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Gabriola Island, B.C.  
V0R 1X3  
December 7, 2004

Mr. Robert J. Pellatt  
British Columbia Utilities Commission  
Sixth Floor, 900 Howe Street, Box 250  
Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2N3

Re: Project 3698354 – Order No. G-99-04  
Exhibit No. C-30-2  
Information Requests to B.C. Hydro

Dear Sir;

The Gabriola Island Ratepayers Association wishes to forward the following questions to B.C.Hydro:

1. How much fresh water is required to operate the proposed power plant in gallons per minute, and what impact does this flow have on the summer and fall salmon spawning in the Nanaimo River? Specifically, what is the cost of providing alternative supplies to cover the shut down of the proposed power plant when the Federal Fisheries and Oceans Canada declares a water shortage in the Nanaimo River?
2. The consultant's report on the cost of a Municipality on Gabriola (Sussex Consultants Ltd., June 2004) was required to use a cost estimate 13 years in the future, in order to establish the long range cost to the taxpayers.
  - Accordingly how much does B.C. Hydro expect to pay for power 13 years from C.O.D. including all capital, fuel, startup, and other costs?
  - How much does B.C. Hydro estimate natural gas to cost at this 13 year point in time, given that peak natural gas future prices have been in the order of \$9.75 U.S./mmBTU (see attached)?
  - Does the natural gas supply require a liquified natural gas storage plant, and what is the cost multiplier of this process?

3. Why has B.C.Hydro not implemented a program of concurrent load shedding in order to use the existing 2400 MW capacity of the Cheekeye to Dunsmuir power line?
4. Why has B.C.Hydro not planned to use the surplus gas turbines originally purchased for the Duke Point plant in the Burrard Thermal plant to generate the required power deficit?
5. Some homes on Gabriola have dual meters, and a lower cost on an interruptable supply.
  - Does B.C.Hydro have any means of interrupting the supply other than the cumbersome method of sending meter readers out to shut off the meter at each house?
  - Short power failures caused by the interrupters are not recorded on Gabriola. How many recorded power failures have there been on Gabriola in 1993?
  - As the majority of Gabriola residents are used to power failures, how do we revive an interruptable power billing system?
6. When is Gabriola going to get a natural gas piped supply, so that all the heat can be used in our homes, rather than straining it through an expensive and relatively inefficient power plant?
7. What is the social cost of implementing the Duke Point power plant by ignoring a significant public input from previous hearings requesting other green alternatives?
8. We note a recent Times Colonist press release proposing a 1110-MW capacity transmission line between Victoria and Port Angeles, in order to export the 'thousands of megawatts of renewable energy potential on the island'. The consensus of the engineering community is that the proposed project does not make economic sense. The conclusion is that the project must be driven by political considerations. Who is driving the project and why?

Yours sincerely,

J.R. Young  
President Gabriola Ratepayers  
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