

March 7th, 2005

Gabriola NoGasPlant Coalition
635 Rollo Rd,
Gabriola, B.C., V0R-1X3

Premier Gordon Campbell
Government of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn. Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C., V8W-9E1

Ref. Natural gas-fired generation plant for Duke Point

Dear Premier Campbell;

The undersigned request that you issue "Orders in Council" overturning the recent decision of the BCUC. We further request you place a moratorium on the construction of any fossil-fuel powered generation facilities in British Columbia. Our rationale follows.

The BC Utilities Commission recently gave the enabling decision approving the electricity purchase agreement between BC Hydro and the private sector developer, Pristine Power of Alberta. With a large number of individual and industrial customers on Vancouver and Gulf Islands this decision represents a suspension of economic and common sense. The court appeal now underway is the present manifestation of this frustration and dismay.

From the outset BC Hydro has represented that future electricity demand on Vancouver Island will exceed available supply (peak period only) in the 2007/2008 period but not beyond. Through our eyes, and through the eyes of many other technically competent people, BC Hydro has fabricated a power shortage to justify the need for increased generation of electricity for Vancouver Island. They did this by over-estimating demand (1) and under-estimating transmission capability.

Another matter that leaves us in wonderment is the total rejection by the BCUC and BC Hydro of strategies designed to aggressively promote conservation and peak-period demand management. It is a matter of record that the largest industrial user of electricity on Vancouver Island has submitted a clear plan that would cause the reduction of the offending demand peak by up to 140MW. This is not some meddlesome on the margin proposal, but a large and truly beneficial economic option. An option dismissed by the BCUC and BC Hydro in favor of spending many hundreds of millions of dollars on a new and senseless natural gas-burning facility.

Further, BC Hydro's representation to the public that this Duke Point plant will generate electrical energy from natural gas projected at US \$3/GJ when our present price for natural gas is at US \$6/GJ, is to promote a fiction. Too bad we as captive customers aren't able to pay in fictitious dollars.

The last idea that has left many of us breathless is the enormity of the acceptance of the 800,000 tonnes of CO2 that will spew into our atmosphere each year this plant operates. It was perhaps wrong headed of us to think that in these times of the Kyoto Accord no Government in Canada would consider the idea of allowing and even encouraging a new fossil-fuel burning industrial plant when numerous other more economic options exist. You and your cabinet colleagues have recently crafted a budget for our Province that promotes enhancements for the environment. On

page 2 of this speech you set out your five most important goals for the next five years. Goal number 4 states that your Government intends “To lead the world in sustainable environmental management, with the best air and water quality, and the best fisheries management, bar none.” Additionally, your Government is investing heavily in promoting our beautiful Province as a pristine place to visit. We can’t help but think that your air and water quality ambitions for our Province, and this investment to help tourism, will be put in jeopardy by the likes of projects such as that proposed for Duke Point.

In addition to the Appeal previously mentioned we are demanding the intervention of someone who is accountable to the public, specifically you and others in the Cabinet. Going by the recent hearing, it is apparent to us that neither those in charge at the BCUC or BC Hydro are accountable to the public. These boards are directly appointed by a Provincial Order in Council so it follows they must take directions from the Government of the day. We are characterizing this occasion as a test of your Government’s commitment to its word. We also propose to invite all British Columbians to have every candidate in this May election state for the record just how committed they are to the goal given prominence in your Government’s budget presentation.

Yours truly,

Erik Andersen; Bob McKechnie; John Hill; Randy Young; Kristin Miller; Iain Lawrence; Sheila Malcolmson; Sophie Arthaud; Phil Marchant; Darlene Mace; Arthur Caldicott; John Hague; Dawn Burnett; Norman Abbey Gabriola NoGasPlant Coalition; Yellowpoint/Cedar NoGasPlant Coalition; Gabriola Ratepayers Association

Cc. Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy and Mines
Mike Hunter; MLA Nanaimo
W. J. Andrews; Barrister
Joy Macphail; NDP
Rafe Mair; Broadcaster
Adriane Carr; Green Party of BC
Editor, Victoria Times-Colonist
Editor, Vancouver Sun
Editor, Province
Editor, David Suzuki Foundation
Editor, The Nanaimo Daily News
Editor, Island Tides
Editor, Gabriola Sounder
Beverly Tanchak; Citizens for Public Power
Peter Mansbridge; Broadcaster, CBC
Erik Reguly; Journalist, Globe and Mail
Rick Clough; Broadcaster, CBC
Caroline Waters, Council Member, Town of Parksville
Tom Krall; Council Member, City of Nanaimo
Village of Gold River

1. BC Hydro represented that residential customers would increase annually at a rate nearly twice the population growth rate. This was acknowledged as incorrect in cross examination but the error remains in the so called forecast. Steve Miller (consulting economist) gave evidence that BC Hydro has produced demand forecasts in the past ten years that were universally excessive by at least 10% over actual.

In the early 1970s BC Hydro forecasted that the demand for electricity in B.C. would be great enough to warrant the construction of “site C”. Seventeen years on from the forecasted “brown out day” we seem to be managing without.