



Consultation on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation’s Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry Evidence and Information

Questions from Round 1 Regional Workshops and Answers (Q&As)

The questions in this document are based on the questions that were asked in the Round One Consultation Workshop Discussion Guides. In some cases, where we received many questions on a particular topic (i.e. Independent Power Producers) we have created an information sheet for that topic.

Many of the answers refer to websites that contain further information relating to the question topic. You can link directly to these websites from this Q&A document posted on the BC Hydro website.

If you require hard copies of any of the information referred to in this Q&A document, or if you feel that your questions have not been answered please let us know at one of our Round Two workshops, by email at transmission.inquiry@bchydro.com, or by phone at 1-877-461-0161 extension 3.

Consultation on the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry	2
The Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry	3
BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation.....	7
Aboriginal Employment, Education and Training	9
Aboriginal Procurement.....	10
Capital Plans.....	11
Energy and Transmission Planning	11
The Existing Transmission System	12
Energy Trade	13
Environmental Issues	14
Conservation	16
Resource Options.....	17
Remote Community Electrification.....	19
BC Hydro’s Acquisition of Power from Independent Power Producers	20
Other Questions.....	20



Consultation on the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry

Question:

- **Is this process being called consultation?**

Response:

- Yes, BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation consider this process to be consultation. The first round of regional workshops were an introduction to the Long-Term Transmission Inquiry and BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's planning information. Future workshops will be focused on the BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro evidence to be submitted to the Inquiry and are being designed to be more interactive as between BC Transmission Corporation, BC Hydro and First Nations.

Question:

- **How does BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation intend to consult Aboriginal communities in a meaningful way?**

Response:

- The Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry reflects the earliest stage of planning. The Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources has directed BC Hydro to consult with First Nations regarding the evidence that BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation submit to the Inquiry.
- BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation are committed to sharing with First Nations the evidence that BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation intend to submit to the Inquiry and to listening to First Nations interests. BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation will consider the information provided by First Nations and where possible incorporate that information into their final submissions to the Inquiry. Where First Nations interests are not incorporated into the BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro submissions, BC Hydro will ensure that these interests are captured in the consultation reports that are filed with the BC Utilities Commission and the Province. BC Hydro is also providing capacity funding for First Nations to participate in the consultation process.

Question:

- **Will the questions and comments of First Nations recorded during the first round of regional workshops be distributed to participants?**

Response:

- Notes from the first round of regional workshops are posted on the BC Hydro website. Likewise, this Q&A document has been prepared based on the questions we received from the Discussion Guides that participants have forwarded to BC Hydro. All consultation reports filed with the BC Utilities Commission and the Province are available to all First Nations and Tribal Councils.



Relevant Link:

Round 1 Workshop Notes http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/regulatory/long_term_electricity_transmission_inquiry/consultation_with_first_nations/round1_workshops.html

The Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry

Question:

- **What is the difference between the BC Utilities Commission's Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry and the parallel consultation with First Nations.**

Response:

- The British Columbia Utilities Commission is an independent, quasi-judicial tribunal that is conducting a Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry in accordance with Terms of Reference provided by the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources. The general purpose of the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry is to make determinations with respect to B.C.'s electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity needs for the next 30 years. During the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry the BC Utilities Commission is inviting and will consider submissions, evidence and presentations from any interested person, including First Nations, communities, municipal and regional governments, other utilities, independent power producers, ratepayer groups and environmental non-governmental organizations.
- BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation are providing a substantial amount of information and evidence to the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry which will be examined and considered by the BC Utilities Commission and the other participants in the Inquiry.
- The Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources requested that BC Hydro consult with First Nations regarding the evidence and information of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation. As a result, BC Hydro, in collaboration with BC Transmission Corporation, established a consultation process that is specific to First Nations.
- The BC Hydro consultation with First Nations is separate from the British Columbia Utilities Commission's Inquiry process, but the consultation is occurring at the same time as - or parallel to - the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry, which is why the consultations are referred to as the "parallel consultation" process.
- BC Hydro is providing reports and feedback from the parallel consultations to the Ministry and to the British Columbia Utilities Commission. These reports are being filed publicly with the Commission.
- The parallel consultation with First Nations is not intended to preclude or replace First Nations' participation in the British Columbia Utilities Commission Inquiry process and First Nations are encouraged to participate directly in the British Columbia Utilities Commission's proceeding.
- More information on the consultation with First Nations is available at the website link below.
- More information on the BC Utilities Commission's process is available at the website link below.



