

**Northwest Transmission Line Project:
Supplementary Public Consultation
Report**

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BC EAO	BC Environmental Assessment Office
BCTC	BC Transmission Corporation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAC	Environmental Assessment Certificate
ENGO	Environmental Non-Governmental Organization
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NTL	Northwest Transmission Line

1. Introduction

This report is one of two supplements to Chapter 2 “Information Exchange and Consultation” of BC Hydro’s¹ application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate. The purpose of this report is to summarize BC Hydro’s public consultation and communications activities following the submission of the EAC Application and through the EAC Application review period

The NTL Project (the Project) EAC Application (BCTC: 2010) was accepted by the EAO for review on April 14, 2010. The 180 day review period was originally scheduled to end on October 12, 2010. However, BC Hydro requested a 31-day suspension of the EAC review period on August 27, 2010 in order to complete, and submit the results from additional specific study work during the summer of 2010 to the EAO and its technical Working Group. The EAO technical Working Group includes representation from the Nisga’a Nation and First Nations, and from local governments, but not NGO representatives or members of the public. The EAO granted an indefinite timeline suspension on September 2, 2010 which, at the time of writing this report, EAO has indicated will remain in effect until the EAO has determined that the additional information provided by BC Hydro is complete. Upon completion of the EAC Application review, the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BC EAO) will submit its Assessment Report to the Ministers of Environment and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources for decision on whether to issue an Environmental Assessment Certificate.

For this environmental assessment the EAO also has the responsibility for conduct of the review process under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* through a delegation agreement with the federal government. Ultimately the individual federal Responsible Authorities retain the responsibility to make decisions on applications under their own federal jurisdictions.

During the EAC Application review period, members of the public were invited to provide comments on the EAC Application for the BC EAO’s consideration. The BC EAO implemented a 45 day public review period between April 26, 2010 and June 10, 2010. 740 comments were received from the public, Nisga’a Nation, First Nations, and government agencies. These comments, along with BC Hydro’s responses, are available on the BC EAO, “e-PIC” webpage².

The BC EAO held an additional, 14-day public comment period between August 11, 2010 and August 25, 2010 for comments on the “Proposed Northwest Transmission Line Project: Hanna-Tintina Route Alternatives Evaluation Report.” The Nisga’a Nation and Skii km Lax Ha provided comments during this public comment period on the proposed alternative route. These comments, along with BC Hydro’s responses, will be available on the BC EAO, “e-PIC” webpage.

¹ In this report “BC Hydro” also refers to all predecessor activities of the BC Transmission Corporation (BCTC) prior to the merging of the two entities on July 5, 2010..

² http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_doc_index_299.html

While all of the public events outlined in this report were inclusive of the Nisga'a Nation and First Nations, consultation and communication activities specific to the Nisga'a Nation and First Nations are outlined in the supplementary report entitled "Northwest Transmission Line Project: First Nations and Nisga'a Nation Environmental Assessment Certificate Application Review Consultation Summary."

This report demonstrates how the consultation and information distribution objectives and activities set out in EAO's section 11 order for the EAC Application review period were met. The objectives relating to government, stakeholders are summarized in Table 1:

**Table 1-1
Public Consultation Objectives for the Application Review Period**

Government Consultation Plan for the Application Review Period³

- Project information updates would be communicated to the Mayor, council members, chairs and management of the municipalities of Terrace, Stewart, Smithers and Prince Rupert; in addition to the RDKS and RDBN.
- Update meetings with relevant government agencies would be held during or immediately before the EAC Application 180-day public comment period. The meetings during the Application public comment period would be coordinated with public meetings and/or First Nation community meetings being held in the vicinity. Communities would include Terrace, Smithers, and Stewart, in addition to the RDKS and the RDBN. Invitations to meet to discuss the Project would also be extended to relevant representatives in Prince Rupert, Kitimat, Telkwa, and the Hazeltons. BC EAO technical working group meetings would continue and build on the work already completed within the context of the EA process.

