

CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE & ALLIED WORKERS UNION

LOCAL 2020



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February 07, 2009

The Honorable Gordon Campbell - Premier of British Columbia
The Honorable Blair Lekstrom - Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Subject: Approval Process for B.C. Hydro 2008 call for 5000 GWh Clean Power

Sirs,

The Construction, Maintenance and Allied Workers (CMAW) Local 2020 respectfully requests that direction be forwarded to the authority having jurisdiction, being the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority, to begin the approval process on proposals submitted during the 2008 call for the producing of 5000GWh at an earlier date.

Current information indicates that the approval process will take place over a period of April through June 2009 and we believe and are concerned that such a late time frame will lead to unnecessary negative impacts, not only to the applicants involved but primarily to many of the small, rural communities throughout the Province that will see the direct benefits from the economic driver that these projects can achieve.

We offer the following as a base rationale for this request:

1) Lead Time; In many instances these proposed projects do require equipment that is highly specialized and in some cases unique to that particular project. As our economy continues a downward trend and manufacturers continue to lay-off workers, we risk losing highly skilled people whom may not necessarily be able to return to the same employer when the economy begins to pick up again. This may well lead to delays in the ability to fill these equipment orders in a timely manner.

On the reverse side is the danger that, as others are moving ahead with their respective strategies on alternative, renewable energy (United States) and if this takes place at an accelerated pace then our own proponents may find an increased waiting period for the needed manufactured equipment.

2) Financing; We believe that early approvals will provide an advantage for B.C. proponents to seek and secure the necessary financing required to enable their respective project(s) to proceed as such a decision, calling for an earlier time frame on approvals, would indicate clearly to the financial sector that this Province remains committed to a program of seeking clean, renewable sources of energy, and maintains the decisions made by, and supported by previous governments of British Columbia to ensure that this process is carried out with the private sector's involvement.

3) Economic Benefits; Numerous small, rural communities are going through a great degree of transition due to former dependence on single industry. We do recognize that the Federal and

Provincial Government are committed to a substantial "infrastructure" program but in some cases there will be communities that cannot afford to incur additional tax burden by having to find the extra monies to fully benefit in this program. Given the location of proposed projects these IPP's will have direct financial benefit to many rural communities located throughout the Province.

4) Employment; By allowing early approval for a number of these IPP's there is a distinct message sent to the affected area that these projects may come on line at an earlier date and that employment opportunities will be available in the local area in the near future. It will allow local business an opportunity to talk with proponents and see if there are direct relationships for supply and services that can lead to additional employment or even stabilize their current situation. These projects may also lead to the creation of a number of full time jobs within each of the local communities that are in close proximity to the site.

A great number of these projects have direct relationships with First Nations Peoples and the call for early approval will indicate that this Province remains committed to assist with the development, training, the financial sustainability and well being to First Nations People and their respective communities. It will assist to open other opportunities for Band Councils and/or their respective Economic Development Groups to look for additional funding opportunities and sources to prepare for these projects.

5) Green Energy; The call put out by B.C. Hydro was for the production of energy from renewable sources, through a variety of means that will assist to ensure self sufficiency in meeting our energy needs and at the same time will assist to reduce green house gas emissions now and in the future. These are issues that Canadians as a whole have called upon their varied levels of Government to work towards and by calling for early approval it will show that this Province has not waived even though the costs of carbon based resources have fallen significantly over the past few months.

Mr. Premier, Mr. Minister, we fully realize that there is currently a great deal of controversy surrounding the current proposals and primarily the staking of claims over varied river systems and what this has been projected to mean to our citizens. Indeed many of our own members do belong to local fish and wildlife, environmental organizations and have expressed concern over the "gold rush" style of staking river systems. These are some of the places we use for recreation and one of the main reasons we choose to reside in this particular Province.

For the projects that do receive approvals we are sufficiently satisfied that these will have met the required environmental reviews and permit process that is required under current British Columbia and Federal regulation and statute and that gives us further reason to call for moving the approval time frame forward.

On behalf off of the 650 plus members of our Local Union that primarily reside on Vancouver Island, Powell River and the Sunshine Coast we thank you gentlemen for your attention to this matter and look forward to a positive response to an endeavor that can keep B.C. moving forward and playing a leading role in maintaining a growing economy, in being a world leader in the reduction of green house gas emissions and a potential leader and producer of technologies for clean energy.

In the coming week we will be sending this letter out to all other CMAW Local's throughout the Province to ensure that they are aware of this step we, as a single component to our full Bargaining Council have taken and to encourage the other Locals to do likewise. As stated we do reside and work out of many large and small communities in B.C.

We are also forwarding a copy of this letter to the Leader of the Opposition and to all Members of the Legislative assembly (MLA's) within the jurisdiction that our own Local Union covers and where the majority of our members reside to ensure that they are aware of the position put forward by this Local and that we are asking for their support of this request.

Sincerely,

David Crosby - President
CMAW Local 2020

cc:

MLA Victoria / Beacon Hill	Carole James - Leader of the Opposition
MLA Alberni / Qualicum	Scott Fraser - NDP
MLA Cowichan / Ladysmith	Doug Routley - NDP
MLA Esquimalt / Metchosin	Maureen Karagianis - NDP
MLA Malahat / Juan De Fuca	John Horgan - NDP
MLA Nanaimo	Leonard Krog - NDP
MLA Nanaimo / Parksville	Ron Cantelon - Minister of Agriculture and Lands
MLA North Coast	Gary Coons - NDP
MLA North Island	Claire Trevena - NDP
MLA Oak Bay / Gordon Head	Ida Chong - Minister of Small Business, Technology and Economic Development
MLA Powell R. /Sunshine Coast	Nicholas Simons - NDP
MLA Saanich North / Islands	Murray Coel - Minister of Advanced Education, Labour Market Development
MLA Saanich South	David Cubberly - NDP
MLA Victoria / Hillside	Rob Fleming - NDP
MLA Comox Valley	