Relevant Links:

BC Hydro's Parallel Consultation with First Nations http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/regulatory/long_term_electricity_transmission_inquiry/consultation_with_first_nations.html

BC Utilities Commission's Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry (Section 5 Inquiry) <http://www.bcuc.com/sectionfiveinquiry.aspx>

Question:

- **How is the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry going to affect individual First Nations? Will it affect First Nations differently?**

Response:

- As part of the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry, the BC Utilities Commission will be making determinations with respect to British Columbia's electricity transmission infrastructure and capacity needs over the next 30 years.
- However, the Transmission Inquiry will not involve determinations on the merits of specific generation projects nor will it involve determinations with respect to specific routing or technological specifications of electricity transmission projects.
- The extent of the BC Utilities Commission's determinations are not known at this time. Under the Terms of Reference for the Inquiry, The BC Utilities Commission must publish its draft determinations and allow an opportunity for public comment, which would include comments from any First Nations who believe their interests may be affected by the determinations. After the public comment period, the BC Utilities Commission will issue its final determinations.

Question:

- **What is the role of the Province and the different Ministries in the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry?**

Response:

- The Province issued the Terms of Reference for the Long-Term Transmission Inquiry which require the BC Utilities Commission to undertake this Inquiry.
- In a letter dated March 25, 2009 the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources asked that BC Hydro consult with First Nations on the evidence and submissions of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation.
- The Terms of Reference and the letter to BC Hydro from the Deputy Minister can be viewed at the website links below.
- The BC Utilities Commission is responsible for undertaking the Long-Term Transmission Inquiry which includes establishing the scope and schedule for the Inquiry in accordance with the Terms

*Consultation on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's
Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry Evidence and Information
Round One Questions & Answers*



of Reference.

Relevant Links:

Terms of Reference http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2009/DOC_21019_12-11_Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf

Letter dated March 25, 2009 from the Deputy Minister to BC Hydro (Ex. B2-4) http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2009/DOC_22184_B2-4_submission_on_consultation.pdf

Question:

- **How does the treaty process relate to the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry?**

Response:

- The Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry is not related to the treaty process nor is it a forum to resolve treaty issues.
- The scope of the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry is set out in the Terms of Reference and the BC Utilities Commission's decision dated July 9, 2009 which are available at the website links below.

Relevant Links:

The Terms of Reference for the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2009/DOC_21019_12-11_Terms%20of%20Reference.pdf

The BC Utilities Commission's July 9, 2009 decision on the scope of the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry. http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2009/DOC_22358_A-18_Reason%20for%20Decision%20Scoping.pdf

Question:

- **How will treaty settlement lands be considered in the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry?**

Response:

- The Terms of Reference for the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry do not specifically include any direction from the Province with respect to treaty settlement lands. The BC Utilities Commission will not be considering specific projects or transmission routes as part of this Inquiry. BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation are interested in understanding what, if any, impacts the BC Utilities Commission's determinations may have on the treaty rights of First Nations.



Question:

- **Is the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry a preliminary process that will be incorporated into upcoming “calls”?**

Response:

- The Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry is not a preliminary process that will be incorporated into BC Hydro’s upcoming calls for power.

Question:

- **How will the British Columbia Utilities Commission ensure consultation with First Nations on the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry is carried out?**

Response:

- On August 18 and 19 2009, the BC Utilities Commission held a procedural conference on the duty to consult with First Nations and on September 17, 2009, the BC Utilities Commission issued its Order on these matters. The transcripts from these proceedings and the BC Utilities Commission’s Order are available on the website link below.
- In making its determinations, the BC Utilities Commission will be reviewing the record of First Nation consultation, including the evidence submitted by BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation and the submissions of First Nations.
- The BC Utilities Commission can be reached at 1-800-663-1385. The BC Utilities website link for the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry is set out below.

