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IN THE MATTER OF
the Utilities Commission Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, Chapter 473

and

an Application by British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
Approval of 138 kV Transmission Line Taps and Substation

BEFORE: L.R Barr, Deputy Chair and)
Acting Chair) May 1, 1997
K.L. Hall, Commissioner)

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

WHEREAS:

- A. On February 4, 1997 British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority ("B.C. Hydro") applied for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") to construct two 480 meter, 138 kV transmission line taps, a new 50 MVA Oyster River Substation and, a 6 km, 25 kV double circuit distribution feeder located near Oyster River, B.C. ("the Project"); and
- B. The Project is required to reinforce existing 138 kV transmission and 25 kV distribution feeders that are expected to be at near capacity by 1998. It is expected to cost an estimated \$6.3 million and has an in-service date of October 31, 1998; and
- C. On March 26, 1997 B.C. Hydro provided the Commission with additional information on the project, including information about the public consultation process that occurred between March and December 1996; and
- D. On April 10, 1997 the Commission issued an Information Request asking B.C. Hydro to provide information about alternative feeder routes. A response was received on April 23, 1997; and
- E. On April 24, 1997 the Commission received copies of a petition from local residents against routing the distribution feeders along York Road near Oyster River, B.C.; and
- F. The Commission has reviewed the petition and all the alternatives examined by B.C. Hydro in relation to this project including the routing of the distribution feeders along York Road and Iron River Road; and

- G. The Commission has determined that the cost, environmental impacts and operational advantages of the Oyster River option and the York Road route to be significantly better than the alternates, including the Iron River Road route; and
- H. The Commission has reviewed the Application and has determined that the Construction and Operation of the Project is necessary for the public convenience and conserves the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE the Commission orders as follows:

1. A CPCN is granted to B.C. Hydro to construct and operate the Project which consists of two 480 meter, 138 kV transmission line taps, a new 50 MVA Oyster River Substation and, a new 6 km, 25 kV double circuit, Hendrix cable, distribution feeder along York Road near Oyster River, B.C. at an estimated cost of \$6.3 million.
2. Prior to commencement of construction, B.C. Hydro shall advise all affected property owners adjacent to the lines and substation of the nature and timing of the work to be done and shall explain or resolve any issues further raised by the public during the information process.
3. B.C. Hydro is to mitigate and resolve the esthetic concerns, where possible, and is to consult and work with residents for optimal pole placement.
4. B.C. Hydro is to file with the Commission monthly and final construction progress reports including continued public consultation for the project and variations to construction and cost schedules.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 2nd day of May, 1997.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

Lorna R. Barr
Deputy Chair and
Acting Chair