

B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting
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August 30, 2013

Honourable Bill Bennett,
B.C. Minister of Energy & Mines

Critical Revisionary Implementations to Public Input of and Response to BC Hydro's August 2013 Integrated Resource Plan

Yesterday, August 29th, we received an email notification from BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Planning team on the release of BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) document, with accompanying information on a tight schedule period for written public response. After downloading all of the 80 component documents associated with the report (almost 5,000 cumulative pages), and scanning through all of the documents, we concluded that the Minister's six-week schedule for public input is deficient and unreasonable.

Furthermore, we are disappointed to learn that the Minister has not scheduled public input forums to be held throughout the Province, which BC Hydro has previously conducted during critical decision-making phases of its public planning operations.

New IRP Public Response and Input Framework Process

We consequently contemplated an appropriate and reasonable course of action and strategy for the Minister to undertake by way of a meaningful and proper public planning process response to the IRP. It involves the following five steps:

- 1.** Extend the public comment period from September 3rd to November 30th, 2013, a full three month review period.
- 2.** Instruct BC Hydro to organize public forums to be held throughout the Province during the month of October, 2013. A panel of BC Hydro and Public advocate representatives can present information and then field public questions and provide answers. The events should be videotaped and then posted on a government website.
- 3.** At the end of the revised public comment period (November 30th), publish all written submissions on a government website for the public to access and review.
- 4.** Create a public review period dedicated to reviewing all the written submissions. Such a course of action will provide the public with the ability to further contemplate, scrutinize, refine

and debate the myriad technical and daunting proposal objectives in the IRP. Given the busy Christmas holiday schedules for the mid to end of December, this review period should span two months, from December 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014.

- 5.** Establish a final public written response period to the IRP from February 1st to Friday February 14th. All of these final written responses are to be posted on a government website for public review.

Given the critical and serious nature of BC Hydro's future planning of the public's diverse well-being, ecology, economy, and assets, elements fundamentally connected to the service functions of the electrical grid, we strongly believe that if the Minister adopts all of our recommendations he will better serve the public's vital interests, and through a timely process of transparency.

Sincerely,

Will Koop,
Coordinator

Cc: John Horgan, NDP Energy Critic
Andrew Weaver, BC Green Party
B.C. Utilities Commission
Charles Reid, BC Hydro President & CEO