Stakeholder Consultation Plan for the Application Review Period⁴

- Project update meetings will be held with all relevant stakeholder groups. These groups will receive regular Project advisories by letter, personal invitations to community Project information meetings, and invitations to meet with BCTC representatives.
- Ongoing communications by way of the BCTC Project information website, and the community relations department will be undertaken by BCTC's Senior Community Relations Specialist. In addition, communications outreach will be broadened to focus on tenure holders such as trapline owners, guide outfitters, and property owners.

Public Consultation Plan for the Application Review Period⁵

- Response to comments and inquires from individuals and organizations will continue and, wherever appropriate, the person or group will be encouraged to participate in the EA public process.
- Community Project information open house meetings will be held in Terrace, Smithers and Stewart during the EAC Application review period. A public information session will also be coordinated with BCH ARN for First Nations and non-First Nations residents in Dease Lake.
- In response to feedback received, consideration will be made to provide copies of the application to the libraries in Hazelton and Kitimat.
- Project updates will be provided to those on the update list.
- Project website will be updated as required.

³ From section 2.13.4 in Vol. 1, Pt. 3 of the EAC Application.

⁴ From section 2.14.5 in Vol. 1, Pt. 3 of the EAC Application.

⁵ From section 2.15.5 in Vol. 1, Pt. 3 of the EAC Application.

2. Government Consultation

Government agencies are a key consultation group as Proponents require input and guidance on various regulatory aspects of a project's development within the context of an EAC Application. In accordance with the Section 11 order issued by the EAO on November 12, 2007, BC Hydro consulted with various levels of government and agencies commencing with the BC EAO, the provincial governing body responsible for coordinating the EA process, as well as various federal and local government agencies. While primary contact was made through the technical working group, there were additional individual meetings and discussions on various issues particular to the corresponding agencies. In addition, BC Hydro consulted separately with local municipal and regional district government leaders and senior staff during the EA process.

BC Hydro's NTL project manager and community relations task manager coordinated the government consultation program. The purpose of government consultation is to provide information on the proposed NTL project, identify and discuss any concerns or issues, and acquire inter-governmental regulatory guidance from various ministries pertaining to EA process requirements.

2.1 Local Government Meetings and Activities

2.1.1 Open Houses and Separate Meetings:

Provincial, regional and municipal government representatives were invited to attend the April 2010 EAO Open Houses in Dease Lake (April 27, 2010), Smithers (April 28, 2010) and Terrace (April 29, 2010). Local government representation at the open houses is summarized in Table 2.2-1. As these Open Houses were mainly targeted to the public, the detailed discussion about the meetings is in Section 4.1, Open Houses: April 27-29, 2010.

BC Hydro identified opportunities to local government representatives to provide additional information on the proposed NTL Project. While in Terrace for the Community Open House meetings, an additional breakfast meeting was held between some NTL team members, two Terrace councillors and the Terrace Chief Administrative Officer, to provide the opportunity for focused, small group discussion on the project and to answer any questions. The following table summarizes the communications outreach and meetings held with government from January 28, 2010 to September 17, 2010.

Table 2.2-1

EA Application Review Period: Local Government Communications and Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Government Agencies involved
ONGOING	Updates to NTL web pages at key project milestones.	All.
April 15, 2010	Personalized email or letter sent with project update information on Application review period, public comment period and EAO Open Houses.	Provincial MLAs; Mayors/council: of Terrace, Smithers, Stewart, Hazelton, Telkwa, New Hazelton, Kitimat, Prince Rupert; Regional District Kitimat Stikine; Regional District Bulkley Nechako.
April 27, 2010	EAO Open House, Dease Lake.	Attended by representatives of Terrace Council, Iskut Band Council and RD Kitimat Stikine.
April 28, 2010	EAO Open House, Smithers.	Attended by representatives of Smithers and Telkwa Councils.
April 29, 2010	EAO Open House, Terrace.	Attended by representatives of Terrace Council and Regional District Kitimat Stikine.
April 30, 2010	Breakfast meeting.	NTL Project Manager and Community Relations Manager met with several councillors and Terrace Chief Administrative Officer to discuss project.
May 5-7, 2010	North Central Local Government Association Conference: Informal discussions during social events and at BC Hydro's NTL information booth. BC Hydro participated in a workshop, and delivered a presentation focusing largely on the NTL, which was attended by about 40 delegates.	Mayors, councillors, Regional District representatives.
May 6, 2010	Coffee Meeting.	BC Hydro Vice-President, Major Projects met with the Mayor of Terrace and several councillors to discuss the project.
September 10, 2010	A project update was sent out to inform of the temporary suspension of the EA Application Review period and the shortlist of proponents to receive the request for proposal for the NTL design build contract. Updated project contact information was also provided.	Local government representatives.