Relevant Links:

Transcript of Procedural Conference on August 18, 2009 (Volume 3) http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2009/DOC_22630_Transcript_Procedural-Conference_Volume_3.pdf

Transcript of Procedural Conference on August 18, 2009 (Volume 4) http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2009/DOC_22647_Transcript_Procedural-Conference_Volume_4.pdf

BC Utilities Commission Order and Reasons for Decision on Duty to Consult with First Nations. http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Proceedings/2009/DOC_22859_A-21_Duty%20to%20Consult%20FN%20Reasons%20for%20Decision.pdf

BC Utilities Commission Website on the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry <http://www.bcuc.com/sectionfiveinquiry.aspx>



Question:

- **How can First Nations land use plans be used in the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry?**

Response:

- In its decision on the scope of the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry, the BC Utilities Commission panel stated the following:
“The Panel will also consider submissions from First Nations with respect to broad-based concerns or issues with respect to generation in their territories. The Panel will not review individual generation sites, and is not persuaded that detailed review of land-use plans is necessary. The Panel, at this stage in the Inquiry, considers that concerns about the ability to develop generation in an area can be addressed by scenario development or sensitivity analysis. For example an area where generation is generally likely to be more difficult to build, because of the existence of exclusion areas or First Nations’ concerns, can be addressed in the analysis by varying the total amount of generation in the region or zone, or the timing of generation development.” (p. 7)
- BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation, however, welcome all information from First Nations including information from their land use plans. This will be key in helping us to determine First Nations preferences with respect to the protection of sensitive lands and economic development. This will be a key issue discussed in the Round 2 First Nation Consultation sessions.

BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation

Question:

- What are the roles and responsibilities of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation?

Response:

BC Hydro

- BC Hydro's primary business activities are the generation and distribution of electricity. BC Hydro operates 30 hydroelectric facilities and three natural gas-fuelled thermal power plants. About 80% of the province's electricity is produced by major hydroelectric generating stations on the Columbia and Peace rivers. BC Hydro owns the provincial transmission system. BC Hydro buys electricity from independent power producers and BC Hydro's subsidiary, Powerex, buys from and sells to, electricity markets in the U.S. and Alberta.

BC Transmission Corporation

- BC Transmission Corporation is responsible for planning, operating, and maintaining the BC Hydro transmission system, and constructing new transmission facilities when needed. The transmission system moves large volumes of electricity around the province from where it is produced (or generated) to where it is needed to meet demand for electricity. BC Transmission Corporation was formed in 2003.

**Relevant Links:**

BC Hydro Website	http://www.bchydro.com/about/
BC Transmission Corporation Website	http://www.bctc.com/about_bctc

Question:

- **What are BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's short and long-term goals?**

Response:

- The Service Plans for BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporations are the best resource for a broad overview of information about the two Crown Corporations. The Service Plans are available at the website links set out below.
- The goals, objectives and key strategies of BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation are set out in their respective Service Plans.
- BC Hydro's values, guiding principles and short term priorities are set out at p.6 of the BC Hydro's most recent Service Plan.
- BC Transmission Corporation's strategic vision, values and core and enabling strategies are set out at page 4 -5 and its goals, objectives and strategies are set out at p. 19 of the BC Transmission Corporation's most recent Service Plan.

Relevant Links:

BC Transmission Corporation's Service Plan 2009/10 – 2011/12	http://www.bctc.com/about_bctc/reports_performance/bctc_service_plan.htm
BC Hydro's 2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan	http://www.bchydro.com/etc/medialib/internet/documents/info/pdf/service_plan.Par.0001.File.service_plan_2009-10-2011-12.pdf

Question:

- **Can you provide BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's Organizational Charts?**

Response:

- BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's Organizational Charts are available on their respective websites at the links listed below.

