

## **TSAWWASSEN RESIDENTS AGAINST HIGHER VOLTAGE OVERHEAD LINES**

C/O 1558 – 53A  
Delta, BC V4M 3G2

February 1, 2005

The Honourable Richard Neufeld  
Ministry of Energy and Mines  
Government of British Columbia  
Parliament Buildings Room 134  
Victoria, British Columbia V8V1X4

Minister:

Thank you for taking time to meet with representatives of Tsawwassen Residents Against Higher Voltage Overhead Lines (“TRAHVOL”). TRAHVOL is a homeowners’ group formed in response to British Columbia Transmission Corporation’s plans to build a new high-voltage industrial-scale transmission line through the middle of residential Tsawwassen in Delta.

We believe that this project is both out of scale and out of place in a residential neighbourhood. This transmission line is major infrastructure by any definition of the term, and major infrastructure does *not* belong adjacent to family homes, neighbourhood parks and community schools.

There are several other viable alternative routes available to BCTC. We acknowledge that other alternative may cost a bit more – but a project that will carry up to \$40 *billion* worth of electricity during its lifespan certainly has a bit of “wiggle room” on construction costs.

It is no longer acceptable to British Columbians for planners in government agencies to ignore quality of life, viewsapes, health questions, and the impact on property values (in *this* case, almost a billion dollars worth of property values within a half kilometre of the BCTC’s proposed route). The recent decision on the RAV transit line through Vancouver balanced all of these factors with fiscal responsibility, putting long sections of it underground that was neither the cheapest nor the most convenient for the project managers.

Our request to you is a simple one: we would like your government to request BCTC to apply *contemporary* community standards to this project and abandon current plans to route through residential Tsawwassen in favour of one of several viable alternatives. At this point the corporation appears to be applying an outdated set of values for determining the route – values that may have been acceptable decades ago, but which do not reflect how urban land-use decisions are decided in 2005.

The next open meeting of TRAHVOL is scheduled for February 22. Our January meeting attracted more than 500 people, and we expect the intervening media attention and petition drive will bring out a larger crowd at the next one. This meeting presents a perfect opportunity to announce that BCTC has agreed to find an alternate route for the transmission line.

We have been very aggressive about publicizing our concerns in the community media and in the major Vancouver media – and met with success on both counts. We want to make a commitment to you that we will be equally aggressive about acknowledging those who assist us in resolving this problem.

This is a wonderful opportunity for government to demonstrate that the system works, and that provincial institutions are responsive when the community brings forward legitimate concerns. It is neither our style nor our intent to be anything less than magnanimous in our praise of everyone, including BCTC, if we are presented with an acceptable win-win alternative or set of alternatives.

We look forward to your response in this matter.

Sincerely,

**TSAWWASSEN RESIDENTS AGAINST HIGHER VOLTAGE OVERHEAD LINES**

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Enclose.

Cc. Premier Campbell  
Val Roddick, MLA, Delta South  
Michael Costello, President and CEO, BCTC