2.1.2 North Central Local Government Association Annual Meeting

BC Hydro participated in the North Central Local Government Association (NCLGA) annual meeting, which included sponsorship and a booth focusing on the proposed NTL. BC Hydro's Vice-President of Major Projects participated in a panel session attended by about 40 people, and gave a presentation that focused primarily on the NTL. The North Central Local Government Association provided many opportunities for informal conversations with government representatives. During the NCLGA, the Vice-President of Major Projects also met with the Mayor of Terrace and Terrace councillors for an additional one-on-one discussion about the NTL.

2.2 Communications: for Period from Submission of EAC Application for Screening to end of September, 2010

Between Jan 28 and Feb 1, 2010, emails were sent to the following local governments to advise that BC Hydro had submitted the EAC Application to the BC EAO for screening: MLAs; Mayors/councils/senior staff: Terrace, Smithers, Stewart, Hazelton, Telkwa, New Hazelton, Kitimat, Prince Rupert; senior staff: Regional District Kitimat Stikine; Regional District Bulkley Nechako. Communications: Application Review Period (April 15, 2010 to September 17, 2010)

In addition to the email notifications, the NTL web pages on the BC Hydro web site have been regularly updated to reflect key milestones and new information about the project.

Personalized emails or letters were sent to local government representatives, containing a project update and information about the Application review period, public comment period and EAO Open Houses.

Hardcopies of the EAC Application were made available for public viewing and comment between April 26, 2010 and June 10, 2010 at the following locations:

- Smithers Public Library
- Terrace Public Library
- Stewart Public Library
- Hazelton Public Library
- Dease Lake Learning Centre/Northern Lights College Library
- Vancouver Public Library
- BC Transmission Corporation

An electronic version was accessible via the EAO's webpage.

Between August 11, 2010 and August 25, 2010 hardcopies of the Proposed Northwest Transmission Line Project: Hanna-Tintina Route Alternatives Evaluation Report was made available for public viewing and comment in the seven locations noted above. An electronic version was accessible via the EAO's webpage. The public comment period was advertised in local print media, as required by the BCEAO.

On September 10, 2010, a project update was sent to local government representatives to inform them of the temporary suspension of the EAC Application Review period, and to note that the names of the proponents shortlisted to receive the request for proposal for the NTL

design build contract were posted on the BC Hydro web site in the NTL project section. Updated project contact information was also provided. Please refer to Table 2.2-1 for a summary of communications.

Apart from the meetings noted above with Terrace local government representatives, specific meetings were not arranged with local governments for other municipalities nor with the two regional districts, nor were any requests for meetings received from the other local governments. The Regional District of Kitimat Stikine – the main stakeholder regional district for the project – declined BC Hydro’s offer to do an update presentation on the project, as they felt they had sufficient information. There were opportunities for informal discussion with local government representatives through NCLGA and at the Open Houses, and given the high level of support for the project, it was decided that no further meetings need be proactively offered by BC Hydro.

2.3 Communications Tracking

Government communications are managed by the BC Hydro Community Relations task manager and tracked through a Maximizer database. As of September 21, 2010 it included 483 names. Communications to the entire (main) database have mostly focused around the public meetings and public comment periods.

There is a smaller subsection of the main database comprising people/organizations that have requested updates on project milestones; this is referred to as the update database and as of September 21, 2010 contained 261 names.

Note that representatives of the local governments listed in Table 2.2-1 are included in the updates database.

