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Long Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry BC Utility Commission:

The North Columbia Environmental Society is situated in Revelstoke and we are very aware of the large scale of electricity transmission lines, we have one running adjacent to our community. Tremendous cost and environmental impacts result from these much needed structures. We are writing you as a result of the BCTC announcement in our local newspaper.

Do we need more power transmission lines? If so, there is tremendous cost and environmental impact, and once again, conservation, public education, and higher rates for industrial users would be more cost effective and environmentally friendly choices. However, the truth may be that the province sees power export as the primary driver for more large scale transmission line projects, and if that is the case it should be stated clearly so that BC citizens understand what is driving such needs, expense, and environmental impacts. There is a great deal of debate as to whether or not BC needs more power and many experts say that we do not, if true conservation measures for all users are put in place. Measures should include a sliding scale for industry, more steps on the residential sliding scale, subsidies for efficiency improvements, and investments in public alternative energy models.

We are concerned that this is part of a bigger picture of the BC government's efforts to justify their Energy Plan and to subsidize some of the planned independent power projects (IPP) by developing lines in areas that will make IPP development more affordable. We are concerned that with more development of transmission lines in remote areas there will be more IPP's, more roads, more access to wilderness, and the subsequent loss of wildlife habitat.

It seems that now the BC Transmission Corporation is attempting to facilitate these IPP's and to provide the opportunity for exporting this electricity. Electrical energy development in BC should be limited to the needs of the people of BC only and not for export and not for private profit.

Unfortunately we cannot attend the workshop or procedural conference, but the North Columbia Environmental Society would like you to seriously consider our concerns as outlined in this letter,

Yours Sincerely,

Sarah Newton, President
North Columbia Environmental Society