

# BC Hydro's Distribution/Extension Policy Workshop

## Meeting Minutes

Exhibition Park, Abbotsford, BC

February 15, 2007

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### ATTENDEES

Name	Organization
Colin Commandeur	Buzan Consultants
Phil Cook	Dayton and Knight Consulting Engineering
Dale Coull	Khangura Engineering
David Drummond	Omega Engineering
Jon Zbarsky	DF and Associates Consulting Ltd

### BC HYDRO PROJECT TEAM

Name	Organization & Department
Allan Chung	BC Hydro
Milan Prpic	BC Hydro
Jane Christensen	BC Hydro
Basil Stumborg	BC Hydro

### MEETING OBJECTIVES

The objectives that BC Hydro wanted to achieve through this meeting were to:

- Present the drivers for changes to the BC Hydro extension policy
- Summarize BC Hydro's experience with the existing policy
- Propose a straw model for a new policy
- Obtain comments from BC Hydro's stakeholders

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Regulatory Framework
3. Existing Extension Policy

4. Drivers for Change
5. Straw Model With Examples
6. Feedback

## HANDOUTS PROVIDED AT THE MEETING

Paper copies of the following materials were distributed at the meeting.

Item	Description
Handouts - "BC Hydro Extension Policy Changes - Workshop for Lower Mainland Developers and Consultants" Power Point presentation	PowerPoint presentation

## PRESENTATIONS DELIVERED AT THE MEETING

The following Power Point presentation was delivered during the meeting; paper copies were distributed at the meeting as indicated.

Item	Description
BC Hydro Extension Policy Changes	PowerPoint presentation

### Summary

BCH gave a presentation regarding its upcoming Rate Design Application, with a focus on its extension policy.

The objectives that BC Hydro wanted to achieve through this meeting were to:

- Present the drivers for changes to the BC Hydro extension policy
- Summarize BC Hydro's experience with the existing policy
- Propose a straw model for a new policy
- Obtain comments from BC Hydro's stakeholders

BC Hydro asked attendees to:

- Share their experiences with the existing policy
- Provide input into the formulation of a new policy

The topics covered included:

- Regulatory Framework
- Terminology

- Existing Extension Policy
- Drivers for Change
- Straw Model with Examples

#### Feedback:

With regards to removing the **bias towards electric heating**, participants felt that this was a positive move that would level the playing field between competing heating technologies. In particular, participants were sceptical that, under the old policy, BC Hydro would be able to accurately predict whether a new development would be heated through gas or electric heat.

The move to credit **extensions to extensions** was seen as participants as being more fair than the previous policy. However, participants still had outstanding questions around the best timing for asking for refunds. In particular, *participants wanted to know whether it was better to apply year after year for a refund, or to wait until the end of 5 year, and how changing rates and power costs influence this decision.*

When asked whether this policy was **easier to understand** than the previous policy, participants said yes. However, some concern was expressed that BC Hydro will continue to rely on developers to track whether they are due refunds for extensions to extensions.