



BRITISH COLUMBIA
UTILITIES COMMISSION

ORDER
NUMBER C-1-91

IN THE MATTER OF the Utilities Commission
Act, S.B.C. 1980, c. 60, as amended

and

IN THE MATTER OF an Application by
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

BEFORE: J.G. McIntyre,)
Chairman;)
J.D.V. Newlands,)
Deputy Chairman;) February 20, 1991
N. Martin,)
Commissioner; and)
W.M. Swanson, Q.C.,)
Commissioner)

O R D E R

WHEREAS:

- A. On November 23, 1990 British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") applied by a Letter of Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN"), pursuant to Section 51(3) of the Utilities Commission Act ("the Act"), to construct and operate a 287 kilovolt transmission line between Alcan Smelters and Chemicals Ltd.'s, ("Alcan") Kitimat substation and B.C. Hydro's Skeena substation, a distance of 51 to 63 km depending on route selection; and
- B. The project will be used to reinforce B.C. Hydro's existing electrical transmission system to enable additional electricity to be transmitted from Alcan's Kemano Completion Project to B.C. Hydro as a result of coordinating and power purchase agreements between the two companies; and
- C. The project identified two possible routes: one, known as Route A, along the existing right-of-way using a common corridor with Highway 37 and Pacific Northern Gas Ltd.'s ("PNG") natural gas pipeline for a distance of 63 km; or Route B, which is estimated to be less costly to construct and maintain, and more direct, being only 51 km; and
- D. B.C. Hydro indicated that it favoured Route A as the recommended project and if approved, would utilize special transmission tower structures to accommodate both the existing and proposed circuits on the existing right-of-way through certain identified environmentally sensitive areas; and
- E. On December 5, 1990 and January 11, 1991 the Commission requested that B.C. Hydro provide additional information on the project including the identification of the issues to be resolved should Route A be approved; and
- F. On December 20, 1990 and January 31, 1991, B.C. Hydro responded to the Commission's requests for information on the project; and
- G. Correspondence submitted with the Application indicated that Route A was acceptable to most government resource agencies; and

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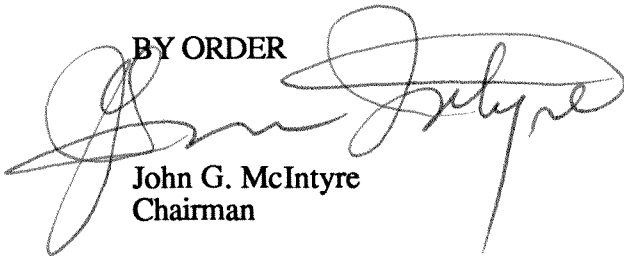
- H. The Commission has reviewed the information and has determined that the construction and operation of the proposed 287 kV transmission line from Alcan's Kitimat substation to B.C. Hydro's Skeena substation utilizing Route A is necessary for the public convenience and properly conserves the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. A CPCN is granted to B.C. Hydro to construct and operate a 287 kV transmission line from Alcan's new Kitimat substation to B.C. Hydro's Skeena substation utilizing the Route A option, a distance of approximately 63 km.
2. This CPCN is subject to the following conditions:
 - (i) B.C. Hydro, its agents and contractors shall comply with all applicable orders and conditions and shall obtain and comply with all applicable licences, permits, approvals, tenures, regulations and standards.
 - (ii) B.C. Hydro will take appropriate measures to resolve the issues contained in Appendix A of this Order to the satisfaction of the Commission, the various government agencies, and other interested groups.
 - (iii) B.C. Hydro shall be guided in its location, design and construction of the line in accordance with the applicable directives and comments made by various government agencies and public groups as contained in the November 23, 1990 Application documents.
 - (iv) Before the completion of construction work, B.C. Hydro shall confirm to the Commission that the reported induced voltage problem on the existing PNG gas pipeline is satisfactorily resolved and that adequate measures have been taken to ensure that the new line will not cause hazardous induced voltage on the pipeline in the Route A corridor.
 - (v) B.C. Hydro shall be subject to further direction from the Commission on any matter arising from the environmental impact studies and the public consultation program.
3. B.C. Hydro is required to file monthly construction progress reports, in addition to detailing the bidding, awarding of contracts and capital cost expectations as the project progresses.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 28th day of February, 1991.

