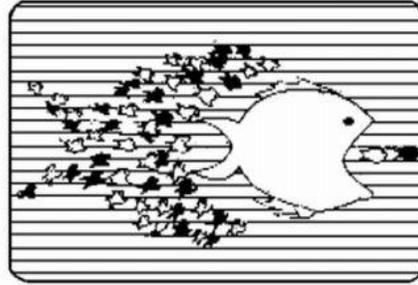


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April 24, 2012

**Our File: 7490**

Ms. Alanna Gillis  
Acting Commission Secretary  
BC Utilities Commission  
6th Floor 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Ms. Gillis:

**RE: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (“BC Hydro”)  
Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  
for the Dawson Creek/Chetwynd Area Transmission Project (“DCAT”)  
Project No. 3698640**

Our clients in this matter, BCOAPO et al., are a group of community-based organizations whose members are low and fixed income residential BC Hydro electricity ratepayers. We make the following comments in response to the Commission’s letter (Letter L-23-12) inviting Interveners to respond to BC Hydro’s April 17<sup>th</sup> submission regarding which IR’s are, in its view, out of scope; rendered unnecessary by the information contained in Exhibit B-22; or otherwise now irrelevant.

In its submission, BC Hydro branded Exhibit B-22 as an effectively complete Round 3 of IR’s, both asked and answered. BCOAPO is not content to let this characterization stand unchallenged. While B-22 may have been responsive to some IR’s for some parties, it was by no means responsive to all in-scope IR’s and should not be relied upon to excuse the utility from legitimate, in-scope examination of the issues. The utility went on to assert that as a result, a “fourth” round of IR’s is an unwarranted waste of time and resources. The Utility acknowledged that the Commission may possibly find it constructive enough to proceed with a further round of IR’s but asked that questions be restricted to those dealing with B-22’s Supplementary Evidence (SE) along with whatever round three IR’s BC Hydro has not objected to, and those the BCUC directs the utility respond to despite their objections.

We, on behalf of our clients, ask this Commission Panel to order BC Hydro to answer forthwith all outstanding IR’s found to be in scope provided parties are able to identify to the Commission’s satisfaction how the SE has not answered the question. BCOAPO also asks for a separate round of IR’s to allow parties to the process to ask questions about

the SE and to seek clarification should any IR responses from Round 3 be confusing, vague, or non-responsive.

### **BCOAPO IR 3.2.1**

BC Hydro objected to answering this IR on the basis that it was addressed by “SE Questions 13 and 93 to the extent that there is responsive evidence available.” (Exhibit B-25, page 9). However, these two references do not address the question raised in the IR.

SE Question 13 does not provide any indication of the contractual arrangements with these customers during the period that N-1 service cannot be provided.

SE Question 93 indicates that BC Hydro expects load to exceed 185 MW before or soon after the DCAT is complete, and that the utility has advised all new industrial customers that they will need to participate in a remedial action scheme until the future GDAT project can be brought into service. BCOAPO notes that it is not clear what the utility meant when it referred to “new customers” in the response to SE Question 93. Presumably this would be new load customers creating the demand in excess of 185 MW and not all new gas producer loads are included in the load forecast. BCOAPO requires clarification on these issues as well as indication of to whom the RAS participation would apply. As a result, the response the utility points to does not address the period prior to the completion of the DCAT and what “contractual requirements” have been imposed on the new customers connecting prior to its completion.

### **BCOAPO 3.5.1 to 3.5.3**

BC Hydro has claimed that these IR’s have been answered in SE Question 11 and that security has not been requested because it is too early in the process. However, BCOAPO requires confirmation that if commitments are firmed up security will be requested, how the security amounts will be determined, and whether that will impact the security requirements of the initial five.

### **BCOAPO 3.7.1**

BC Hydro’s objection to this IR is based on an assertion that it has been answered in SE Question 67. However, after reviewing the question cited, BCOAPO notes that SE Question 67 does not provide the necessary clarification as to whether the \$116/MWh expressed in 2011 dollars is in nominal dollars (such that it would stay constant in future years) or is in real dollars (such that it would escalate in lockstep with inflation in future, post 2011 years). Also, it is unclear whether the same response would apply to the \$50/MWh quoted as the market value of energy in that same SE Question.

### **Other IR’s Subject to an Objection**

BC Hydro objected to answering BCOAPO IR 3.3.1 on the basis that it was answered on page 7 of the SE. We note that End Use Rates are discussed on page 5 and seek

clarification that that is the page BC Hydro intended to cite. If so, we do not require a further answer to this IR.

BC Hydro's objection to BCOAPO IR's 3.4.1 and 3.4.3 cited the SE's Questions 72 and 91. After reviewing the material, we are prepared to accept these answers as sufficient provided there is provision made for an additional round of IR's on the SE as we may have additional questions to ask regarding the material filed in the reference SE Questions.

BC Hydro has claimed that it has responded to BCOAPO IR 3.8.1 in the SE Questions 67 and 69. Provided the clarification requested for BCOAPO 3.7.1 is forthcoming, we are content and seek no further response to this IR.

### **IR's Not Subject to an Objection**

BC Hydro has requested that parties with IR's not specifically referenced in their April 17<sup>th</sup> Response confirm that these IR responses are still required. As a result, BCOAPO confirms for the record that we are still seeking answers to our IR's 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, 3.6.1, and 3.6.2.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,  
BC PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE

*Original on File Signed by:*

Leigha Worth  
Executive Director  
Barrister & Solicitor