



**British Columbia Transmission
CORPORATION™**

**Office of the President and
Chief Executive Officer**

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March 17, 2005

Ms. Val Roddick, MLA
Delta South
5080 – 48th Avenue
Delta, B.C.
V4K 1V8

Mayor Lois E. Jackson
The Corporation of Delta
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent
Delta, B.C.
V4K 3E2

Dear MLA Roddick and Mayor Jackson:

RE: Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project

British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) appreciates the interest expressed by both your offices in the Vancouver Island Reinforcement Project. We have heard your requests to explore alternative routes through Tsawwassen and to consider all impacts of the project on your community.

BCTC is regulated by the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) and is responsible for managing the provincially-owned transmission system. BCTC is also responsible for planning, constructing and obtaining all the regulatory approvals for reinforcements in the transmissions system. In this role, BCTC is obligated to reinforce the existing transmission infrastructure (which includes undersea cables, converters and overhead lines) because many of the components are approaching “end of life” and need to be replaced.

We initially developed several options including one that upgraded the existing 138 kV AC circuits to 230 kV. We attempted to take into account neighbourhood concerns with respect to aesthetics, socio-economic and environmental impacts. With this particular option, the number of transmission poles are reduced, and the Electric Magnetic Fields (EMF) in nearby homes and schools are less than EMF levels present today.

Through our consultation process, we have been listening carefully to the concerns expressed by local residents and elected officials. In response to these concerns, we will not recommend construction of new overhead 230 kV lines on the existing right-of-way in Tsawwassen. BCTC is working on developing a recommendation that will better respond to the concerns of Tsawwassen, be fair to all B.C. ratepayers, and ensure timely, reliable service to residents on Vancouver Island.

Costs are an important consideration, and so are other factors such as aesthetics, socio-economic and environmental impacts. We will now turn our attention to developing an alternative option; this work will take several months.

The project's social and environmental impacts are being assessed under the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) review process. The EAO is a neutral provincial agency that assesses the economic, environmental, social, heritage and health effects of the project. BCTC has prepared a draft Terms of Reference for the EAO, for review by municipal, provincial and federal agencies and the public.

With regard to providing further opportunities for public input, BCTC will continue to build awareness about the project and its impacts, including EMF, and provide opportunities for people to provide input. We will return to Delta for additional public input prior to submission of our application to the BCUC. There will also be opportunities for public input during the BCUC review process and the EAO review. BCTC's project website is updated regularly as new information becomes available. We have provided a contact number and email address to receive comments and queries and are ensuring that people are receiving answers to their questions.

We value your input into this process. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to call our project manager Bruce Barrett at 604 699 7380 or myself at 604 699 7321.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Costello". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Costello
President and
Chief Executive Officer

- c: Delta School Board
- Chief Kim Baird, Tsawwassen First Nation
- Mr. Neil Atchison, Co-Chair, TRAHVOL
- Mr. Cecil Dunn, Co-Chair, TRAHVOL
- Mr. R.T.F. (Bob) Reid, Chair, BCTC
- Mr. Bruce Barrett, Manager, Major Capital Programs, BCTC