



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

Surrey Workshop # 1 – June 9, 2009

Amended September 30, 2009

Simon Fraser University Surrey Campus
13345 102nd Avenue,
Surrey, B.C.

Attendees	
Chehalis First Nation	Squamish Nation
Hwlitsum First Nation	Sto:lo Tribal Council
Soowahlie First Nation	Tsleil-Waututh Nation

BC Hydro/BC Transmission Corporation Representatives

Name	Organization	Responsibility
Suromitra Sanatani	BC Hydro, First Nation Consultation Project Manager Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry	Project Manager, First Nation Consultation Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry
Vesta Filipchuk	BC Hydro, Senior Aboriginal Relations Coordinator	Coordinator/Records
Rhea Halfnight LeFlufy	BC Hydro, Aboriginal Relations Coordinator	Coordinator/Records
Jane Newlands	BC Transmission Corporation	Presenter
Nadja Holowaty	BC Hydro, Energy Planning	Presenter



Neutral Facilitator

Name	Organization	Responsibility
Dan George	Four Directions Management Services	Neutral Facilitator

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Dan George

Dan George opened the session and acknowledged the meeting was being held in the traditional territory of participating First Nations. Participants were welcomed to the first session of the Long-Term Electricity Transmission Inquiry – First Nation Consultation, which will involve three rounds of workshops. An opening prayer was provided by Chief Rocky Wilson of the Hwlitsum. Participants then introduced themselves and their organization.

Dan George reviewed the agenda and explained his role is to keep discussions on topic and make sure input is recorded accurately. He asked the participants to: listen generously to one another; build on the ideas of others and ensure that we challenge ideas and not people; and look for solutions. He encouraged the participants to provide their views as the process is only as strong as the input they provide.

Comments and Discussion

All

Consultation Process

Participants understand the long lead times for development, recognize that power will be needed in the future and appreciate the opportunity to provide input. It was noted, however, that consultation is a dynamic process that will change over time and needs to recognize the un-extinguished rights and title of Aboriginal people. The Haida Taku decision was highlighted as a reference.

There are approximately 12 First Nations and First Nation organizations registered in the Commission process. Participation in the BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation process does not preclude participation into the BC Utility Commission (Commission) process. In fact, First Nations are encouraged to participate in both.

BC Hydro acknowledged that consultation will evolve; topics that are outside the scope of the discussion will be recorded for follow up by BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation. Participants indicated that they are here gathering information in order to take it back to their Chief and Council and their communities.



Past Grievances

Participants identified the need to deal with historical grievances and the underlying issues associated with the development of the existing transmission lines. They also raised concerns about the current Interior to Lower Mainland (ILM) Transmission Project which adds layers of additional issues without having dealt with the past.

A participant also cited BC Hydro's water use planning process agreements as an example of process-concern in terms of commitments made and follow up did not occur.

Environmental Sustainability

Participants expressed a strong interest in environmental sustainability. Participants asked if BC Hydro looks at the environment and its ability to sustain development when it is considering new energy supply. In addition, there were concerns expressed about the effect of development on watersheds and the protection of fish and habitat. Watersheds are very important and can be fragile. If one species is at risk (Thompson Coho), this could affect the whole river system. Salmon is a very important species from a cultural perspective, and protecting watershed habitat to ensure fish protection is a critical issue.

Participants expressed concern about the impacts on watersheds and the development of new dams and transmission lines over the next 30 years. They stressed that new technologies that have less impact on watersheds should be explored.

Other concerns raised included: transmission rights-of-way on Seabird Island, the effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF) and power surges in Spuzzum.

Independent Power Producer (IPP) Development

Participants indicated there is a lot of resource potential within the territory including geothermal, wind and micro-hydro, and that there is a desire for developing relationships with IPPs including joint venture partnerships and ownership. At the same time, some participants have concerns about energy development being undertaken by IPPs and want to understand how these companies are regulated and how they are selected in the BC Hydro call process.

Participants requested more information on IPPs and would like to see an area plan to ensure that the level of development in their territories is sustainable when considered with other needs and uses of the land and water.

Transmission Lines

A participant noted that living by a 500 KV line is like having a superhighway in your neighborhood but with no ability to access it. There are opportunities on the east side of



Harrison Lake, but the transmission is on the west side and there were questions about how to connect IPPs in this location.

