

Environmental Assessment of the Proposed Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6 Projects Invitation to Comment

BC Hydro (the 'Proponent') is proposing to install two additional 500 Megawatt turbines (Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6) into existing turbine bays at the Mica Generating Station, approximately 135 kilometres north of Revelstoke, B.C.

The Mica Unit 5 project will also involve construction of a new capacitor station on the existing Mica to Nicola 500 kV transmission line near Seymour Arm, B.C. The capacitor station is needed to reliably deliver the additional electrical generation at Mica.

The proposed Mica Unit 5 and Mica Unit 6 Projects (the 'Projects') are subject to review under British Columbia's *Environmental Assessment Act*, and may be subject to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

The Proponent must obtain an environmental assessment certificate before any work can be undertaken on the Projects. However, prior to submission of an application (the 'Application') for a certificate by the Proponent the Environmental Assessment Office of British Columbia (the '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 in the Application.

The EAO has now received draft Terms of Reference from the Proponent for both Projects and invites public comments on each of the drafts.

The intention of seeking public comments at this stage is to ensure that all potential effects – environmental, economic, social, heritage and health – that might result from the Projects are addressed in the Terms of Reference. After taking public comments into consideration, EAO will finalize the Terms of Reference and issue them to BC Hydro.

There are 30 days for the submission of comments by the public. The comment period will begin on October 29, 2008 and end at midnight on November 28, 2008. All comments received during the comment period will be considered. (Further opportunities for comments will arise during consideration of the Applications themselves.)

Please send your comments to:
Brian Murphy, 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 are encouraged and may be directed to eaoinfo@gov.bc.ca

An electronic copy of the draft Terms of Reference for the Projects, as well as information regarding the environmental assessment process, is available at www.eao.gov.bc.ca Copies of the draft Terms of Reference are also available for viewing at the Revelstoke, Golden, Valemount and Chase libraries.

NOTE: All written comments received by the EAO during the comment period will be shared with the Proponent and posted on the EAO website. If you do not want to have your address and/or e-mail address and telephone number posted to the EAO website, please indicate this with your comments.

Terms of Reference Review - Public Open Houses - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

In Revelstoke, B.C.
October 29, 2008
Revelstoke Community Centre

In Golden, B.C.
November 5, 2008
Ramada Inn, Trans Canada Highway

In Chase, B.C.
October 30, 2008
Chase Creekside Hall

In Valemount, B.C.
November 6, 2008
Best Western, Highway 5