathy only lets the el gordos win!

commentor: jamez  posted: 3 Days Ago

Ursus, how the hell do you know I'm not doing anything?... get a life.

commentor: jamez  posted: 3 Days Ago

And by the way Ursus, comments like your last one are what the problem with this province is. "Well, we only have two parties, so pick one." Great attitude, pick the union overlords, or the business overlords... I'd rather work for something new.

And by the way, I do vote

commentor: jamez  posted: 3 Days Ago

Terasen Asks For Rate Increase Today...... It Begins

commentor: chuckstraight  posted: 3 Days Ago

It began back in 2001.

commentor: jamez  posted: 3 Days Ago

Very true Chuck, I stand corrected

commentor: ursus  posted: 3 Days Ago

ok so you vote and you are working for an alternative, what are the alternatives chances, a little better then the proverbial snowball is my guess! Good I am glad that you vote but take exception to your comment
about union overlords which is really what prompted my response to you and I quote. "Yeah, but I don't want Unions running everything either... there's no party out there I can vote for."

So I assumed you don't vote or get involved with any political party???

You are spewing the same right wing crap as irwin and the canwest talking heads, the NDP is not run by unions, if you were to do your homework you would know this. Carol James wants to distance herself from unions which is her business, I don't really support this but if this is what she has to do to get rid of perceptions like yours then so be it. Whatever it takes to get rid of that slime ball we have in there now.

The NDP does support working families, women and Natives, which I do like, have always fought for the underdog myself, not the corporate elite or rich, hoping for the crumbs to trickle down. I do not agree with the NDP on much but they will get my vote because they are in my opinion the lesser of two evils, sad but true!

Wouldn't sell my values for a buck either which is a trait sadly lacking in over 90% of politicians, it remains to be seen where James lies but you never know and we can hope for the best. Anyone who took a good look at gordo before he got elected would know what he is all about! Hell I would take Vanderzalm over him.

If you have concerns over the proposed sale of Terasen to Kinder Morgan, you may be interested in this opportunity:

Quote:

Interested in the proposed sale of Terasen Gas?

Aug, 26 2005 - 2:30 AM

VANCOUVER/CKNW(AM980) - Those wanting to pay close attention to the proposed sale of BC's largest gas distributor are starting to sign up prior to an upcoming hearing.

The BC Utilities Commission will eventually decide whether to approve the sale of Terasen incorporated to American company Kinder Morgan.

Anyone wanting to actively take part, or follow the hearing closely, should sign up by September 6th.

Richard Gathercole of the BC Public Interest Advocacy Center is among those who have registered so far, "Basically the questions are whether the utilities will continue to operate as they have been operating under the regulation of the BCUC."

Gathercole wants to ensure there is no negative impact on ratepayers.
wonder what's going to be sold at this meeting between El Gordo Klein and Cheney, arranged behind closed doors by the Fraser Institute.

http://sevenoaksmag.com/commentary/75_comm1.html

Instead of forever wondering, why not sign up and see for yourself.

http://www.bcuc.com/Registration.aspx

The Americans consider the oilsands part of their supply. We in Canada do likewise and treat this valuable resource as something we want to sell only to Americans. China and India are also short of oil so we should be looking at other customers.

Why is it the business class in this country only see the U.S. in this age of globalization.

Commentor: Ursus  posted: 2 Days Ago

How would signing up to the BCUC get me into the meeting with El Gordo Klein and Cheney? Do you think the Fraser Institute really cares about the concerns of Canadians? They have their own agenda!

Commentor: Jamez  posted: 2 Days Ago

"You are spewing the same right wing crap as Irwin and the Canwest talking heads, the NDP is not run by unions"

Ursus, they may want to distance themselves from unions, but they still can't. Many of their MLA's are still union people. Respectfully, I would tell you to do your homework. As well, I'm no spewing right wing crap, I am just as opposed to corps moving in as I am unions controlling everything. That's the problem, we polarize ourselves... if you are left and say something against unions you are automatically branded a right winger and vice versa. This province needs to work and vote for the people, not special interests.

Commentor: Ursus  posted: 1 Day Ago

Just because someone is or has been in a union doesn't mean they can't govern for everyone, that they are a special interest, I would trust a union rep before trusting any damn used car sales man like the Socreds and...
liberals, what I find annoying is people who criticize unions then ride along on their coat tails enjoying a high standard of living fought for by unions. If all the unions go down you can be damn sure that your standard of living will drop take a look at all the right to work states and how high their standard of living is.

I don't consider someone who is critical of corporations to be right or left being left is about caring for the less fortunate in our society, things like universal healthcare, a right to affordable education. Being left is about fighting for social justice and change that benefits everyone in society not the chosen few.

Fighting for the environment so our kids and grand kids might be able to breath the air and drink the water and afford to go to a doctor.