A participant also asked whether BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation would be receptive to connecting a group of IPP projects to the transmission system. Participants were informed that there was nothing that would exclude that approach. Participants were reminded that the purpose of the current Inquiry process is to look at the broader planning perspective and determine the overall resource potential by region and identify potential clusters that could be serviced by a transmission corridor.

At the same time, First Nations do not want more rights-of-way if there are existing ones that can be used. The cumulative effect of development is a primary issue, as well as integration of non-First Nation with First Nations developments as set out in their Land Resource Plans.

Participants expressed interest in an information sheet that would help develop an understanding of the electricity industry and a description of the process for connecting to the transmission system.

Burrard Thermal

Participants asked about the future of Burrard Thermal and expressed concern that the continued operation of this facility may have impacts on the health of children in some First Nation communities. Participants noted that there is a high frequency of asthma. BC Hydro indicated that Burrard is currently being evaluated but that it also serves an important function in the overall electricity system as it is a base load facility that can provide reliable capacity close to load, which IPPs cannot provide.

Site C

Participants asked about Site C and whether it is considered an IPP development. BC Hydro indicated that Site C is currently being reviewed by BC Hydro and environmental and socio-economic studies and discussions with First Nations are being done to determine its viability. Participants were advised that Site C is not being developed by the private sector but that it could be a public/private partnership in the future. BC Hydro also stressed no decisions have been made in relation to the need for Site C or its investment structure.

One participant questioned the impact of large scale hydro on future smaller scale alternative energy IPP developments. They speculated that bringing on a new large source of energy from Site C might postpone the introduction of alternative energy supply and renewables on to the system.

Land Use Planning and Resource Potential

A question was raised about whether there is a definition of “region” and if yes, how this relates to transportation corridors. BC Transmission Corporation noted that regions are geographically



based, which can be divided into sub-regions and zones. Zones are currently being characterized.

One participant noted that it might be helpful to identify resource potential by traditional territory. This information could then be overlaid onto First Nations land and resource plans, which would facilitate community planning and identifying where resource potentials are located in relation to sensitive sites.

It was noted that communities want to maintain and sustain their relationship with the land. Power projects have the potential to be very invasive and result in a spider's web of transmission development. It is important therefore to identify the range of potential resources within various regions and make high level judgment on impacts.

Some participants would prefer water licenses be reviewed in relation to other planning issues. For example, if water licenses were mapped, it may make it easier to determine where resources are over subscribed and where there are conflicts (i.e. traditional use value). Participants expressed that the current water license application process is similar to the claim staking registration system used for mining exploration.

One participant noted an interest in collaborative planning, a desire to understand modeling assumptions and data sources that could be used in this type of analysis. This participant also reiterated the importance of looking at cumulative impacts.

Questions were raised about how BC Hydro determines demand, the process of issuing calls for power, selection criteria, difference between types of "calls" and any opportunities to review and provide input into the evaluation criteria. It was noted that energy planning looks at confirming need, identifying potential sources of energy. Issuing and evaluating calls (i.e. Standing, Bioenergy, Clean etc) is done by BC Hydro's Power Acquisitions Group based on a variety of technical, financial and environmental criteria.

Information Sharing and Confidentiality

Participants demonstrated an interest in sharing resource plan information but noted that databases and data sharing needs to be done in accordance with confidentiality agreements. Developments at a provincial scale create local impacts, which can put tremendous pressure on First Nations (i.e. when wind potential is identified, it attracts resource developers).

Scope of Inquiry

A participant asked whether or not the recent Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) is within the scope of Inquiry. BC Hydro clarified that the LTAP information will form the starting point for BC Hydro's submissions, although BC Hydro is hoping not to revisit certain technical aspects (e.g., load forecast methodology) in the Transmission Inquiry process. The information will be updated with a new load forecast (to be released in 2009) and new resource data. BC Hydro



understands the need to develop a mapping component that will be useful at various scales and can interface with land use plans.

One participant expressed that the current scope of information to be evaluated is narrow and should include First Nations' traditional territories and land use plans. Without this consideration, decisions that have already been made within that territory will not be captured. One of the key challenges related to transmission lines is that they are linear developments and cross several First Nations' territories. To help manage this, it was suggested that once engagement with one First Nation is initiated, protocol agreements with neighboring First Nations can also be developed to discuss project related concerns and interests. Some First Nations already have protocol agreements with their neighbours to address this.

