

**BC Hydro and Power Authority  
2008 Long-Term Acquisition Plan**

**Direct Testimony of Thomas Hackney**  
03 March 2009

**Q1. Please introduce yourself to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC).**

A. My name is Thomas Hackney. With the BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA), I hold the positions of Vice-President and Chair of the Policy Committee. I am also BCSEA's authorized representative in proceedings before the BCUC. With the Sierra Club of Canada, BC Chapter, I am a volunteer on energy and climate change issues, and I am SCBC's authorized representative in proceedings before the BCUC.

**Q2. How long have you held your current positions?**

A. I have been a director of BCSEA since its formation five years ago and Vice-President for about two years. I have been Chair of the BCSEA Policy Committee for about two years. I have been BCSEA's representative in BCUC matters for about five years. I have been a volunteer campaigner for SCBC on energy and climate change issues for about nine years. I have been SCBC's representative in BCUC matters for about six years. Before that I represented SCBC in the National Energy Board – Canadian Environment Assessment Agency Joint Panel Review of the proposed Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline. From 2006 to 2007, I represented SCBC on the External Review Panel for BC Hydro's 2007 Conservation Potential Review. From 2006 to January 2009, I represented SCBC on BC Hydro's Electricity Conservation and Efficiency Advisory Panel. Until January 2009, I also represented SCBC on BC Hydro's Rates Working Group, BC Hydro's Strategic Framework Working Group and BC Hydro's Split Incentives Working Group.

**Q3. What position did you hold prior to joining BCSEA and SCBC and with whom?**

A. I was employed with the architectural firm of Killick, Metz, Bowen, Rose.

**Q4. What are your educational and professional qualifications?**

A. I received a Bachelor of Science degree with honours in biology from Dalhousie University in 1978. I received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of British Columbia in 1989. I received a Bachelor of Arts degree in creative writing from the University of Victoria in 1998.

**Q5. Have you previously testified before the BCUC or any other regulatory bodies?**

A. Yes. In 2003, I testified on behalf of the GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition in the National Energy Board – Canadian Environment Assessment Agency in the matter of the proposed Georgia Strait Crossing Pipeline.

**Q6. What is your role in testifying for BCSEA, *et al* in this proceeding?**

A. My role is to speak to the positions of BCSEA and SCBC in relation to the issue of fuel switching.

**Q7. Where do BCSEA and SCBC stand on fuel switching, and why?**

A. BCSEA and SCBC do not support fuel switching programs (here taken to include fuel substitution) from electricity to natural gas at this time.

BCSEA and SCBC are interested in this issue mainly because of the relation of fuel switching to the current crisis of global warming and climate change, driven mainly by human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases, including those from the burning of fossil fuels.

BCSEA and SCBC are aware of arguments that electricity to natural gas fuel switching programs in British Columbia would reduce energy use and cause net reductions in greenhouse gas emissions because the amount of additional gas used for space and water heating would be less than the reduction in the amount of gas that would otherwise have been used to generate electricity for the space and water heating uses. The rationale is that gas-fired and coal-fired generation are the marginal sources of electricity in the WECC region. And, programs that reduce electricity use in B.C. either allow less use of Burrard gas-fired generation or carbon-intensive electricity imports, or free up 'clean' and renewable B.C. electricity to displace gas- and coal-fired generation in neighbouring jurisdictions.

BCSEA and SCBC are also aware of arguments that the appropriate response to the global crisis of climate change is for human societies around to world to make immediate deep cuts in the use of fossil fuels of all kinds.

BCSEA and SCBC judge that it would be premature to implement fuel switching programs in B.C. before there has been a detailed quantitative study of the GHG emissions consequences in B.C. and western North America.

BCSEA and SCBC also judge that there is a risk of significant public confusion around any program to promote electricity to gas fuel switching because of the apparently contradictory message that burning more natural gas is desirable. Unless such confusion was prevented, there would be a concern that any GHG benefits of electricity to gas fuel switching programs could be outweighed by the damage done to other efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For these reasons, BCSEA and SCBC advocate a cautious approach toward fuel switching programs.