Relevant Links:

BC Hydro Organizational Chart	http://www.bchydro.com/about/company_information/standards_of_conduct_transmission/organization_charts.html
BC Transmission Corporation Organizational Chart	http://www.bctc.com/about_bctc/organizational_chart/



Aboriginal Employment, Education and Training

Question:

- **What education, training and employment opportunities does BC Hydro provide for First Nations?**

Response:

- BC Hydro is committed to developing a diverse workforce that represents the communities it serves and to an inclusive and welcoming workplace. The Aboriginal Education and Employment Strategy was developed and approved by the BC Hydro Board of Directors in 2006 to achieve these goals.
- This last fiscal year 26 new Aboriginal employees joined BC Hydro in a wide range of positions including Human Resources, Key Account Managers in Training, Skilled Trades, Financial Internship, Administrative positions and Managers and Professionals in Development. Ten Youth Hire Program participants were also employed for 7 weeks during the summer of 2008 and 19 in 2009 at Generation Facilities and Field Operations headquarters across the province.
- Information on employment and training opportunities with BC Hydro can be found on the website links below.
- Information on BC Hydro's scholarships, including those specifically designated for aboriginal people, can be found at the website links below.
- In addition to what is listed on the website, BC Hydro awards ten Aboriginal Education and Employment Strategy (AEES) Trades Bursaries to support potential Trades Trainee applicants in completing their educational requirements.
- To learn more about education, training, and employment opportunities with BC Hydro please contact BC Hydro's Aboriginal Relations and Negotiations department at 1-877-461-0161 extension #1

Relevant Links:

BC Hydro Aboriginal Scholarships	http://www.bchydro.com/community/community_investment/scholarships.html#aboriginal
BC Hydro Scholarships	http://www.bchydro.com/community/community_investment/scholarships.html
BC Hydro Careers	http://www.bchydro.com/careers/
BC Hydro Training Programs	https://www1.bchydro.com/csbsites/bchydro/studentList.asp

Question:

- **What education, training and employment opportunities does BC Transmission Corporation provide for First Nations?**



Response:

- Information on employment and training opportunities with BC Transmission Corporation can be found at the links below.
- Information on scholarships provided by BC Transmission Corporation can be found at the website link below.
- To learn more about educational, training, and employment opportunities with BC Transmission Corporation please contact the Human Resources Department at 604-699-7300 or recruitment.bctc@bctc.com.

Relevant Links:

BC Transmission Corporation Aboriginal Scholarships http://www.bctc.com/community/aboriginal_relations/scholarship_opportunities.htm

BC Transmission Corporation Careers http://www.bctc.com/about_bctc/careers/

BC Transmission Corporation Training and Development http://www.bctc.com/about/careers/training_dev/

Aboriginal Procurement

Question:

- **Can you provide more information on business development and procurement with the BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro?**

Response:

- To develop business relationships with Aboriginal vendors in providing goods and/or services, BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro have developed an on-line Aboriginal Business Directory to source Aboriginal businesses for upcoming projects. The Directory is also used to help facilitate partnerships opportunities between Aboriginal businesses.
- Information on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation business development and procurement can be found at the website links below.
- BC Transmission Corporation provides general bid preparation training to help you understand BC Transmission Corporation's terms and conditions and how to submit bids. If you are not familiar with the different BC Transmission Corporation competitive bid documents and would like some assistance, please contact us at procurement@bctc.com or call 1.866.622.2284.
- For more information on opportunities for Aboriginal businesses or to register in the Aboriginal Business Directory please contact 1-877-461-0161 extension #2

Relevant Links:

BC Hydro Economic Development http://www.bchydro.com/community/aboriginal_relations/principles.html#Community_and_Economic_Development

*Consultation on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's
Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry Evidence and Information
Round One Questions & Answers*



BC Transmission Corporation
Aboriginal Development
Program http://www.bctc.com/about_bctc/vendor_opportunities/aboriginal_business_development/

BC Hydro & BC Transmission
Corporation Aboriginal
Business Directory https://www.bcaboriginalvendors.ca/aboriginal_vendors/

BC Transmission Corporation
Procurement Procedures http://www.bctc.com/vendor_opportunities/aboriginal_business_development/procurement_procedures/

Capital Plans

Question:

- **What is BC Transmission Corporation's Ten Year Capital Plan?**

Response:

- The Capital Plan details capital investment for the next two years and provides an outlook of potential investments for the following eight years. More information and the 2010-12 Capital Plan is available at the link below.

Relevant Link:

BC Transmission
Corporation's Ten Year
Capital Plan http://www.bctc.com/regulatory_filings/capital_plan/current_capital_plans/F2010+and+F2011+Transmission+System+Capital+Plan.htm

Question:

- **What is BC Hydro's capital plan for development?**

Response:

- A summary of BC Hydro's capital development plan is set out at pages 36-42 of BC Hydro's Service Plan which is available at the website listed below.

