

## **Interior to Lower Mainland Transmission Project: Alignment of route in the Spuzzum Area**

As you may be aware from past correspondence, BC Hydro is constructing a new transmission line between Nicola Substation near Merritt and Meridian Substation in Coquitlam, as part of the Interior to Lower Mainland (ILM) transmission project. The ILM project received an Environmental Assessment Certificate from the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO) in 2009.

In summer 2012, BC Hydro applied to the BCEAO for an amendment to the ILM Environmental Assessment Certificate, to change the routing through the Spuzzum area. The amended route was designed to create efficiencies for the project and meet the interests of the Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council (NNTC) and the Spuzzum First Nation. The amended route was subsequently approved by the BCEAO.

BC Hydro, the NNTC and the Spuzzum First Nation have since determined the realignment is not feasible. We were collectively unable to obtain the required permissions to support the realignment and meet the ILM project requirements. We have therefore agreed that returning to the original alignment is the best option for the parties and for the ILM project.

BC Hydro submitted a request to the BC Environmental Assessment Office on March 26, 2013, to return to the original alignment in the Spuzzum area.

The attached map shows the realignment approved in 2012, which is no longer being considered, and also the original route, which is now the route planned for the ILM project.

### **About the ILM**

Scheduled to be in service by January 2015, the ILM Project will expand the capacity of the transmission system that brings power from generation resources in the north and southern Interior of the province, so that it can continue to deliver clean and reliable energy to homes and businesses in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. The project includes:

- A new 500 kV transmission line between two existing BC Hydro electrical substations: Nicola Substation near Merritt and Meridian Substation in Coquitlam
- A new series capacitor station near Ruby Creek on BC Hydro-owned property
- Associated improvements at the Nicola and Meridian substations.

### **Questions?**

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# INTERIOR TO LOWER MAINLAND TRANSMISSION PROJECT—SPUZZUM ALIGNMENT MAP