2.4 Ongoing Consultation and Communication

BC Hydro’s Community Relations task manager is available to maintain good relations and to provide local governments with project updates and responses to any questions. A staff and an elected representative for each local government in the project area are included in the NTL updates database, so will continue to be sent updates as the project reaches key milestones.

In addition, the NTL web pages on the BC Hydro website will continue to be updated for each major development with the project⁶.

2.5 Summary of Local Government Concerns and Responses

Local government support for the NTL is very high, with the project being viewed as facilitating major economic development for the area. The main issue for local governments at this time is local employment opportunities in constructing the project. There is local concern that, while BCH is facilitating employment of Aboriginal businesses, the same is not being done for non Aboriginal businesses.

⁶ <http://transmission.bchydro.com/projects/ntl/>

When this issue was raised by government representatives, the constraints imposed by the Agreement on Internal Trade were explained. The standard messaging is: BC Hydro is subject to the terms of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT) and the aim of the AIT is to reduce barriers to the movement of persons, goods, services and investments within Canada. One of the economic areas subject to the AIT is government and Crown corporation purchasing practices. Overall, it is against the policy of the AIT to indicate local preferences in purchasing, because the opportunities provided in one province must be provided equally to parties from all provinces. However, the provisions of the AIT do not apply to purchases of goods or services from First Nations. The RFP for the design-build contract for the NTL transmission line is structured so that proponents have an incentive to keep their bids economical. We believe that there are many excellent local contractors and we encourage local firms to make the shortlisted proponents aware of their expertise. To facilitate this, we have posted the names of the shortlisted proponents on the BC Hydro web site.

3. Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder groups that BC Hydro consulted or communicated with include:

- Economic development groups, including Chambers of Commerce, Terrace Economic Development Authority and Kitimat Terrace Industrial Development Society
- Crown land tenure holders (trappers, guide outfitters, recreational facilities, etc.)
- Property owners (prior to involvement of BC Hydro Properties)
- Environmental and other Non-Government Organizations (ENGOS/NGOs)
- Mining community

BC Hydro's Community Relations task manager was responsible for project information distribution to all stakeholder groups identified as having interests in, or that would potentially be impacted by, the proposed NTL project. The purpose of stakeholder consultation is to provide information on the proposed NTL project and to identify and discuss any concerns or issues, so that these may be addressed.

3.1 Meetings and Activities

While offers to meet during the public comment period were made to the Terrace Economic Development Authority, this was not deemed necessary by that group at this time, given the high level of support for the project.

On the 23rd of April, 2010, BC Hydro participated in a panel presentation at the Minerals North Conference in Prince George. This provided an opportunity to update key stakeholders in the mining industry about the project and the EA process, and to answer questions about the project.

Information on the EAO Open Houses was sent to the more than 400 people in the NTL contacts database, many of whom are stakeholders. Attendees are summarized in general terms in table 3.1-1 below. As these meetings were mainly targeted to the public, details are included in Section 4.1, Open Houses: April 27-29, 2010.

Considerable efforts were made to meet with representatives of three key ENGOS in the area, who had met with another stakeholder group to discuss the project. Efforts were made to coordinate a meeting via a third party, but no date that worked for all parties could be found. However, BC Hydro's participation in the Terrace Chamber of Commerce Trade Show (April 30-May 1, 2010) provided the opportunity for an informal discussion on the project with the representative of one of these three ENGOS. During this event, informal conversations on the project were also held with representatives of various local economic development groups.

On June 4, 2010, BC Hydro participated in a panel discussion at the Resources Expo 2010, held in Prince George; one focus of the presentation was NTL. This conference attracted industry representatives and local contractors.

The following table summarizes the communications outreach and meetings held with stakeholders from January 28, 2010 to September 17, 2010.