Relevant Links:

BC Hydro's 2009/10-2011/12
Service Plan http://www.bchydro.com/etc/medialib/internet/documents/info/pdf/service_plan.Par.0001.File.service_plan_2009-10-2011-12.pdf

Energy and Transmission Planning

Question:

- **What is BC Hydro's Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP)?**

*Consultation on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's
Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry Evidence and Information
Round One Questions & Answers*

**Response:**

- The Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) is BC Hydro's action plan to cost-effectively meet growing customer electricity requirements. More information and the 2008 LTAP is available at the link below.

Relevant Link:

Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/integrated_electricity_planning/2008_ltap.html

Question:

- **How much electricity is BC Hydro projecting British Columbians are going to need in the future (i.e. the load forecast)?**

Response:

- Recognizing that predictions are uncertain, BC Hydro's latest forecasts of supply and demand for electricity (the Load Forecast) predicts that energy demand will grow by 25 to 35 percent over the next 20 years if it does not implement energy conservation and efficiency measures (referred to as "Demand Side Management" or "DSM").
- For more information on the load forecast please see the web link below to Section 6.3 of the BC Utilities Commission's decision on BC Hydro's Long-Term Acquisition Plan ("LTAP").
- Having established its electricity supply requirements (being its Load Forecast less proposed savings through energy efficiency) and having defined its existing and committed supply resources, BC Hydro determines its plan to fill those gaps. See Section 6.6 of the same website link for BC Hydro's plan to meet future electricity supply requirements.

Relevant Link:

BC Utilities Commission decision on BC Hydro's Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) http://www.bcuc.com/Documents/Decisions/2009/DOC_22470_LTAP_Decision_WEB.pdf

The Existing Transmission System

Question:

- **Are there maps of the transmission system?**

Response:

- Maps of the transmission system can be found at the website link below.

Relevant Link:

BC Transmission Corporation Maps http://www.bctc.com/transmission_system/maps/



Question:

- **How many kilometres of transmission lines or hectares of transmission line right of ways run through First Nation(s) territories?**

Response:

- BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro do not know the amount of transmission lines that run through First Nations territories. However, scaled maps of the transmission system can be viewed at the website links below which First Nations can use to identify transmission lines within their traditional territories.

Relevant Link:

BC Transmission Corporation Maps http://www.bctc.com/transmission_system/maps/

Question:

- **The amount of Crown land with private transmission lines?**

Response:

- BC Transmission Corporation and BC Hydro do not know the amount of private transmission lines that are on Crown land in the province.

Energy Trade

Question:

- **How is energy trade possible and why does BC Hydro engage in energy trade?**

Response:

- Energy Trade is possible because BC Hydro's bulk transmission network is interconnected with Alberta and the western United States. This transmission network links BC Hydro with a market for the purchase and sale of wholesale electricity outside the province.
- Energy trade activities are carried out by Powerex, a wholly owned subsidiary of BC Hydro, established in 1988.
- Energy trade activities help optimize BC Hydro's electric system resources and provide significant economic benefits to BC Hydro customers.
- Energy purchases help BC Hydro balance its system to meet domestic demand when there is a supply shortage in the system (e.g., due to such factors as low water inflows and increases in demand), or when it is more economic to do so.
- Energy sales help balance the BC Hydro system when there is excess water in the system (i.e., sales are only made after ensuring that domestic demand can be met). Sales generate additional revenue for BC Hydro, which helps keep electricity rates low for all British Columbians.
- For more information on how BC Hydro optimizes the use of the system see the web link below to an information sheet on energy trade.

**Relevant Link:**

Energy Trade Information Sheet http://www.bchydro.com/etc/medialib/internet/documents/planning_regulatory/lteti/infosheet_energy_trade.Par.0001.File.infosheet_energy_trade.pdf

Question:

- **Is BC Hydro a net importer or exporter of electricity?**

Response:

- Whether BC Hydro is a net importer or exporter of electricity depends on the year.
- For more information on the yearly net purchases or net sales of electricity by BC Hydro see the web link below to an information sheet on energy trade.

