

ROBERT J. PELLATT  
COMMISSION SECRETARY



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July 17, 1997

Mr. Cam M. Davidson  
4051 Deer Field Rd.  
Campbell River, B.C.  
V9H 1B2

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Re: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Approval of Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)  
for Oyster River 138 kV Line taps and Substation

The Commission has investigated your complaints outlined in your letter of June 11, 1997, and enclose for your information, B.C. Hydro's response dated June 26, 1997.

In your letter of June 11, 1997 you state that B.C. Hydro has failed to consult with yourself and other residents impacted by the placement of the substation.

The Commission recognized that some residents would be impacted by this project and in the Commission's decision of May 1, 1997, which granted a CPCN to B.C. Hydro, the Commission ordered B.C. Hydro to work with those residents to minimize those impacts wherever possible. In your case B.C. Hydro determined that your residence would not be impacted and therefore did not contact you. The Commission believes that this oversight was the result of a difference in interpretation between yourself and B.C. Hydro as to what constitutes an impact. There also appeared to be some miscommunication as B.C. Hydro assumed your lack of a specific request to meet with them indicated you had no wish to meet them. We note that B.C. Hydro has now committed to meet with you should you wish to discuss the possible impacts on your property. The Commission suggests you contact Mr. Wilkinson at (604) 528-2353 or 1-800-663-1377 after August 7, 1997 as per your letter of July 11, 1997, or when you are available to meet with them.

In your letter you mention three impacts which concern you: one is the aesthetics of the substation and transmission lines; the second is with respect to noise from the substation and the third is electro-magnetic fields (EMF). In so far as the aesthetics of the substation and transmission line are concerned, the Commission recognizes that all residents are impacted. While vegetation will not reduce this impact to zero, B.C. Hydro has committed to leaving as much natural vegetation as possible and if necessary will plant additional vegetation for screening. We encourage you to meet with B.C. Hydro regarding your concerns for the aesthetics of the substation site.

In regard to the issue of noise from the substation, the Commission notes that your property is located 2,000 feet away from the substation and on the opposite side of the existing 138 kV transmission line.

According to B.C. Hydro's standards, the level of noise from the substation should be below 40 decibels at the substation site and will fall off to below 25 decibels at your property. This low level may be further mitigated by the vegetation screen.

With respect to the EMF issue, if your concerns are with alleged health effects, the Commission determined in 1989 that the scientific evidence to that time did not support a link between EMF and cancer. Although there have been numerous studies since then, the weight of scientific evidence still does not support any link. The Commission therefore cannot recommend mitigation measures for EMF.

Yours truly,



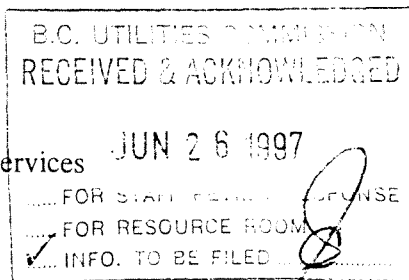
*Alison Cormack*  
for: Robert J. Pellatt

RWR/ssc  
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Darlene M. Barnett  
Senior Vice-President  
Marketing and Customer Services  
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority

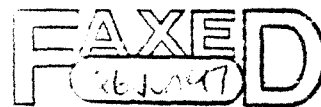


**Darlene M. Barnett**  
Senior Vice-President  
Marketing and Customer Services  
Phone: (604) 623-3602  
Fax: (604) 623-4311



...and of our Service

26 June 1997



Mr. R.J. Pellatt  
Commission Secretary  
British Columbia Utilities Commission  
P.O. Box 250  
600 - 900 Howe Street  
Vancouver, B.C.  
V6Z 2N3

Dear Mr. Pellatt:

**Re: British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority  
Customer Complaint - Oyster River Substation CPCN**

In response to your letter of 18 June 1997 requesting comments on the 11 June 1997 letter from Mr. Cam Davidson, we provide the following information.

B.C. Hydro has continuously included the Deerfield Road residents throughout our public consultation process and has specifically communicated to property owners on and around Deerfield Road on the following several occasions:

- 10 October 1996: Letter and News Brief #1. The mailing list for this communication was prepared in May 1996. It appears that Mr. Davidson's property title, and those of some other Deerfield Road owners, was still registered in the developer's name at this time which is why he was not on our original mailing list.
- 28 October 1996: Site Visits. As noted by Mr. Davidson in his letter, B.C. Hydro representatives met with the Davidsons on this date and included their names on the mailing list, instead of the developer's, for their property. The Davidsons' comments from this meeting were considered in selecting a site which would have the least impact on Deerfield Road residents.
- 16 January 1997: Letter. This communication was sent to all property owners, including the Davidsons, who were most affected by the substation. The letter described the two shortlisted substation sites, at this time, and invited property owners to contact

B.C. Hydro if they had any concerns. We believe the two shortlisted sites selected had the least impact on the Davidson property and our records indicate no communication from Mr. Davidson in response to our letter.