Table 3.1-1

EA Application Review Period: Stakeholder Communications and Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Stakeholders
ONGOING	Updates to NTL website at key project milestones	All.
April 15, 2010	Email or letter sent with project update information on Application Review Period, public comment period and EAO Open Houses	All stakeholders in main NTL database: Crown land tenure holders, ENGOs, economic development groups, property owners, potential mining customers.
April 23, 2010	Presentation, Minerals North	Mining community.
April 27, 2010	EAO Open House, Dease Lake	Attended by representatives of Terrace Chamber of Commerce, Terrace Economic Development Authority (TEDA), Kitimat Terrace Industrial Development Society (KTIDS), a mining company and at least one NGO.
April 28, 2010	EAO Open House, Smithers	Attended by representatives of several mining companies.
April 29, 2010	EAO Open House, Terrace	Attended by representatives of Terrace Chamber of Commerce, KTIDS and TEDA, some property owners, at least one ENGO and some mining companies
April 30-May 1, 2010	Terrace Chamber of Commerce 2010 Trade Show (NTL staffed booth)	Opportunity for informal conversations with an ENGO representative and local economic development group representatives.
June 4, 2010	Presentation, Resources Expo 2010.	Trade Fair attended by representatives of a number of resource industries
September 10, 2010	A project update was sent out to inform of the temporary suspension of the EAC Application review period, and the shortlist of proponents to receive the request for proposal for the NTL design build contract. Updated project contact information was also provided.	All stakeholders in NTL updates database

3.2 Communications: for Period from Submission of EAC Application for Screening to EAC Application Acceptance for Review (January 28, 2010 to April 14, 2010)

Stakeholders who had self-identified and requested inclusion in BC Hydro's NTL updates database were sent an email or letter in late January 2010 to advise that the NTL Application for an EA Certificate had been submitted to the EAO for screening.

The number of property owners potentially affected by NTL decreased when the section of the proposed NTL alignment through the Nass Valley was modified.

3.3 Communications: Application Review Period (April 15, 2010 to September 17, 2010)

The NTL web pages on the BC Hydro's web site have been regularly updated to reflect key milestones and new information about the project.

In support of the Application phase of the EA process, an email or letter about the Application review period, along with information on the public comment period and an NTL project update brochure, was sent to the more than 400 people (as of date of mailing) whose contact information was in the NTL contacts database. This includes all stakeholders identified to date (such as tenure holders, NGOs and ENGOs, economic development groups, property owners, etc.).

Hardcopies of the EAC Application were made available for public viewing and content between April 26, 2010 and June 10, 2010 at the following locations:

- Smithers Public Library
- Terrace Public Library
- Stewart Public Library
- Hazelton Public Library
- Dease Lake Learning Centre/Northern Lights College Library
- Vancouver Public Library
- BC Transmission Corporation

An electronic version was accessible via the EAO's webpage.

Between August 11, 2010 and August 25, 2010 hardcopies of the Proposed Northwest Transmission Line Project: Hanna-Tintina Route Alternatives Evaluation Report was made available for public viewing and comment in the seven locations noted above. An electronic version was accessible via the EAO's webpage. The public comment period was advertised in local print media, as required by the BCEAO.

On September 10, 2010, a project update was sent to stakeholders who had self-identified to be included in the NTL project updates database. This letter described the temporary suspension of the EAC Application Review period, and noted that the names of the proponents shortlisted to

receive the request for proposal for the NTL design build contract were posted on the BC Hydro web site in the NTL project section. Updated project contact information was also provided. Please refer to Table 3.1-1 for a summary of communications.

3.4 Communications Tracking

Communications are managed by the BC Hydro Community Relations task manager and tracked through a Maximizer database. As of September 21, 2010, the database consisted of 483 names. Communications to the entire (main) database have mostly focused on public meetings and public comment periods.

There is a smaller subsection of the main database comprising people/organizations that have requested updates on project milestones; this is referred to as the update database and as of September 21, 2010 contained 261 names.

Stakeholder information is added to the database on an “as needed” basis, as BC Hydro becomes aware of new stakeholders.

3.5 Ongoing Consultation and Communications

BC Hydro’s Community Relations Task Manager remains available to maintain good relations and provide all stakeholder groups with project updates and responses to questions. Project updates will continue to be sent to contacts in the NTL update database (and in some cases, the entire database) as the project reaches key milestones.