Relevant Link:

Energy Trade Information Sheet http://www.bchydro.com/etc/medialib/internet/documents/planning_regulatory/lteti/infosheet_energy_trade.Par.0001.File.infosheet_energy_trade.pdf

Environmental Issues

Question:

- **What is the relationship between BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation projects and the environmental review process?**

Response:

- BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation projects are subject to the same environmental review processes and laws as other proponents of power and transmission projects.
- More information on the environmental assessment processes and when an environmental assessment is required can be found at the website links below.

Relevant Links:

BC Environmental Assessment Office <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/fag/>

Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA) www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Question:

- **What is the relationship between the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry and the Environmental Impact Assessments?**

Response:

- Since no specific projects or transmission routes are being approved in the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry there is no project to conduct an environmental assessment on.

*Consultation on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's
Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry Evidence and Information
Round One Questions & Answers*



Relevant Links:

Environmental Assessment Office <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/faq/>

Question:

- **Can you provide information on environmental assessments and archaeological assessments?**

Response:

- Information on environmental assessments and archaeological assessments is available on the Environmental Assessment Office's website. Project Information, including studies, for all projects undergoing environmental assessment is also available.
- The archaeology branch of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts has further information at the website link below.

Relevant Links:

Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/>

Environmental Assessment Process http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/ea_process.html

Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) Project Information http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/depoly/epic_project_list_report.html#

Archaeology Branch – Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts http://www.tca.gov.bc.ca/archaeology/first_nations/index.htm

Question:

- **Can you provide more information on vegetation and pest management?**

Response:

- Information on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation vegetation management can be found at the links below.

Relevant Links:

BC Hydro Vegetation Management http://www.bchydro.com/safety/vegetation_and_powerlines.html

BC Transmission Corporation Vegetation Management http://www.bctc.com/community/trees_vegetation/

Question:

- **What is the Water Use Planning process? How is BC Hydro reconciling competing water uses, particularly water for consumption vs. water for power?**

*Consultation on BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's
Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry Evidence and Information
Round One Questions & Answers*



Response:

- Water Use Planning (WUP) was initiated in 1998 in response to increasing demands on the province's water resources. The overall goal is to find a better balance between competing uses of water such as domestic water supply, fish and wildlife, recreation, heritage and electrical power needs that are socially, environmentally and economically acceptable to British Columbians.
- Distinguished by its scope, structured approach and degree of inter-agency partnership, our water use planning program is at the forefront of hydroelectric management in North America.
- For more information see the Water Use Planning Information Sheet or visit the Water Use Planning website listed below.

Relevant Link:

Water Use Planning Information Sheet	http://www.bchydro.com/etc/medialib/internet/documents/planning_regulatory/lteti/infosheet_wup.Par.0001.File.infosheet_wup.pdf
BC Hydro Water Use Planning	http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/water_use_planning.html

Conservation

Question:

- Are there energy conservation programs for First Nation communities beyond Energy Saving Kits?

Response:

BC Hydro has a number of energy conservation programs that are available to residential, commercial and institutional customers. These programs include:

- **Team Power Smart** – Over 100,000 British Columbians have joined and committed to use 10% less electricity. Team Power Smart members enjoy exclusive tips and tools and access to online tools and tips.
- **Education Program** – BC Hydro works with educators and curriculum specialists to develop high-quality, engaging and relevant resources that provide valuable information on energy efficiency, energy alternatives, electrical safety, sustainability and the environment.
- **Energy Conservation Assistance Program** – Low-income customers may qualify for BC Hydro's Energy Conservation Assistance Program, which offers a free home energy assessment, products and advice.
- **Product Incentive Program** – Financial incentives for commercial, industrial and institutional customers replacing inefficient technologies.
- **New Construction Program** – Power Smart tools, incentives and assistance to help design and implement energy efficient measures in new non-residential construction.
- **Energy Saving Kits** – Energy saving kits for low-income households offer a variety of simple ways to help save energy.



