

Compare the Terrace Standard’s unattributed remarks in column 1 with the Power Play film’s relentless misinformation in column 2. Consider the similarity in words. Then read column 3 for a myth-busting response from B.C. Citizens for Green Energy www.greenenergybc.ca

Excerpts from a column by Rob Brown in the Terrace Standard, April 9, 2008	Power Play: The Theft of B.C.’s Rivers The unattributed source of Rob Brown’s column	B.C. Citizens for Green Energy Our response to this misinformation
<p>Not surprisingly, the recommendations of the task force were a lobbyist’s dream that smoothly paved the way for multinationals to take control of B.C.’s river power.</p>	<p>[narrator] The report is a lobbyist’s dream, a perfect reflection of private interests to take control of B.C.’s rivers and energy assets....</p>	<p>This excerpt claims that lobbyists controlled a task force that made recommendations for the BC Energy Plan. Their conspiratorial agenda? To turn control of B.C.’s rivers over to multinationals.</p>
<p>Under the energy plan, BC Hydro is not only forbidden from creating new power, it is forced to purchase power from private river operations at higher rates.</p>	<p>[narrator] But the B.C. Energy Plan changed all that. Made official by the provincial government in 2003, this new policy forbade BC Hydro from creating any new power of its own, forcing it instead to buy power from private river operations at much higher rates.</p>	<p>BC Hydro is still expanding its own energy sources, most notably with the proposed Site C mega-project. All electricity from new energy sources will cost more than the electricity we get from infrastructure that was built and paid for decades ago. But our electricity will still be among the world’s cheapest.</p>
<p>In the future, Hydro will have to buy privately generated power at \$100/mwh as compared to the \$5/mwh it pays today.</p>	<p>[narrator] Plus the hefty price tag on new transmission systems for private power which brings the real cost to BC Hydro to over \$100 a megawatt hour, as compared with the approximately \$5 a megawatt hour it makes its own power for now.</p>	<p>It costs BC Hydro at least five times that much to produce its own power. Back in 2003 BC Hydro’s electricity cost \$25 a megawatt hour to produce, according to documents reported by the Vancouver Sun. The Sun also reported that energy from BC Hydro’s own proposed Site C dam would cost \$100 a megawatt hour.</p>
<p>To make matters worse, transmission lines will have to be upgraded at a cost of \$5.1 billion to carry this newly created private power. The bill will be ours. Meanwhile, Hydro will continue to sell power to large industries at \$35/mwh.</p>	<p>[narrator] In fact the government recently announced \$5.1 billion in public spending to upgrade B.C.’s transmission grid. Just last year the government extended the special \$35 rate to industry indefinitely, ensuring its support for the B.C. Energy Plan.</p>	<p>The \$5.1 billion will pay for transmission line expansion and upgrades that have been long overdue. Industry has received reduced rates since at least the early 1960s because of lower transmission costs to big consumers and to encourage job growth.</p>
<p>The result of this buy high-sell low strategy will be a perpetual debt cycle for BC Hydro and much higher utility rates for you and me.</p>	<p>[Marvin Shaffer] “I call that a buy-high, sell-low strategy.” [onscreen text] BUY HIGH/SELL LOW</p>	<p>These comments result from a mistaken assessment of B.C.’s electricity imports and exports. B.C. imports more electricity than it exports, and does so</p>

Terrace Standard unattributed comments continued	Power Play — the unattributed source continued	B.C. Citizens for Green Energy response continued
	<p>... RESULT: never-ending debt cycle for bc, much higher rates for bc consumers</p>	<p>because we consume more electricity than we produce. The “never-ending debt cycle” is nonsense. But unless we achieve self-sufficiency our economy will suffer from reliance on increasingly expensive imported electricity.</p>
<p>Left unchecked, this never-ending cycle of debt will bankrupt the province’s public utilities, leaving its existing assets vulnerable to future takeover by private interests.</p>	<p>[narrator] And left unchecked, this never-ending debt cycle will bankrupt B.C.’s public utility in the future, leaving its existing assets vulnerable to being taken over by private interests.</p>	<p>More nonsense about a “never-ending debt cycle.” See above paragraph.</p>
<p>The B.C. government gives away our rivers, gets us to underwrite the facilities and commit to purchase the power produced at exorbitant rates, and at the of the day the private companies will own the river rights and the infrastructure and be able sell their power to whomever they want for whatever they want for as long as they want.</p>	<p>[narrator and onscreen text] The B.C. government gives away the public’s rivers for free, and gets them to finance the facilities and commit to purchase the power from them at exorbitant rates — and at the end of that process the private company owns the river rights and the infrastructure and can sell their power to whomever they want for whatever they want... forever.</p>	<p>One error after another: Our rivers aren’t being given away. They’re not being loaned “for free.” We don’t finance or underwrite development. We don’t commit to unreasonable, let alone “exorbitant” rates. A company never owns a B.C. river. The provincial government can take over the infrastructure if it wants.</p> <p>An independent producer can’t sell to whomever it wants because water licences have to be renewed within 40 years, roughly the length of most BC Hydro purchase contracts. In addition the National Energy Board requires producers to offer energy to Canadians first.</p>
<p>As a result of this scandal, the people of B.C. could be in a position where our energy prices are being set in California to buy power that’s being produced on our rivers.</p>	<p>[Shane Simpson] By 2030 we may be in a desperate situation where we’re having our power prices established in California because we’re having to meet the California price in order to buy power that’s produced on our rivers...</p>	<p>Scandal? Desperate situation? See preceding paragraphs.</p>
<p>Make no mistake, this is the biggest heist of public resources in this province’s history. It is an enormous threat to the economy, the ecology, and the culture of this province.</p>	<p>[narrator] It’s the biggest heist of public resources in Canadian history and an enormous threat to the future of British Columbia’s environment, economy and society.</p>	<p>Heist? Threat? If there’s a heist, it’s public discourse being stolen by irresponsible rhetoric. If there’s a threat, it’s to future generations who’ll suffer from increasingly expensive, dirty, imported electricity.</p>