It was acknowledged that Chiefs and other First Nations leaders are bringing issues like revenue sharing and rights and title to the table, they are important and there is a need to find ways to address them. However, participants were reminded that the process is similar to being in a helicopter looking down at the big picture with a view of the balcony and the beach. In October, the view will be from the balcony and in January – February, the view will be from the beach – getting closer to the target over time. At the same time, in order to understand the different views properly, BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation need to share information with First Nations and listen to their views.

One participant wondered if the planning process would address ownership of future transmission lines whether ownership of a particular line would impact development by other IPPs and what opportunities might be available for having ownership in transmission lines.

Improved Communications

One participant wanted to know which staff are doing what in BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation, who the managers are and who can be contacted on specific issues. It was noted that both companies are too anonymous and it is not clear who to contact. BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation were reminded that engaging First Nations is different from engaging with the public. Of particular concern is the "revolving door" (at the junior level), which means that there is always a need to re-educate people about issues and land use plans.



Pumped Storage¹

Questions were asked concerning pumped storage projects – e.g. the costs and regulatory approvals needed to develop a large pumped storage project. If someone wants to pursue a pumped storage project, they will need to confirm the approval process and environmental requirements, and ensure that the price paid for the electricity would be high enough to make it economically viable. BC Hydro would like to clarify that pumped storage is a resource option that is considered to contribute additional capacity to the BC Hydro system and relatively little additional energy. Pumped storage is therefore considered to be a capacity resource option. In the 2008 Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP), BC Hydro estimated that the Lower Mainland pumped storage unit capacity cost (UCC) was about \$112/kW per year. In comparison, the Revelstoke Unit 6 capacity resource option was estimated to have a UCC of \$52/kW per year.

Exports

One participant wants to ensure that exports from resources within traditional territories to the US are monitored and that benefits that flow back to First Nations are factored in. There was also a desire for more information on exports and how the export model works.

Capacity

Capacity to participate in the process was noted as an important consideration. Some First Nations have the resources to engage while others do not. Some communities find it difficult to maintain the capacity to participate in on-going planning process, in particular providing consistency and continuity of representation given other demands for time and resources.

Some First Nations would like to see (and have identified) specific new energy corridors in their territories while other are uncertain about whether they want more transmission lines. In order to really understand the implications, more planning needs to happen and assistance provided (e.g., technical and financial assistance within studies).

Participants stressed the need for capacity to participate in a collaborative planning process that includes identification of resource potential, modeling, review of assumptions and mapping. Participants were told that by having First Nations develop energy potential by territory it allows for better understanding to culturally and environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., archaeological and traditional use).

Employment Opportunities

¹ Amended September 29, 2009. Original wording: Questions were asked concerning pump storage projects – e.g. the costs and regulatory approvals needed to develop a large pump storage project. If someone wants to pursue a pump storage project, they will need to confirm the approval process and environmental requirements, and ensure that the price paid for the electricity would be high enough to make it economically viable. BC Hydro noted that current technologies are expensive, with implementation challenges and significant costs (about \$1000/MW for pump storage compared to conventional hydraulic energy at about \$60-120/MW).



Education and employment opportunities were identified as important outcomes of development. Some First Nation communities have some technical staff who do environmental monitoring work while there are others who would like training and/or mentoring opportunities. Many First Nations people are interested in this training and are good at doing inventories because they have more on-the-ground experience and familiarity with the land.

Additional Information Needs

Dan George

The facilitator asked participants what additional information they need to be involved in this process. The information needs they identified were:

- Information on how BC Hydro and BC Transmission Corporation will maintain transparency in the process.
- A list of “who’s who” within both organizations that can help with ensuring communications on various issues.
- A list of IPPs and an area plan showing the location of these IPPs.
- Information sheet explaining the electricity industry and the process for connecting to the transmission system.
- Information on how the export model works.

Summary & Wrap-up

Dan George/Suromitra Sanatani

The Facilitator reviewed his notes and confirmed they would be incorporated into the meeting notes. He thanked participants for attending the workshop and asked them to fill in the workbook and feedback forms.

Suromitra Sanatani also thanked participants for coming to the workshop and welcomed them to contact her if they had any questions about the consultation process. She indicated that meeting notes would be posted on a website and that a letter will be sent to participants notifying them when the notes are posted.