- **Rebates & Savings** – BC Hydro offers a variety of rebates and savings for residential customers, including offers on lighting, windows and appliances through its Power Smart program

Relevant Links:

Team Power Smart	www.bchydro.com/teampowersmart
Education Program	http://www.bchydro.com/community/youth_education.html
Energy Conservation Assistance Program	http://www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/energy_conservation.html
Product Incentive Program	http://www.bchydro.com/rebates_savings/product_incentive_program.html

Resource Options

Question:

- **Is there an inventory of resource options?**

Response:

- BC Hydro's draft evidentiary filing to the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry will provide an inventory of resource options, including information on the following: small hydro, wind, biomass, geothermal, large hydro, pumped storage, natural gas, ocean (wave and tidal), coal with carbon capture and sequestration, solar and distributed generation.
- BC Hydro is also working with a consultant, Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd. (KWL), to build an interactive web-based tool that will enable First Nations to view the type and location of potential resource options within the Province. The tool is expected to provide users with the ability to:
 - (1) View the potential resource options throughout the province,
 - (2) Query and print the inventory of potential resources over specific areas, and
 - (3) identify resource potential over their traditional territories so that they can better determine how these potential resource options could support their needs and preferences.

Question:

- **Are there executive summaries of studies on resource options?**

Response:

- BC Hydro's draft evidentiary filing to the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry will provide an overview of the potential resource options, including information on the following: small hydro, biomass, wind, geothermal, potential large hydro and pumped storage, natural gas-fired generation, ocean (wave and tidal), coal-fired generation with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), resource smart options, solar and distributed generation.



- Executive summaries of the potential resource options are being developed.

Relevant Link:

Presentation at BC Hydro's Generation Resource Options Workshop on July 23, 2009 http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/regulatory/long_term_electricity_transmission_inquiry/inquiry_documents.html

Question:

- **Are there studies on wind potential in the province?**

Response:

- BC Hydro's draft evidentiary filing will address wind resources.
- BC Hydro will rely on the following studies and documents to derive its evidence presented on wind potential for the Transmission Inquiry:
 - BC Hydro Wind Data Study;
 - Submissions received through the 2007 FNRFEI;
 - BC Hydro Wind Data Study Update;
 - Two submissions made to BC Hydro's Generation Resource Options Written Comment Process

Question:

- **Is there any information or research on alternative energy?**

Response:

- The resource options examined by BC Hydro in the 2008 LTAP targeted commercially viable options. Given the longer time horizon of 30 years for the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry, the scope of resource options was broadened to include "emerging" technologies, which BC Hydro defines to include alternative energy. The emerging technologies investigated by BC Hydro for the Transmission Inquiry include coal-fired generation with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS), ocean energy (wave and tidal) and solar.
- The resource options information used by BC Hydro in the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry will be described in BC Hydro's draft evidentiary filing.

Question:

- **Can you identify resource options by traditional territory.**

Response:

- BC Hydro is working with Kerr Wood Leidal Associates Ltd. (KWL) on a web based tool which will enable First Nations to log in and view resource options in specific areas identified by the user, which can include their asserted traditional territory.



Question:

- **Can BC Hydro provide access to shape files to input into First Nations GIS data?**

Response:

- Due to the confidential nature of the information contained in shape files and the changing nature of the data set, BC Hydro is unable to provide direct access to shape files.
- The web based tool that BC Hydro is working to develop with Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) will enable First Nations to view and input their preferences in specific areas (for example, resource options and areas inappropriate for development).

Remote Community Electrification

Question:

- **What is the Remote Community Electrification (RCE) Program?**

Response:

- BC Hydro's Remote Community Electrification (RCE) Program provides electric utility service to eligible remote communities in the province not currently served by BC Hydro or any other public utility.
- Currently BC Hydro has identified 34 remote communities that are potentially eligible to be electrified through the RCE program. The number of communities eligible for the RCE program is subject to change.
- Of the 34 remote communities 21 are First Nation communities with 2,500 resident and 700 dwellings representing 18 First Nations.
- Almost all remote communities electrified through the RCE Program will be served by BC Hydro's non-integrated area (NIA).
- For further information on the RCE program please contact Remote Community Relations at 1-866-901-8088

Question:

- **What is a non-integrated area (NIA)?**

Response:

- Non-Integrated Areas (NIA) are communities served by BC Hydro that are not connected to BC Hydro's main power grid.
- Typically small and remote, NIA communities are distant from the BC Hydro integrated system of transmission and distribution lines.
- The electricity supply to each NIA community serviced by BC Hydro is produced by a small generating station in the community to supply local demand load.