In addition, the NTL web pages on the BC Hydro website will continue to be updated for each major development with the project⁷.

3.6 Summary of Stakeholder Concerns and Responses

During the public comment period on the EAC Application, 740 comments were received from the public. Comments and proponent responses are viewable on the BC EAO’s e-PIC website⁸. Public—including businesses and other stakeholders’—comments were almost entirely in support of the NTL Project. The comments fall under the following categories:

- support for the NTL project
- suggestions of possible extensions to the NTL route and expansion of its planned capacity
- encouragement for the Proponent to hire locally
- concerns about the cumulative effects assessment methodology used
- other

⁷ <http://transmission.bchydro.com/projects/ntl/>

⁸ http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_doc_index_299.html

Stakeholder Consultation

Stakeholder comments were not received during the public review period for the Hanna-Tintina Route Evaluation Report.

4. Public Consultation

The final consultation group is the general public. This generally refers to the non-Aboriginal citizens of local communities in proximity to the proposed project development.

BC Hydro's Community Relations task manager was responsible for project information distribution and responding to questions and issues raised by members of the public. The BC Hydro's Community Relations Task Manager was also responsible for all coordination and publicity work for the EAO open houses during the public comment period for the Application, and for preparing all BC Hydro communications materials in support of these meetings.

The purpose of the public consultation is to provide information on the proposed NTL project, and to identify and discuss any concerns or issues so that these may be addressed. During public comment periods, a major objective is to educate the public about the EA process and encourage submission of comments to the BC EAO.

4.1 Open Houses: April 27-29, 2010

The public open houses for the public comment period of the EAC Application Review period, and the public comment period were the main focus of the public consultation program. While representatives of local governments and stakeholders were invited to the meetings, the primary focus for outreach was members of the public. Transportation was made available from Iskut to Dease Lake and it was well publicized; however, no-one took advantage of this offer.

The Open Houses were held:

- April 27: Dease Lake Community Hall, Dease Lake (approximately 60 attendees)
- April 28: Hudson Bay Inn, Smithers (approximately 65 attendees)
- April 29: Coast Inn of the West, Terrace (approximately 110 attendees)

The meetings nominally began at 5:00 p.m. (but generally started earlier) and comprised 1.5 hours in which attendees could circulate, view the many storyboards about the project and the environmental studies, and talk to BC EAO and BC Hydro representatives. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation by the BC EAO, the BC Hydro Senior Project Manager and the BC Hydro environmental consultant.

Attendance numbers are estimates and are likely low. Also, many people did not "sign in", so it is not possible to determine how many attendees were members of the public (including First Nations and Nisga'a Nation) and how many were government or stakeholder representatives.

Attendees also had the option of signing up for the inclusion in the NTL updates database. The following numbers signed up:

- Dease Lake: 17
- Smithers: 24
- Terrace: 9

The low level of sign up in Terrace likely reflects the very large numbers of participants. The project team were fully occupied answering questions and talking with participants, and there was less emphasis on asking participants if they would like to sign up for updates. Furthermore, many of the participants had come to previous open houses and were already on the updates list.

4.1.1 Open House Notifications

4.1.1.1 Newspapers

The three open houses were publicized through advertisements in local papers as follows:

- Terrace Standard: April 21 and 28, 2010
- Smithers Interior News: April 21 and 28, 2010
- Northern Connector: April 16 and 23, 2010

4.1.1.2 Radio

Further publicity included paid radio advertising starting the week prior to the meetings on the following stations: CFNR, CFTK and CFJW

4.1.1.3 Posters

Posters were placed in key public venues in each of the host towns. In addition, posters were dropped off at households in Iskut, Dease Lake and Telegraph Creek, specifically for the Dease Lake meeting.

4.2 Other Public Consultation

On April 15 and 16th, 2010, the Smithers Chamber of Commerce held its annual trade show. Staff from BC Hydro were unable to attend, however NTL fact sheets were sent up to the Chamber, and distributed through the Chamber's own booth. The remainder were taken to the Smithers Visitor's Information Centre.

