

## REVELSTOKE GENERATING STATION UNIT 5 PROJECT (PROJECT)

### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to section 17 of the *Environmental Assessment Act* S.B.C. 2002, c. 43 (Act), the Executive Director of the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) provides the following recommendations and reasons relating to the Project. In preparing this document, the following have been considered:

- Supplemental and consolidated information for an Environmental Assessment Certificate, including Appendices (Application);
- All subsequent Project review documentation identified in Schedule A to the proposed Environmental Assessment Certificate (Certificate);
- The Proponent's Table of Commitments in Schedule B attached to the proposed Certificate; and,
- Project Assessment Report (Assessment Report).

The Executive Director recommends that a Certificate be issued for the Project, for the following reasons:

1. The environmental assessment of the Project was carried out in accordance with the scope, procedures and methods identified in the Order issued by EAO under section 11 of the Act, on May 15, 2006.
2. The environmental assessment of the Project addressed the effects identified in the section 11 Order, including First Nations interests, and the potential effects of the Project on its environmental, social, economic, heritage and health setting and specifically considered the potential effects identified in the approved Application Terms of Reference.
3. Measures relating to the distribution of information about the Project to the public have been carried out by the Proponent in accordance with the section 11 Order, and have included public open houses.
4. Measures relating to the distribution of information about the Project to First Nations have been carried out by the Proponent in accordance with the section 11 Order. The Project is situated in the traditional territories of the Okanagan Nation First Nations: Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Okanagan Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Upper Nicola Indian Band, Upper Similkameen Indian Band; the Ktunaxa Nation Council that includes four member Bands in Canada: ?Akisq'nuk, Lower Kootenay, St. Mary's, Tobacco Plains; and the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council member bands: Adams Lake, Bonaparte, Little Shuswap, Nesoklith, Shuswap, Simpcw, Skeetchestn, Spallumcheen, Stuctweemc, Tk'uumlups, Whispering Pines/Clinton.

5. Adequate opportunities have been provided by EAO for First Nations consultation in the assessment process and for discussion and resolution of aboriginal interests related to the Project. These included the review of draft Terms of Reference for the Application, review of the draft section 11 Order, review of the Application, review of drafts of the Assessment Report, and review of the draft Assessment of the Potential Effects of the Project on First Nations Interests. First Nations were invited to and participated in meetings of the Project Working Group.
6. The Proponent adopted various measures to secure First Nations involvement in the environmental assessment process. The Proponent provided capacity funding for the First Nations participation in the environmental assessment review and for the First Nations to carry out Traditional Use Studies. In addition, the Proponent has also initiated discussions with the Okanagan Nation Alliance, Ktunaxa Nation Council and the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council with respect to potential benefits associated with Project. There is currently no agreement on these matters.
7. Opportunities have been provided by EAO for federal, provincial and local government agencies to participate in the environmental assessment process, along with the First Nations, as members of the Project Working Group, chaired by EAO. Since the Project triggered a federal Screening Review under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), the assessment process was designed to harmonize federal and provincial review processes and has resulted in a joint provincial Assessment Report and federal Screening Report.
8. Issues identified by the public, the First Nations, provincial, federal and local government agencies, that fall within the scope of assessment of the Project, have been considered, and the Assessment Report identifies these issues and documents practical means to prevent or reduce to an acceptable level any potential significant adverse effects of the Project.
9. With respect to public consultation, 3 written submissions were received during the 45-day formal public comment period on the Application (November 8, 2006 to December 23, 2006). The submissions were all from the Revelstoke area. Public issues raised during the assessment process included: modeling of impacts; potential impacts to wildlife and nesting birds, potential for increased vibrations generated from the installation of a fifth turbine, and potential impacts to and monitoring of recreational fisheries. The Proponent has satisfactorily responded to the public on the issues raised.
10. First Nations issues raised during the EA process are reflected in the list of issues documented during the federal and provincial agency review. First Nations issues raised during the assessment process include: fish entrainment and monitoring; potential impacts on white sturgeon spawning habitat; concerns for nesting birds; potential impacts on archaeology and heritage sites;

and incremental impacts on bank erosion. The Proponent has satisfactorily responded to the issues raised by First Nations.

11. Provincial, federal and local government issues were identified and addressed through Working Group meetings, and meetings between the Proponent, EAO and individual agencies. The key issues that required more extensive review and resolution were associated with fish entrainment, white sturgeon and potential impacts to nesting birds. The Proponent has satisfactorily responded to the issues raised by provincial, federal and local government agencies.
12. EAO has concluded that the Proponent, through its extensive ongoing consultation, mitigation and compensation and monitoring commitments, has taken all reasonable steps to eliminate, avoid or minimize the potential significant adverse effects of the Project, and that, if the Project proceeds, any potential effects are manageable, and will not reach unacceptable levels.
13. The environmental assessment associated with the Project has satisfactorily addressed the effects identified in the Application Terms of Reference, issued for the Project on May 15, 2006.
14. All potential significant adverse effects of the Project are considered by EAO to be manageable to an acceptable level through:
  - The implementation of the Proponent's design and mitigation and compensation measures identified in its Application and Table of Commitments;
  - Compliance with, and implementation of, the commitments and conditions specified in the Certificate, if granted; and,
  - Compliance with subsequent statutory permits, licences and approvals, or any authority required under any other enactment.
15. Providing that the Proponent implements the actions described in Schedule A and Schedule B of the Certificate, the EAO is satisfied that the likelihood of significant adverse impacts on the current use of the lands and resources for traditional uses by First Nations is low; that any potential significant impacts on the First Nations' asserted aboriginal rights and interests will be adequately mitigated, and that the Project will not adversely affect the ability of the First Nations to continue to exercise any such rights in the area of the Project.
16. Federal Responsible Authorities have collaborated in the preparation of the Assessment Report and support the conclusions set out in the Assessment Report. The Assessment Report is intended to be used as a Screening Report required under CEAA.
17. The Project is in the broad public interest of supplying reliable power to the citizens in the Province of British Columbia.

18. The Project capital cost is estimated to range between \$ 280 - \$ 350 million.  
The Project would create approximately 285 person years of employment for trades people, and 79 person years of employment for engineers and managers over the three-year construction period

The Executive Director's recommendation that an Environmental Assessment Certificate be issued for the Project is made subject to the following provision:

1. The final form of the Proponent's Table of Commitments, dated April 18, 2007, should be given the force of law by being made a condition of the Certificate, if the Project is approved.

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Joan Hesketh  
Executive Director and Associate Deputy Minister  
Environmental Assessment Office

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_