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VIA EMAIL

December 17, 2009

SECTION 5	EXHIBIT A-35
TRANSMISSION INQUIRY	

To: Long-Term Transmission Inquiry Participants

Re: British Columbia Utilities Commission
Project No. 3698545/Order G-30-09
Inquiry into British Columbia's Long-Term Transmission Infrastructure

Suspension of Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry

The attached letter, dated December 15, 2009 from the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, has been received by the Commission. Therefore, the Transmission Inquiry Panel will shortly issue an Order suspending the Transmission Inquiry until May 31, 2010.

Yours truly,

Erica M. Hamilton
Erica M. Hamilton

JWF/ac
Attachment

cc: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com)
British Columbia Transmission Corporation (janet.fraser@bctc.com, bctc.regulatory@bctc.com)
FortisBC Inc. (regulatory@fortisbc.com)



DEC 15 2009

Mr. Len Kelsey
Chair and Chief Executive Officer
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Box 250
900 Howe Street, Sixth Floor
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Mr. Kelsey:

I am writing to follow up on my letter of November 9, 2009 regarding timelines for the ongoing Section 5 Transmission Inquiry (Inquiry) relating to British Columbia's long-term electricity transmission and infrastructure needs.

On November 20, 2009, the members of the Green Energy Advisory Task Force (Task Force) groups were announced. The Government's consideration and policy responses to the recommendations from the Task Force will have implications for the development of the electricity industry, and thus British Columbia's long-term transmission and generation infrastructure needs.

To ensure that the implications of and requirements arising from this new policy framework are appropriately reflected in the work and results of the Inquiry, I will be issuing a revised Terms of Reference for the Inquiry. As a result, it would not be productive to continue with the Section 5 Inquiry before May 31, 2010, by which time the amended Terms of Reference will be available. During this period, I would not expect the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) to request or receive submissions from Inquiry participants, other than those required for administrative purposes to suspend the Inquiry.

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I recognize that the timelines currently set out in Section 13 of the Terms of Reference cannot be met if the Inquiry is suspended until May 31, 2010. I will be requesting input from the BCUC on revising the timelines to reflect the delay to the process.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Blair Lekstrom
Minister

pc: Mr. Bob Elton
President and Chief Executive Officer
BC Hydro

Ms. Janet Woodruff
Interim President
British Columbia Transmission Corporation

Mr. John Walker
President and Chief Executive Officer
FortisBC