

B. C. TAP WATER ALLIANCE

Caring for, Monitoring, and Protecting
British Columbia's Community Water
Supply Sources

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Media Release

B.C. ENERGY MINISTER'S PUBLIC RESPONSE PLAN FOR BC HYDRO'S FUTURE PLANNING REPORT "DEFICIENT AND UNREASONABLE", CLAIMS ALLIANCE

Vancouver – On August 29, 2013, BC Hydro notified public stakeholders on the release of its final [Integrated Resource Plan](#) (IRP), a technical document of some 5,000 pages in length, assessing future planning proposals and options for BC's electrical grid.

The email notification by BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Planning team also included details on the public "final consultation" comment period which is to merely extend over a six week period (September 3 to October 18), and when the Minister of Energy would be handed the final IRP document by BC Hydro (on November 15).

On the afternoon of August 30th, the B.C. Tap Water Alliance sent [a letter to BC Energy & Mines Minister Bill Bennett](#) complaining that the Minister's final consultation comment review process period for the IRP was "*deficient and unreasonable.*" The Alliance provided the Minister with an alternative five-step recommendation review process that would provide more appropriate tests of accountability, transparency and timeliness, extending a series of three comment and review processes over a five and half month period, from September 3, 2013 to February 14, 2014. In the recommendations, the Alliance also asked the Minister to instruct BC Hydro to conduct public forums to be held throughout BC in the month of October, 2013.

- 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.

“We strongly believe that British Columbians are not being well-served in the Minister’s and BC Hydro’s plans for final public input regarding the Integrated Resource Plan,” said Will Koop, B.C. Tap Water Alliance Coordinator. “We have provided the Minister with a much better plan, which he should adopt. The public should demand the same.”

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