

February 18, 2009

FROM: Roger Minor, Director/President for Stuart Island Community Association (1964)

REFERENCE: Stuart Island Community Association (1964) concerns regarding

Plutonic Hydro Inc., Bute Inlet Hydroelectric Project
Draft Terms of Reference for an Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate
Pursuant to the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Act and

Draft Guidelines for the Submission of an Environmental Impact Statement
Pursuant to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

as prepared by the BC Environmental Assessment Office
and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency January 2009

TO: Kathy Eichenberger, Project Assessment Director
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COPY: Claire Trevena, MLA, North Island
Jim Abrams, Strathcona Regional Director Area J
Stuart Island Community Members via email list

After attending your meeting on February 2nd, 2009 and reviewing the hand out from that meeting I have listed point form below the concerns of the Stuart Island Community Association (1964) regarding the proposed Plutonic Power project in Bute Inlet. I have referenced each of the sections as presented in your Draft proposal.

Please advise upon receipt of this.

Thank you
(VIA EMAIL)
Roger Minor
Director/President
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Part 1 Introduction and General Information

2.0 Scope of Project

there should be a time limit on modifications to the scope of the project

3.0 Guiding Principles

3.1 Environmental Assessment as a Planning Tool

Refer to established BC Strategic Land and Resource Planning - Johnstone – Bute Coastal Plan and maps

http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/slrp/marine/north_island/johnstone_bute/index.htm

This plan was established after a technically oriented planning process and including input from BC Ministries, DFO, local governments, communities and area First Nations, in particular the Xwemalxkwu (Homalko).

3.2 Traditional Knowledge

the knowledge of Stuart Island, Sonora Island, Dent Island, and surrounding area mainland residents and members of the Stuart Island Community Association and Gillard Pass Fisheries Association should be included. Many of these people have long term history of the area and direct knowledge of the area that should be included.

as well as the vast knowledge of all those that use remote, pristine Bute Inlet recreationally and for tourism businesses

3.3 Precautionary approach

...in order to ensure that such projects do not cause significant adverse environmental effects.....

input from local persons and communities must be given consideration and weight if you are to ensure a precautionary approach

Chapter 1.0 Introduction

1.3.2 Project Benefits

should also include an assessment of the down falls of the project such as: impact on Tourism, wind fall in the forests, fresh water rights, established Johnstone Strait – Bute Inlet Coastal Plan, destruction of pristine wilderness setting,

Chapter 2.0 Information Distribution and Consultation

2.1 Consultation Overview

There was no consultation with Stuart Island Community Association (1964) and we represent community members within the Bute Inlet and surrounding area. Stuart Island should have been contacted and contacted at the beginning of this process.

I don't believe any consultation was done with Gillard Pass Fisheries Association our local salmon enhancement program.

Both of these groups have membership that would be affected by the project and both groups have a long standing relationship in getting information to the people of this remote area at the mouth of Bute.

Both groups represent people that have livelihoods dependent on the area, and memberships of people rich with actual on hands knowledge of the area.

2.2.2 Pre Submission Consultation - Public

As I state in 2.1 Stuart Island Community Association was never contacted directly - it was just lucky that other community members heard about the meeting and started contacting the Association with questions.

The public meeting I attended in Campbell River seemed a biased presentation with the goal being to go ahead with the project not deal with public questions and issues.

2.2.3 Stakeholder Organizations

Should be expanded to include Stuart Island Community Association and Gillard Pass Fisheries Association.

2.2.7 Local Government

Stuart Island Community Association should also be included and Gillard Pass Fisheries Association.

Chapter 3 Project Description

3.1.3

3.2.2 Designated Sensitive Areas

should include Arctic winds that come through in the winter

3.3.2 Transmission Corridor and 3.5.3.1 and 3.5.3.2

this must include looking at blow down impact to trees caused by opening up and changing wind patterns when the Arctic wind blows 100 mph+

In the Stuart Island area we have seen blow down impact due to wind patterns being opened up.

3.6.2 Transmission Line Corridor Maintenance

should address how many trucks & crew will be needed to keep this operation going during the Arctic winds for repair of lines

Volume II

Chapter 1.0 Geophysical Environment

1.7. Natural Hazards

terrain & arctic fronts should be addressed in combination not as separate items

Chapter 2.0 Atmospheric Environment

2.2 Wind

should include wind patterns, Arctic fronts and include input from Stuart Island residents who will be affected by any changes

Volume VII

Chapter 3.0 Socio-Economics

3.1

Stuart Island, Dent Island, Sonora Island should be included in the defined study area boundaries

3.1.3. Businesses

should also include future tourism and eco-tourism and park like status

Volume VIII Impact Assessment

Chapter 2.0 Impact Assessment

2.6.2 Extreme Events

Local communities and residents of this area, including residents of Bute Inlet, Stuart Island, Dent Island, Sonora Island and businesses operating in these areas, must be contacted to gain their first hand knowledge of extreme events in Bute Inlet