I have done my homework!

commentor: Mel from Calgary  posted: 1 Day Ago

Hear! Hear! ursus.

commentor: jamez  posted: 1 Day Ago

Urses, the gifts given to Unions by the NDP when they were in power were great in number. During that time independent business people suffered as the economy went into a crud spiral.

commentor: jamez  posted: 1 Day Ago

Hence, people in this province have suffered due to the greed of unions. Now we're going to suffer due to the greed of corps. Who speaks for non-union joe? Nobody.

commentor: North of Hope  posted: 1 Day Ago

In the 1990's, the BC economy was hurt by the Asian meltdown and the drop in commodity prices. At the same time, the federal government, reduced transfer payments. These events hurt the BC economy. Since then, this has changed. Commodity prices have increased, construction has boomed (all across North America) and the federal gov't has changed the transfer payment rules, so BC has a surplus. This has nothing to do with the BC Liberals or gifts to the unions. jamez you say "Who speaks for non-union joe? Nobody." Therein lies the reason why you should not support the BC Liberals. They only help their friends, those who support them, ie those that give them money. Anyone else is either attacked (like the unions) or ignored like the non-union Joe. A local business leader who is involved with the PG Airport said it best when he explained why the local airport authority made a financial contribution to the BC Liberals, it is done to get the ear of the government. It looks as though the BC Liberals have their own brand of
patronage and paybacks.

commentor: jamez posted: 1 Day Ago

"They only help their friends, those who support them, ie those that give them money." Yeah, just like when the NDP was in . That argument about commodity prices is only partly true, it's NDP rhetoric in an attempt to not make themselves look so bad economically... The 90s were the most prosperous time in history for pretty well every place in North America, except BC. And commodity prices weren't the only reason. When the NDP was in power they just didn't do a good job of finding ways to diversify. That being said, the economy got better because the Liberals opened up the province to business by letting business do whatever it wanted. They changed legislation, gave grants... whatever. AND that method is just as bad.

I'm not a liberal supporter (But again this outlines the way we stereotype each other in this province. But hey, keep doing it, the politicians love it, plays right into their hands.) and I'm not an NDP supporter. The point I'm trying to make is that we need to get rid of these partisan parties. That's why I hope those regs about Union/Corp donations are brought in.

great scott you have been busy jamez, I will get back to you on all your points but not right now, you do have one I wish to challenge right now! You say...

"Urses, the gifts given to Unions by the NDP when they were in power were great in number. During that time independent business people suffered as the economy went into a crud spiral."

What gifts and what did the ndp do too hurt small business? The feds were out to screw us any way they could as a province and I for one will never forgive the federa liberals for that BS. So again what did they(ndp) give to unions?

BTW if you look into it and actually do your homework you will find that the economy the ndp inherited was not so good and they actually created more jobs then the present regime but the media didn't want the moron factor to know this.

B.C. has always had a boom or bust economy wait and see what happens under el gordo if gas keeps going up.

When kirkoff construction 51% in then premier bill bennets wife was
screwing their workers the carpenters unions spent a lot of their own money
defending the non union workers so get a life, or do some research!

**commentor: gasworks**  posted: **18 Hours Ago**

Ursus, I think you need some rest.

**commentor: jamez**  posted: **5 Hours Ago**

"So again what did they(ndp) give to unions?"

How about 900 million dollars and free welding lessons for steelworkers to
build useless ferries?

Look Ursus... this fight's gonna go on forever.. so I'm bowing out now.

**commentor: jamez**  posted: **5 Hours Ago**

One more...
"they actually created more jobs then the present regime"

Make work projects that drain the public purse don't count!

**commentor: ursus**  posted: **5 Hours Ago**

I am beginning to suspect you are a liberal trying to say you are something
else, at the very least come up with a different argument then the ferries.
How many spin off industries have been started by the specialized training
so many received. Did your liberal accountants take all that into
consideration, no as it would have taken a lot of their argument away.
Whats wrong with giving people on welfare training, many of them are still
working in the industry when there is work! What you might consider a little
more successful program for getting people off welfare then the present
regimes scheme.

Speaking of the liberals it is my opinion gordo waisted millions of taxpayers
dollars making a political point, tied up at Dease, then he sold them for
peanuts to a friend so he wouldn't be so upset when gordo sent the ferry
contract to germany, thats the way it looks to me when you add it all up.
Why didn't he except Allstohms offer to repower make changes to the hull
eliminating most of the wake and adding a couple bucks onto the fee so
users could pay! Because he was to busy spending our money to make
himself look good.

If you are referring to the Island Highway and other Highway projects an
economist by name of Rosalyzn Khunin dissagrees with you totally, saying
the NDP got a real good bargain, quality workmanship at a good price, the
building trades gave up 2 bucks an hour a big chunk off their pension and
reduced overtime pay if I remember correctly so once again do your
homework.