BY ORDER


John G. McIntyre
Chairman

SKEENA - KITIMAT 287 kV TRANSMISSION LINE

APPLICATION TO BCUC FOR CPCN

BCUC Request for Information No. 1

The following identifies the issues to be resolved if Route A is approved:

Resource Feature or Design Component	Items to be Addressed	Reference to Planning Report
1. Routing/Location	1. Refine alignment above Lakelse Lake (km 44 to 50) due to concern for visual impact.	Page 21, 30, 32, 38, 39
	2. Refine alignment approximately 1 km east of existing line (km 16 to 33)	Page 20, 28, 29
	3. Refine Route A/B to minimize visibility and impact on Anderson Creek.	Page 19
	4. Conflicts with Ministry of Highways gravel pits/rock quarries	Page 28-30, 38
	5. Crossing 2L99 in the vicinity of Hwy. 37 (km 16)	Page 22-23
	6. PNG Pipelines	Page 19, 22, 27 - 29, 31 - 32
	- Additional work required to ensure that induced voltage levels are limited through appropriate line location and design measures. This will require coordination between B.C. Hydro and PNG.	
-	- Locations for crossings of the PNG gas pipelines will be identified and PNG will be contacted to obtain the necessary permissions.	Page 39 -

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Resource Feature or Design Component	Items to be Addressed	Reference to Planning Report
2. Agency Liaison	1. Commitment to work with Provincial Resource Ministries the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans and local government regarding design details and construction scheduling.	Page 17, 18
3. Environmental Protection Plan	1. Commitment to prepare a plan for the protection of environmental resources that will be followed during construction, operation and maintenance.	Page 62
4. Fisheries & Wildlife	1. Detailed plan for construction techniques, access and design for protection of fisheries resources in Sockeye, Williams and Blackwater Creeks. 2. Detailed plan for construction techniques, access and design for protection of fisheries resources on Kitimat crossing (km 7 to 8) 3. Detailed plan for construction techniques, access and design for protection of fisheries resources on Duck Creek crossing (km 7 to 8) 4. Mitigation of impacts on registered traplines.	Page 32, 50-52,60,62 Page 22, 26, 27, 38, 39, 50-52 Page 19, 50-52 Page 45
5. Heritage	1. Examination of route by qualified archaeologist.	Page 39

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Resource Feature or Design Component	Items to be Addressed	Reference to Planning Report
6. Visual	1. Mitigation of visual impacts regarding tall structures at the Kitimat River crossing and the Duck Creek crossing. 2. Mitigation of visual impacts in Lakelse Lake area, the park and recreation areas, Highway 37 and Onion Flats area.	Page 30 Page 21, 38
7. Water	1. Protection of licensed potable water sources in the vicinity of Lakelse Lake.	Page 30, 32, 38
8. Vegetation Management	1. Retention of vegetation (trees and shrubs) on the Kitimat River crossing and the Duck Creek crossing.	Page 51
9. Forestry	1. Design access roads and conductor height to provide clearance for forestry equipment. 2. Minimize the potential for cut-off forestry lands. 3. Minimize clearing particularly in planted areas	Page 38 Page 28, 38, 44 Page 10, 29 33, 38, 44
10. Terrain	1. Stability of soils near Lakelse slide (km 50 -52) and sedimentation concerns into Williams/Blackwater Creeks (re fisheries habitat). 2. Stability of Kitimat and Little Weedene Rivers at crossing point; erosion and sedimentation concerns re fisheries habitat.	Page 29 Page 38

Resource Feature or Design Component	Items to be Addressed	Reference to Planning Report
11. General issues normally dealt with at the detail design stage:	1. Review with Transport Canada - Airways to identify spans and structures requiring marking.	Page 47
	2. Review with Transport Canada- Coast Guard which stream crossings will require application under the Navigable Waters Protection Act.	Page 47
	3. Prepare an access assessment taking into account existing access, requirements for clearing and construction and maintenance.	Page 17-18
	4. Determine impact on commercial forest lands and determine tenure. Through discussion with the MOF investigate having tenure holders remove timber prior to clearing.	Page 44 & 47
	5. Determine where the proposed route crosses ALR lands, and make application to the Agricultural Land Commission.	Page 47
	6. Advise the Gold Commissioner of the final detail location to determine if any conflicts exist with existing claims or potential mineral resources.	Page 47