- March/April 1997: News Brief #2.
- 2 June 1997: Letter and Information Package. This communication was sent to all residents as directed by the Commission on 2 May 1997.

All written communications to property owners provided contact phone numbers, including a toll-free number, of B.C. Hydro staff who would be able to provide further information regarding any of the concerns property owners may have regarding the substation and its associated feeders. A more comprehensive description of our public consultation process is found in the CPCN Application (see page 4 of Application, Appendix B, and Supporting Documents: Reports on Public Consultation, Phase I (March 1996) and Phase II (December 1996)). Also, copies of all letters and other supporting materials are found with the CPCN Application or the Information Package sent to residents on 2 June 1997 (Information Package attached to letter sent to the BCUC on 23 June 1997).

With respect to the visits conducted in the area on June 10 - 11, 1997, our B.C. Hydro staff concentrated on visiting those property owners who we believe would be directly impacted by the substation and its associated feeders. Furthermore, in our most recent communication of 2 June 1997, we invited all residents and owners to call B.C. Hydro to arrange one-on-one meetings on these dates when consultation staff were visiting the area.

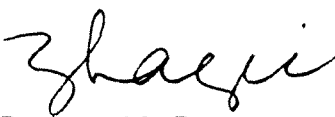

We consider Mr. Davidson's property, at 4051 Deerfield Road, to be not directly impacted by the Oyster River Substation project and, as such, he would not have been automatically included on our list of site visits. Since Mr. Davidson was not on this list and had not called to request a meeting on these dates, we unfortunately missed him when we were in the area. As requested by the Commission, we have attached a report which details this latest consultative process in June 1997 (Attachment 1). Please note this report is as complete as possible given that the house numbering system in this area is sometimes indistinct or incomplete.

Additional visits and consultation work are scheduled for August and September 1997 when detailed survey work will be carried out for the purposes of mitigating specific impacts of the distribution feeders. Once again, we will focus on those properties directly impacted; however, any

resident or owner is invited to request a meeting with us. Should Mr. Davidson wish to meet prior to this time or should he have any questions, he may contact Mr. Barry Wilkinson, Public Affairs Coordinator, directly at (604) 528-2353 or toll free at 1-800-663-1377.

In closing, I would like to point out that a comprehensive consultation process - which included mailings, public meetings, advertisements, press releases and individual property visits - was used to gather resident and property owner concerns. All information gathered was given due consideration when selecting the best reinforcement option for the Courtenay - Campbell River Area.

Yours very truly,

  
 Darlene M. Barnett

Senior Vice President  
Marketing and Customer Service

Attachment

Oyster River Substation CPCN  
 Log of Resident/Property Owner Contacts - 10 & 11 June 1997  
 Visits by B.C. Hydro staff - D. Mitchell, Regional Engineering and J.B. Wilkinson, Public Affairs

Address	Visit	Contact	Impact and Outcome	Follow-up
2932 York Road	Yes	Personal	Termination pole, tree trimming...owner satisfied	Just details of tree work
4066 Severn Road	Yes (3) no ans.	Left notice	Pole on side of property, will be largely hidden. Owner asked to contact Regional Engineering. No response.	Yes, at survey time in August/September
4065 Severn Road	Yes	Personal	Pole movement - poss. Minor tree work..owner satisfied	At new line construction
Large undeveloped lot west of park	No	Personal	Talked to owner (Hydro employee) and reviewed plans.....no concerns	None required
3046 York Road	No	None	No real impacts, no tree work, but one pole on property frontage. Owner has called Regional District Director	Will be calling owner
3056 York Road	No	None	No impact	Next mailing or survey time
3072 York Road	No	None	"	"
3076 York Road	No	None	"	"
3086 York Road	Yes (2) no ans.	Left notice	V. minor pole relocation, minor tree trimming. Resident asked to call Regional Engineering. No response	Yes, at survey time in August/September
3100 York Road	Yes	Personal	One additional pole and minor tree work. Owner knows of project and electricity needs of area. Reluctantly accepts.	"
3112 York Road	Yes (3) no adult home	Left 2 notices and plan	Lose small conifer and two large cottonwoods on road allowance. Owner asked to contact Regional Engineering for immediate follow-up. No response.	"
3134 York Road	Yes (2) saw both owners	Personal	Additional pole to be moved for second driveway, trees in road allowance (cottonwood and alder) will be removed. Discussed EMFs...owner satisfied.	"
3152 York Road	Yes (3) saw both	Personal	Major tree impacts. Almost all of property tree-screen is in the road allowance Discussed mitigation...survey,	Yes, after survey results are discussed with MOH