Infrastructure improvements were needed and done at a good price, now what are the liberals going to do that is any different, I doubt we will get a good deal out of them!!!

commentor: ursus  posted: 5 Hours Ago

trades training should be free or where will we get skilled trades if young people are unable to afford the training?

commentor: jamez  posted: 4 Hours Ago

"I am beginning to suspect you are a liberal trying to say you are something else"

Get over it I'm not a liberal and I'm not one of these people who's going to run around pretending the NDP is some saviour party that has never done anything wrong and never will.

The overly partisan on this board boggle my mind.

I think you're an NDP agent sent here to defend the NDP at all costs.

And if you were defending the liberal party I'd be just as hard on them.

commentor: jamez  posted: 4 Hours Ago

"Speaking of the liberals it is my opinion gordo waisted millions of taxpayers dollars making a political point, tied up at Dease, then he sold them for peanuts to a friend so he wouldn't be so upset when gordo sent the ferry contract to germany"

And you're correct... if you want me to bash the liberals I can do that too.

commentor: freebear  posted: 3 Hours Ago

Once again apparent partisan battles that to me a a waste of time.

WHAT ARE YOUR SOLUTIONS to a particular problem/opportunity????????????????????

Is something good for everyone, or only a few?

if the TYEE becomes a right, centre and/or left platform with no discussion about solutions then I will likely visit this site less (not that this will influence anything).

What say you?
If you read my previous postings, you'll see I say I agree.

unfortunately the only solution I have is to suggest that people pick the political party they find least offensive and try to work from within, if the average person in B.C. represented the majority of a parties membership then James or el gordo would have to pay attention to the needs and concerns of the average person.

Most of the people I know left or right don't believe in either extreme but here we are with a extreme idealoge running the Province into the ground selling us off one chunk at a time. I don't agree with this so I support the NDP by giving them money and bashing the zealots on forums like this one Thetyee offers us. NDP insider no, supporter yes they are the lesser of two evils in my mind, I am concerned about my childrens future in this Province.

It is my opinion that gordo and the suits who support him would sell us off piece by piece making themselves rich in the process. If you look up who sponsored el gordo and company you can see how he returned the favour at our expense!

By not supporting a viable alternative we are helping el gordo get re-elected, if the greens had not been in the picture who knows what would have happened in the last election. Like most who are concerned about B.C. I think the media coverage is biased to say the least, they handed gordo the electorate on a platter when he first got in, no one can deny this.
I strongly oppose the sale of Terasan to a Houston based company. Please do not approve this sale.
I am very much against the sale of Terasen to Kinder Morgan Inc. I wish I still owned Terasen stock so I could vote NO to the sale.

Marlene Pauls
I am writing this in disbelief, I hope that the information given to me is nothing but a e-mail hoax.

I would deffinetly want to express my anger that such a thing could happen. Canadian natural resources should not be for sale to American companies, how would we control the price increases that would be implemented. We can barely control the price increases that the Canadian companies try to give.

As for saying that there will be some sort of legislration barring this from happening lets take a long hard look at the legisration thats in place over softwood lumber (and that is an entire contnents ruling) to see what the mighty US of A does when they want to do something.

Remember I might be but one email, but remember what happens when you double your pennies every day for a month, If only one person from every time this request gets fowarded emails you your negitive responses will be huge.

Martin McCarthy
Dear Commission Secretary and Members,

In view of the American complete disregard for their responsibilities under NAFTA by refusing to repay the $5B in illegally collected lumber duties, why would we allow them to physically control the natural gas and also the network of pipelines through which it is moved to US markets. How can we turn off the tap if it is owned by Americans? What happens if they choose not to pay us for the gas??

It seems to me that this is a Canadian Sovereignty issue not just monetary.......I seem to recall that when ENRON went broke (at least on paper) that BC Hydro had to eat $500 million that we never got paid for.

Marty Butler,
2423 Nechako Drive,
Kamloops, B.C.
V2E 1S6
250-828-1387
I object to giving control to Americans or any other country the natural resources that should belong to and be under the control of Canadians. I urge you keep our resources ours, what are we going to sell then next, our water and air.

Mary Anne
Dear Sir or Madam.

I want to register my Strong rejection of the purchase of Terasen Gas by a US company, **Kinder Morgan**. Please register my opposition and have it documented for the future hearing. Thank You!

Regards,

Yours truly,

Mesbah Taherzadeh, P.Eng.
W. Vancouver, BC
I believe the proposed sale of Terasen Gas to Kinder Morgan of Texas is a huge mistake and that it breaks faith with the people of British Columbia. It is insane to sell of such resources to foreign investors. Insane.

