

**IN THE MATTER OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (ACT)  
S.B.C. 2002, c.43**

and

**IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION BY  
VANCOUVER ISLAND ENERGY CORPORATION (PROPONENT) FOR THE  
VANCOUVER ISLAND GENERATION PROJECT (PROJECT)**

**TRANSITION ORDER # 02-17**

**WHEREAS:**

- A. On June 21, 2002 the Proponent submitted an application for a project approval certificate (Application) under the *Environmental Assessment Act*, R.S.B.C. 1996, c.119 (former Act), to construct and operate a 265 megawatt natural gas fired combined cycle electricity plant on Duke Point near Nanaimo, British Columbia;
- B. The Project includes:
- a single combustion turbine generator equipped with an advanced dry low-NOx burner that will meet an emission limit of 9 ppmv (@15% oxygen) for NOx and CO in the turbine exhaust gases;
  - a heat recovery steam generator for recovery of energy from the combustion turbine generator exhaust gases, equipped with low-NOx, gas-fired duct burners to provide additional heat input and steam generation for periods of peak electricity demand;
  - a selective catalytic reduction unit, complete with an aqueous ammonia storage and handling system, to reduce NOx emissions from the stack during normal operation to not more than 3.5 ppmv (@15% oxygen);
  - one condensing steam turbine generator with reheat stages having an exhaust pressure of nominally 5 kPa (compared to an ambient pressure of 101.3 at sea level);
  - a surface condenser to condense low temperature exhaust steam from the steam turbine generator; a cooling water circuit and mechanical-draft cooling tower to condense and cool the exhaust steam and release this energy to the atmosphere;
  - a plant make-up water treatment system;
  - process wastewater and domestic sewage collection systems;
  - electrical switchgear;
  - ancillary plant equipment and an exhaust stack 45.7 metres in height;
  - a connection to the existing power transmission line circuits and necessary network reinforcement for delivered electricity;
  - a 500 metre natural gas feeder pipeline for supply of natural gas to the plant from Centra's existing Harmac lateral pipeline;
  - a 850 metre pipeline to transport raw water from the existing Harmac water system to the plant;
  - a 325 metre pipeline to transport wastewater from the plant to the existing Harmac wastewater treatment plant, where it will be combined with mill effluent, treated to meet current effluent permit requirements, then discharged to Northumberland Channel through an existing outfall; and
  - an upgrade of Hooker Road.

- C. On September 19, 2002 the Proponent requested a time limit extension to enable the Proponent to carry out a plan for further distribution of information concerning the Project to respond to the issues identified by the Project Committee in their assessment of September 9, 2002;
- D. The Proponent also requested an extension of 46 days to the prescribed time limit under the former Act for the project committee's review and recommendations on the Application, to allow the Proponent to proceed with their consultation plans with the Snuneymuxw First Nation;
- E. On September 26, 2002 the Executive Director recommended that additional time be permitted to allow the proponent to continue with its distribution of information to the public and First Nation, to complete its consultation program with the First Nation, and to submit its written responses to public, First Nation and government agency comments and to allow the project committee to complete its review and recommendations regarding the Application;
- F. On October 3, 2002 pursuant to Section 90(1) of the former Act, the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management ordered that the time limit of 75 days under section 6(2)(a) of the former *Environmental Assessment Prescribed Time Limits Regulation* B.C. Reg. 278/95 be extended by 14 days to October 22, 2002;
- G. On October 3, 2002 pursuant to Section 90(1) of the former Act, the Minister of Sustainable Resource Management ordered that the time limit of 40 days under section 9 of the former *Environmental Assessment Prescribed Time Limits Regulation* B.C. Reg. 278/95 be extended by 46 days and that deadline for the completion of the project committee's recommendations on the Application be January 17, 2003, or other date set by the transition order under the Act;
- H. The Project is a reviewable project under the former Act and an assessment of the Project under the former Act was in progress;
- I. The procedures and methods for completion of the assessment will be specified whenever an order is issued under section 11 of the Act; and
- J. Section 51(3) of the Act requires that the assessment of the Project be continued and disposed of as an application for an environmental assessment certificate.

**NOW THEREFORE:**

Pursuant to sections 10(1)(c) and 51(5) of the Act, the Executive Director orders that an environmental assessment certificate is required for the Project and the Proponent may not proceed with the Project without an assessment and the application and supporting information provided to date by the Proponent be accepted as an application under section 16 of the Act.

Pursuant to section 51(6) of the Act, the reason for this order is that the continuance of the assessment of the Project in accordance with this order will ensure a fair, orderly and timely review of the effects of the Project under the Act.

*Original signed by*

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Dr. Sheila Wynn  
Executive Director  
Environmental Assessment Office

Dated December 30, 2002 at Victoria, British Columbia.