Question:

- **How many BC communities are still on diesel generators or have no electrical service at all?**

Response:

- BC Hydro has identified 132 remote communities in BC that do not receive electric utility service. 19 of these communities have central diesel generation systems. In the remaining communities, residents typically have individual generators powered by diesel, gas, and propane. Some have small hydro and solar systems that are supported with a generator for backup.

Question:

- **I would like to get my community off diesel generation and build a run of river project. How do I proceed?**

Response:

- Communities in BC Hydro's non-integrated areas (NIA) or IPPs interested in serving those communities may contact BC Hydro's Non-Integrated Area department at 1-866-901-8088

BC Hydro's Acquisition of Power from Independent Power Producers

Question:

- **Where can I get information on Independent Power Producers (IPPs)?**

Response:

- Information on BC Hydro's energy acquisition programs and existing energy purchase agreements with Independent Power Producers can be found on the websites listed below.

Relevant Links:

Information Sheet:
IPP Supply List and Map http://www.bchydro.com/etc/medialib/internet/documents/planning_regulatory/lteti/infosheet_ipp_supply.Par.0001.File.infosheet_ipp_supply.pdf

Information on BC Hydro's
power acquisition programs http://www.bchydro.com/planning_regulatory/acquiring_power.html

Other Questions

Question:

- **Who is the lead contact for consultation on specific BC Hydro and BC Transmission projects affecting your First Nation's territory?**

**Response:**

- This consultation on the Long-Term Electricity Inquiry does not involve projects. However, if there is a specific BC Hydro or BC Transmission Corporation project affecting your First Nation's territory the lead contact for consultation on these projects is BC Hydro Aboriginal Relations & Negotiations Department which can be reached at 1-877-461-0161

Question:

- **Who do I contact about negotiating a treaty relating to my aboriginal rights and title?**

Response:

- The BC Treaty Commission is an independent, neutral organization that facilitates treaty negotiations between First Nations, Canada and British Columbia. The BC Treaty Commission has information on the tri-partite treaty process.
- The BC Treaty Commission can be reached at 1-800-665-8330. Their website address is listed below.

Relevant Links:

BC Treaty Commission <http://www.bctreaty.net>

Question:

- **Who do I contact about consultation on the sale of land by BC Hydro?**

Response:

- This consultation on the Long-Term Electricity Inquiry does not involve issues involving the purchase or sale of land. If you have any issues respecting the sale of land by BC Hydro please contact BC Hydro's Aboriginal Relations & Negotiations department at 1-877-461-0161

Question:

- **Can BC Hydro provide one contact within the organization for each First Nation and an updated list of contacts for BC Hydro?**

Response:

- BC Hydro is working to ensure that all of its employees build relationships with First Nations. BC Hydro is not able to provide a single contact person at BC Hydro for each First Nation in the Province.
- BC Hydro has a toll free number (1-877-461-0161) from which you can access contacts for the specific information you are seeking.

Relevant Link:

BC Hydro Website www.bchydro.com



Question:

- **Does BC Hydro fund traditional use studies for projects that are in culturally sensitive areas?**

Response:

- As part of the project consultation process, BC Hydro works with the individual First Nations to determine what capacity funding they require to participate in the consultation process. The funding of traditional use studies may be a component of the capacity funding agreement.

Question:

- **What is BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation's approach to the protection of First Nations sacred sites?**

Response:

- BC Hydro is committed to consulting with First Nations on proposed generation or transmission projects that could impact First Nations interests. BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation recognize that there is no "one size fits all" approach to addressing First Nations concerns. If First Nations have concerns that a proposed project could impact a sacred site, BC Hydro will listen to these concerns and work with the affected First Nation(s) to devise a solution and either avoid, mitigate, remediate and accommodate, if required, any impacts.

Question:

- **What are the past agreements BC Hydro has with First Nations?**

Response:

- If there is a specific agreement you wish to see please contact us by email at transmission.inquiry@bchydro.com or call 1-877-461-0161 extension 3 and we will direct you to a person who can respond to your request. BC Hydro's agreements with First Nations are normally confidential between the parties to the agreement.