Michele McManus

White Rock
Dear Secretary:

This email is to share my deepest concerns regarding the sale of Terasen Inc. to Kinder Morgan Inc.

This sale will undoubtedly rob B.C. communities of the power to influence future energy decisions in the province. It will also reinforce the view that Canadians are, in effect, becoming tenants in their own land.

Since the implementation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, we have witnessed the increasing loss of control over the country’s energy resources and its infrastructures. From the elimination of the 25-year contingency reserve provision, to the implementation of the proportional sharing provision, most of Canada’s energy decisions have resulted in our country losing sovereignty over our resources.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to prevent this deal by refusing to ratify it until such time as an exhaustive evaluation of Canada’s energy situation is completed and provincial and national energy strategies are drafted and adopted. As the U.S. Administration is keen to highlight, control of energy resources will be the struggle of the future. Canada needs to start preparing for this struggle and defending infrastructures built and paid for by the Canadian public.

Sincerely,

Penny Powers, Ph.D., RN
Professor, School of Nursing
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in order to share my deepest concern regarding the sale of Terasen Inc. to Kinder Morgan Inc., which you will soon be asked to approve.

Since the implementation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, I have witnessed the increasing loss of control over the country's energy resources and its infrastructures. From the elimination of the 25-year contingency reserve provision, to the implementation of the proportional sharing provision, most of Canada's energy decisions have resulted in our country losing sovereignty over our resources.

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Sincerely,

Sebrina Woligroski
To the Commission of BC Utilities, I wish to notify you that as a British Columbian I strongly object to the sale of Terasen Gas to Kinder Morgan. I feel strongly that British Columbians should control and own our precious Energy and not sell it to foreign companies, especially Kinder Morgan when their CEO is Richard Kinder who was former CEO of the Enron Fiasco. Do we want a mess like Enron for your children and mine? Please, I beg you not to approve the sale of Terasen. Thankyou

Stella Hansen
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in order to share my deepest concern regarding the sale of Terasen Inc. to Kinder Morgan Inc., which you will soon be asked to approve.

Since the implementation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, I have witnessed the increasing loss of control over our country’s energy resources and its infrastructures. From the elimination of the 25-year contingency reserve provision, to the implementation of the proportional sharing provision, most of Canada’s energy decisions have resulted in our country losing sovereignty over our resources.

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I urge you to prevent this deal by refusing to ratify it until such time as an exhaustive evaluation of Canada’s energy situation is completed and provincial – and national – energy strategies are drafted and adopted. As the U.S. Administration is keen to highlight, control of energy resources will be the struggle of the future. Canada needs to start preparing for this struggle and defending infrastructures built and paid for by the Canadian public.

Sincerely,
Steven C Hutton
As a concerned citizen I am very concerned about this sale.

In my opinion it should not take place! We need to have control over our resources, an American Company should not control this.

Regards

Tom Astley

----- Original Message -----
From: Tom and Peggy Eburne
To: eburne1@shaw.ca
Sent: Sunday, August 28, 2005 8:37 PM
Subject: FW: Sale of BC to the Americans

-----Original Message-----
From: Pollyanne Moorman [mailto:pollyanne@telus.net]
Sent: Sunday, August 28, 2005 2:56 PM
To: Alice Edge
Subject: Fw: Sale of BC to the Americans

Sale of BC to Americans

Do you want your heating bills to go out of this world well then allow this to happen

This is an urgent notice regarding the sale of BC Owned Terasen Gas to American company Kinder Morgan Inc.

If you have any concerns about the sale of our resources to the Americans, now is the time to speak up.
I have emailed my comments to commission.secretary@bcuc.com and I would hope that you voice your opinion now while you can.

Once the American's own this resource we will have to buy it back from them and at what price. Just think about it for a minute here.

They will own our natural resource.

**Are we British Columbians or are we British Americans?**

Please email your complaint or comments to the email address noted above and help save our province.

Also kindly forward this message on to others so that they too can express their concerns about this matter as well.
Would like to obtain details re sale of Terasen to Kinder. Concerned that a non BC/Canadian company owning such a key aspect of BC's natural resource distribution. I think on the surface the sale should not be allowed to go thru as we will have no control in this area in the future.

Regards,
Tony Gilbert
Certified Financial Planner
Equinox Financial Group/
Investia Financial Services

Kamloops (office) 250-377-8663
Toll Free Phone/Fax 1-866-281-2258

http://www.tonygilbert.ca

'Helping make the money you earn work harder for you'
Please keep Terasen Gas a canadian company. We need to preserve our natural resource sector ownership so we do not get priced out of the market by american big business. The sale of any of our natural resource companies should be a federal crime I am not against free market and free enterprise but when it comes to resources that are held in Canada ownership of the companies that capitalize those resources should stay in Canadian hands.