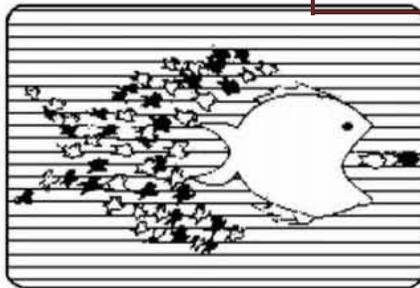


The  
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24 August 2011

Our File: 7485

**Via Email:** [bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com](mailto:bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com)

Ms. Janet Fraser  
Chief Regulatory Officer  
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
333 Dunsmuir Street  
Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

Dear Ms. Fraser:

**Re: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  
for the Dawson Creek/Chetwynd Area Transmission Project  
Project No.3698640  
BCOAPO et. al Information Request #1**

Further to Commission Order G-132-11, please find enclosed BCOAPO's Information Request No. 1.

Sincerely,  
BC PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE

Eugene Kung  
Barrister & Solicitor  
Encl.

Cc: Registered Interveners

**REQUESTOR NAME:** BCOAPO  
**INFORMATION REQUEST ROUND NO:** #1  
**TO:** BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO & POWER AUTHORITY  
**DATE:** August 24, 2011  
**PROJECT NO:** 3698640  
**APPLICATION NAME:** CPCN – Dawson Creek/Chetwynd Area Transmission Project

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**1.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, System Planning Report (Appendix B), page 86  
Exhibit B-1, pages 2-4 and 2-19**

1.1 Page 2-19 makes reference to the existing load in the area. Appendix C of the System Planning Report (page 86) indicates that the current load in the Dawson Creek and Groundbirch area is roughly 100 MW. Please confirm that this is the case and, with reference to Figure 2-2, please indicate where this load is distributed within the area.

1.2 What is the load associated with the gas producers in the area that are currently BC Hydro customers.

1.2.1 Please confirm (per page 82) that these customer are currently served on an interruptible basis.

1.3 Are there any other current customers in area that are served on an interruptible basis?

1.4 Of the roughly 100 MW of current load, how much is served on an interruptible basis?

**2.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 2-9**

**Preamble:** The Application distinguishes between those gas producers “who have indicated their intent to take service from BC Hydro” and those “who have indicated an interest but not yet made any formal commitments”.

2.1 Please describe what entails “a formal commitment to take service”.

2.2 What is the anticipated load (MW) associated with those gas producers who have made a formal commitment to take service?

**3.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, pages 2-13**

3.1 Were any other local generation options considered besides wind (e.g. local gas-fired generation)? If not, why not? If yes, why were they rejected?

**4.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, pages 2-15 and 2-17**

4.1 What are the comparative economics for a gas producer of using electric vs. direct gas compression?

**5.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 2-19 and System Planning Report (Appendix B), page 82 of 100**

5.1 What is the total load (MW) associated with the five large producers that have requested service?

5.2 What is the total load for all customers who have “requested service”?

5.3 Is it anticipated that the balance of the (up to) 278 MW of the forecast gas producer load (per Appendix B, page 82) will be associated with producers requiring less than 10 MW? Alternatively, does BC Hydro expect that there will additional requests for service from gas producers seeking more than 10 MW of power?

5.3.1 If yes, will these customers also be required to provide “security” and how will the amount be determined.

5.4 The determination of the 40/60 split appears to only take into account the transmission requirements to meet the needs of the existing customers and the five large producers. Where and how are the capacity requirements and costs to meet the needs of either smaller (<10 MW producers) or larger producers that have not “requested service” taken into account in the determination of security requirements?

**6.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, pages 2-14; 3-4 to 3-6 and 3-10**

6.1 Please provide a revised version of Figure 2-5 based on Alternative 1, showing the new N-0 and N-1 limits.

6.2 Please provide a revised version of Figure 2-5 based on Alternative 2, showing the new N-0 and N-1 limits.

6.3 The Application states (page 3-4) that Alternative 1 will increase the firm transmission capacity to 185 MW which will meet the forecasted load requirements for the next 30 years. Please reconcile this statement with the fact the load forecast for the area increases to roughly 300 MW over the next 30 years.

6.4 Please reconcile the 185 MW and 207 MW transmission capacity values reported on pages 3-4 and 3-6 for Alternatives 1 and 2 respectively with the 413 MW and 368 MW supply capability values reported on page 3-10.

**7.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, pages 3-8 to 3-9**

7.1 At what value of energy (2011 \$) is Alternative 2’s present value less than that for Alternative 1?

7.2 Based on the \$129/MWh value for losses, by what percentage would the gas producer load forecast have to be reduced in order for the present value of Alternative 1 to exceed that for Alternative 2?

**8.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, Project Alternatives (Section 3)**

8.1 Assuming that virtually all of the gas producer requirements for were met through direct gas compression such that the load forecast more closely tracked the “Other Forecast” in Figure 2-3, would there be any other transmission alternatives for meeting the load requirements of the Dawson Creek and Groundbirch area over the next 30 years?

8.1.1 If not, why not?

8.1.2 If yes, what are they? Please provide rough cost estimates for the two most viable.

8.2 Assuming that the gas producer requirements were as projected in the Low Scenario forecast, would there be any other transmission alternatives for meeting the load requirements of the Dawson Creek and Groundbirch area over the next 30 years?

8.2.1 If not, why not?

8.2.2 If yes, what are they? Please provide rough cost estimates for the two most viable.

**9.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 4-9**

9.1 Please explain more fully the “higher constructability risk” associated with Option E1.

**10.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 4-11**

10.1 Please explain more fully why Option C1 is considered to have a “lower constructability risk”.

**11.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 5-3**

11.1 Please confirm whether or not BC Hydro intends on adopting/implementing the various mitigation measures set out in Table 5-1 and whether or not the costs of these measures have been included in the Project’s cost estimate.

**12.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 6-6**

12.1 Please confirm that the Blueberry First Nation should also have been included in those First Nations identified through the CAD search. If not how was their potential interest identified?

**13.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, pages 6-10 to 6-13**

13.1 Are any of the lands affected by the propose project ones where the Treaty 8 signatory First Nations currently have treaty rights as discussed at lines 1-7 of page 6-11?

13.1.1 If so, what lands and which First Nations are affected?

**14.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 7-3**

14.1 Are the security requirements based on the forecast or the actual project costs?

**15.0 Reference: Exhibit B-1, page 7-9**

15.1 Given the definition of the P90 cost estimate, please explain why there is considered to be a “moderate probability” that the cost estimate will be exceeded.