On April 30 and May 1, 2010, BC Hydro participated in the Terrace Chamber of Commerce trade show, with a staffed booth focusing on the NTL. Approximately 150 members of the public visited the booth and talked to the NTL Community Relations task manager about the project. This was an unexpectedly high level of interaction and provided good opportunity to receive (mainly positive) feedback on the project, talk to local businesses about the procurement process, clarify some misperceptions about the project's size, length and route, and answer many questions.

On June 4, 2010, BC Hydro participated in a panel discussion at the Resources Expo 2010, held in Prince George; one focus area of the presentation was NTL. This conference attracted industry representatives, local contractors and members of the public interested in developments in northern resource industries.

The following table summarizes the communications outreach and meetings held with the public from January 28, 2010 to September 17, 2010.

Table 4.1-1

EAC Application Review Period: Public Communications and Consultation Activities

Date	Activity	Stakeholders
ONGOING	Updates to NTL website at key project milestones	General public.
April 15 – 16, 2010	Smithers Chamber of Commerce 2010 Trade Show, NTL materials distributed	General public.
April 15, 2010	Email or letter sent with project update information on the EAC Application Review Period, public comment period and EAO Open Houses	NTL main database, which includes a number of members of the public who have expressed interest in the project.
April 27, 2010	EAO Open House, Dease Lake.	Estimated attendance: 60.
April 28, 2010	EAO Open House, Smithers.	Estimated attendance: 65.
April 29, 2010	EAO Open House, Terrace.	Estimated attendance: 110.
April 30-May 1, 2010	Terrace Chamber of Commerce 2010 Trade Show (NTL staffed booth).	Informal project-oriented conversations held with approximately 150 members of the public.
June 4, 2010	Presentation, Resources Expo 2010	Trade Fair audience included members of the public.
September 10, 2010	A project update was sent out to inform of the temporary suspension of the EA Application Review period, and the shortlist of proponents to receive the request for proposal for the NTL design build contract. Updated project contact information was also provided.	All members of the public who requested inclusion in the NTL updates database
September 20 – end of 2010	CFNR Radio ad campaign on NTL	Members of the public

4.3 Communications: for Period from Submission of EAC Application for Screening to EAC Application Acceptance for Review (January 28, 2010 to April 14, 2010)

Members of the public who had requested inclusion in BC Hydro’s NTL update database were sent an email or letter in late January 2010 to advise that the NTL Application for an EA Certificate had been submitted to the BC EAO for screening.

4.4 Communications: Application Review Period (April 15, 2010 to September 30, 2010)

The NTL web pages on the BC Hydro web site have been regularly updated to reflect key milestones and new information about the project.

In support of the Application phase of the EA process, an email or letter about the Application review period, along with info on the public comment period and an NTL project brochure, was sent to the more than 400 people (as of date of mailing) in the NTL main contacts database, a large number of which were interested members of public.

Hardcopies of the EAC Application were made available for public viewing between April 26, 2010 and June 10, 2010 at the following locations:

- Smithers Public Library
- Terrace Public Library
- Stewart Public Library
- Hazelton Public Library
- Dease Lake Learning Centre/Northern Lights College Library
- Vancouver Public Library
- BC Transmission Corporation

Between August 11, 2010 and August 25, 2010 hardcopies of the Proposed Northwest Transmission Line Project: Hanna-Tintina Route Alternatives Evaluation Report was made available for public viewing and comment in the seven locations noted above. An electronic version was accessible via the EAO's webpage. The public comment period was advertised in local print media, as required by the BCEAO.

On September 10, 2010, a project update was sent to members of the public in the NTL updates database informing them of the temporary suspension of the EAC Application Review period, and to note that the names of the proponents shortlisted to receive the request for proposal for the NTL design build contract were posted on the BC Hydro web site in the NTL project section.