	owners		then approach MOTH for relaxation of offset and possible tree replacement to be recommended to Regional Engineering. Owner thanked us for exploring options and mitigation measures.	
3162 York Road	Yes	Personal, owner of 3152 York Road	Minor trimming and possible removal of one large fir. Owner is satisfied with probable outcome.	“
3172 York Road	No	None	No impact	Next mailing or survey time
3200 York Road	No	None	“	“
3360 York Road	No	None	“	“
3390 York Road	No	None	“	“
3406 York Road	No	None	“	“
3430 York Road	No	Yes, owner phoned	Slight realignment of service connection, loss of two or three small conifers. Owner not concerned, but wants to see route of new connection.	Yes, at survey time in August/September
Lot 1 Deerfield Road	No	Yes, owner called on 20 June	No impacts, however, T/L tap is some 80 feet behind his property through heavily treed bush. Still trying to contact owner by phone.	Will be calling owner
4051 Deerfield Road	No	None	No impacts. Owner has contacted BCUC re. Public consultation process.	Will be calling him with an offer to meet if he wishes
4021 Deerfield Road	No	None	No impacts.	Will make further efforts to contact (see comments for Lot 1 Deerfield Road.
4011 Deerfield Road	No	None	Same(?) owner as Lot 1 Deerfield...see comments.	Will be calling owner
Lot 5 Deerfield Road	No	None	No impacts	Try to trace owner again
3971 Deerfield Road	No	None	Attempted to visit 3 times in October 1996. Closest home to substation....475 ft.	Will attempt further contact

3437 York Road	No	None	One extra pole, but home is well setback in the trees	Next mailing/ survey time
3405 York Road	Yes (3) no ans.	Left 2 notices and plan	Possible limited tree clearing at property line, and question of present pole on private land(?) Owner called and satisfied that we will further review at survey time. Doesn't appear to be a real issue.	Contact established and will resume at survey time.
3195 York Road	Yes (2)	Left notice	Slight pole relocation, will be more visible due to adjacent clear-cutting operation. Owner never contacted Hydro.	Next mailing or survey time
31?? York Road	No	None	Minor, pole siting. Empty lot owner lives at 3173 York Rd	“
3173 York Road	Yes	Left notice	No impacts to this lot, tree screening to be left untouched. Owner never contacted Hydro.	“
3169 York Road	Yes	Personal	Owner not happy that feeders have to come down York Road. Says he is selling. Hendrix cables go under/over as they move across to the other side of the road here.	Next mailing
3157 York Road	No	None	Feeders on other side of road	“
3147 York Road	No	None	“	“
3137 York Road	No	None	“	“
4140 Vaughn Road	No	None	Pole anchor could impact.	Discuss/review at survey time
3115 York Road	No	None	Feeders on other side of road	Next mailing
3097 York Road	No	None	“	“
4129 Forfar Road	No	None	“	“
4030 Forfar Road	No	None	“	“
?? Enquist Road	No	None	“	“
3041 York Road	No	None	“	“
3037 York Road	No	None	“ Possible pole anchor here.	Next mailing or survey time.
302? York Road	No	None	“ Move of anchor. No impact.	“
3011 York Road	No	None	“	Next mailing
4090 Fulber Road	No	None	“	“



???? Fulber Road	“	“	Line moves back to this side of York Road..no impact	“
4089 Baxandall Road	No	None	Possible pole relocation for feed onto Bax. Rd. Pole would move from a present trespass and traffic hazard position. Minor impact only.	At survey time
4090 Baxandall Road	Yes	Personal	Two poles to locate adjacent to this property. Lengthy discussions with owners. One small clump of trees to be removed and a recommendation for some replanting. Owners satisfied with Hydro recommendation	“
2947 York Road	Yes	Personal	A pole relocates here from the other side of York Road. Siting reviewed and acceptable to owner. Recommend one/two replacement tress here.	“
2939 York Road	No	None	Feeders on other side of road	Next mailing
2937 York Road	No	None	“	“
2935 York Road	No	None	“	“
2933 York Road	No	None	“	“
4093 S. Highland Highway	No	None	“	“