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7 October 2009

Ms. Erica Hamilton  
Commission Secretary  
British Columbia Utilities Commission  
900 Howe Street, Sixth Floor  
Vancouver BC, V6Z 2N3

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

**Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission (Commission)**  
**Project No. 3698545 / Order G-108-09**  
**Inquiry into British Columbia's Long-Term Transmission Infrastructure (Inquiry)**  
**Submission on First Nations Phase and Consultant(s)**

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In Appendix A to Commission Order G-108-09, the Commission requested Participants' input on two topics by 7 October 2009: a First Nations phase and the engagement of a First Nations consultant or consultants. This letter provides BCTC's input on these topics.

BCTC supports the establishment of a specific phase focused on transmission and other issues important to First Nations. BCTC cautions that, while this phase may be focused on obtaining First Nations' input, BCTC expects that there will be other parts of the Inquiry process that many First Nations Participants will also be interested in, and should expect to participate in. BCTC does not have any preferences regarding the locations for this phase.

Regarding the issue of formality, BCTC believes that there are steps which the Commission could choose to take to make these sessions less formal, such as more casual attire. However, if the submissions made at these sessions are going to constitute part of the evidentiary record, BCTC respectfully submits that all evidence should be on the record, that evidence should be subject to cross-examination, and that the proceedings should still take place in accordance with the rules of natural justice.

The Commission also requested input as to whether specific First Nations scenarios should be developed and reviewed in this phase. BCTC agrees that it may be useful to modify existing scenarios or undertake sensitivity analyses to explore the implications of First Nations' input on the various inputs to the Long-term Transmission Planning Model. However, with respect, BCTC is concerned with describing these as "specific First Nations scenarios". BCTC expects that it is unlikely that the scenarios or sensitivity analyses emerging from the First Nations phase will be wholly distinct from other scenarios used in the Inquiry. BCTC further expects that some First

Nations' inputs will be common with inputs in other scenarios and that First Nations may wish to see the implications of various input assumptions relative to other scenarios used in the Inquiry. BCTC is prepared to assist with the development and running of modifications or sensitivity analyses to various scenarios to reflect First Nations input so long as the appropriate data is available for input into BCTC's Long-term Planning Model.

BCTC does not have any detailed input on the engagement of a First Nations consultant(s). BCTC does believe that the appointment of the consultant and his/her terms of reference should be transparent so that everyone is clear on the consultant's role and, if desired, has a chance to comment on the terms of reference for the consultant.

Sincerely,

*Original signed by:*

Janet L. Fraser  
Director, Regulatory Affairs

Copy: Registered Participants