On September 20, 2010, BC Hydro commenced a radio advertising campaign on Terrace station CFNR, to highlight some key aspects of the NTL project. This campaign will run to the end of 2010 and is intended both to support public awareness of the NTL, but also to provide contact information for those who wish to receive more information. CFNR was selected because of its high listenership in Aboriginal and non Aboriginal communities in northwest BC.

4.5 Communications tracking

Communications are managed by BC Hydro's Community Relations task manager and tracked through the Maximizer database. As of September 21, 2010 the database consisted of 481 names. Communications to the entire (main) database have mostly focused around public meetings and public comment periods.

There is a smaller subsection of the main database comprising people/organizations that have requested updates on project milestones; this is referred to as the update database and as of September 21, 2010 contained 261 names.

Contact information for interested members of the public is added to the database on request.

4.6 Ongoing Consultation and Communications

BC Hydro's Community Relations task manager is available to maintain good relations and provide members of the public with project updates and responses to questions. Project updates will continue to be sent to the NTL updates database (and in some cases, the entire database) as the project reaches key milestones.

In addition, the NTL web pages on the BC Hydro website will continue to be updated for each major development with the project⁹.

4.7 Summary of Public Concerns and Responses

During the public comment period on the Application for an EAC, 740 comments were received from the public, Comments which were virtually all positive were received in the following categories:

- support for the NTL project
- suggestions of possible extensions to the NTL route and expansion of its planned capacity
- encouragement for the Proponent to hire locally
- concerns about the cumulative effects assessment methodology used
- other

4.7.1 Support for the NTL Project

BC Hydro indicated its appreciation of the commenter's expressions of support for the construction of the NTL Project. The decision to move forward with constructing the NTL Project rests with the Provincial Government. The NTL project, included in BC's new Clean Energy Act, supports the Province's long-term vision for clean, renewable, low-cost energy for BC.

4.7.2 Extension of the NTL and Expansion of Capacity

Several commenters suggested extending the NTL to Dease Lake, connecting the line with lines in Alaska and the Yukon, and increasing the line's capacity. BC HYDro indicated that based on load forecasts, the location of potential mining projects and other factors, BC Hydro's studies indicate that a 287 kV line to Bob Quinn Lake is appropriate. Extending the line further north will require additional studies and consultation, adding significantly to the costs. Once the NTL Project is built, it will still be possible to consider a separate project to extend the line further north or even west from Bob Quinn Lake at some future date.

⁹ <http://transmission.bchydro.com/projects/ntl/>

4.7.3 Cumulative Effects Assessment Methodology

Some comments expressed concerns related to potential future developments in north-western BC resulting from electrification of the region. BC Hydro provided further detail in the Cumulative Effects Assessment Methodology issue response that accompanies the Public Comment tracking table now posted on the EAO ePIC..

4.7.4 Hiring Locally

In response to requests from the public to hire locally, BC Hydro responded that the NTL will be delivered using a design-build approach in which a single contractor will be responsible for design, engineering, construction and procurement. A Request for Qualifications, which ended on June 17, was posted on BC Bid. The responses will be evaluated and BC Hydro anticipates hiring one of four short-listed potential design-build contractors in late 2010.

Under the Agreement on Internal Trade, BC Hydro is unable to specify that its contractors must hire other types of local contractors. However, as is the case with most major projects of this size and complexity, it is likely that the short-listed contractors will be looking for services from local subcontractors. We believe that there are many qualified local firms in Northwest BC that could provide subcontractor services. The Proponent encourages local firms to make the shortlisted contractors aware of their expertise. To facilitate this, we will be posting the names of shortlisted contractors on the BC Hydro web site.

Public comments were not received during the public review period for the Hanna-Tintina Route Evaluation Report.

5. Next Steps

An EAO Working Group meeting took place on September 28 and 29th, 2010 to discuss the supplementary materials that BC Hydro provided to the EAO during the suspension. Depending on comments received from the working group on the supplementary materials, EAO may lift the suspension. Upon lifting the suspension, EAO would have 39 days to complete the assessment and refer its assessment report and recommendations to the Responsible Ministers and the Responsible Authorities for their respective decisions regarding the EA.

6. Appendices

Supporting documents will be appended