

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Stl'ixwim Renewable Energy Initiative Project

Open House *and* Invitation to Comment

Stlixwim Hydro Corp (Proponent) is proposing to construct and operate six interconnected run-of-river hydroelectric power facilities in six streams that discharge into the Tzoonie River or Narrows Inlet northeast of Sechelt, B.C., and a transmission line that will connect the six facilities to each other and to the 1L37 BCTC transmission line on the Sechelt Peninsula. The Stl'ixwim Renewable Energy Initiative (proposed Project) will generate a capacity of 62 megawatts of electricity.

The proposed Project is subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act* and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Proponent must obtain an environmental assessment certificate before any work can be undertaken on the proposed Project. However, prior to submission of an application (Application) for a certificate by the Proponent, the Environmental Assessment Office of British Columbia (EAO) must first approve Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference will specify the studies to be conducted and the detailed information to be provided by the Proponent in its Application. The EAO has now received draft Terms of Reference from the Proponent and invites the public's comments on this draft.

In order to provide information about the Terms of Reference, and to receive written comments from the public, the EAO invites the public to attend two **Open Houses**, to be held as follows:

- at: Seaside Centre-5790 Teredo Street Sechelt B.C.
- on: December 10, 2008
- from: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and
- at: Egmont Community Hall, Egmont B.C.
- on: January 14, 2009
- from: 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

At 7:00 pm, there will be a presentation by the EAO on its process with an opportunity to ask questions. A second presentation will also be given by the Proponent in relation to the proposed Project. If you are unable to attend an Open House, you may still wish to make a written submission.

There are **46 days** for the submission of comments by the public in relation to the draft Terms of Reference. The

comment period will begin on **December 8, 2008** and end at midnight on **January 23, 2009**. All written comments received during this comment period in relation to the Terms of Reference will be considered.

The intention of seeking public comments is to ensure that all potential effects – environmental, economic, social, heritage and health – that might result from the Project are identified for consideration as part of the assessment process. At this stage of the process, the primary intent is to receive feedback about the studies or information required for a comprehensive environmental assessment.

After taking public comments into account, the EAO will finalize the Terms of Reference and issue them to the Proponent.

Please submit your comments at either of the Open Houses or send your comments to:

Kathy Eichenberger
Project Assessment Director
Environmental Assessment Office
PO Box 9426 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1 Fax 250 356-6448

Comments by e-mail may be directed to
eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

If you are unable to participate at this time, there will be an additional comment period during the Application review stage when you will also be able to provide comments to the EAO on the proposed Project.

An electronic copy of the Terms of Reference and information regarding the environmental assessment process are available at www.eao.gov.bc.ca. Copies of the Terms of Reference are also available for viewing at:

Sunshine Coast Regional District Office, 1975 Field Road, Sechelt, B.C.
Sechelt Public Library, 5797 Cowrie Street, Sechelt, B.C.
Gibsons & District Public Library, 470 South Fletcher Road, Gibsons, B.C.
Pender Harbour Reading Centre, 12952 Madeira Park Road, Madeira Park, B.C.

NOTE: All submissions received by the EAO regarding this Project are considered public and will be posted to the EAO website. If you do not want to have your name and contact information posted to the EAO website, please indicate this with your comments and they will be kept confidential.