



GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition

304 - 733 Johnson Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 3C7
Telephone (250) 381-4463
Email: thackney@island.net Website: www.sqwalk.com

Media Release

For Immediate Release: November 3, 2004

Energy “winner” makes Vancouver Island a loser

Nanaimo, BC – The Duke Point Power Limited Partnership project, winner of BC Hydro’s long-awaited Call For Tenders (CFT) for new energy generation, is **not** the least-cost option to meet Vancouver Island’s electricity needs, says the GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition (GSXCCC). The Coalition is calling on the BC Utilities Commission to ensure a full public review of the project.

“This result violates the terms of BC Hydro’s CFT and frustrates the Commission’s expectation of the lowest cost solution,” said Tom Hackney, GSXCCC president. “BC Hydro’s vision for Vancouver Island’s future energy is dirty, non-renewable and expensive. Vancouver Islanders must now insist on a thorough review of this inappropriate and costly project. All British Columbian ratepayers will pay for this wrong-headed energy plan.”

The CFT was issued to find the most cost-effective solution to an expected electricity shortfall on Vancouver Island resulting from the zero-rating of existing sub-sea transmission cables. “The real solution is to renew the sub-sea cables as soon as possible,” said Hackney.

In its 2003 review, the Commission found that BC Hydro had underestimated the risk of high gas prices, given the rapid depletion of conventional North American gas resources.

“Gas-generated electricity is no longer cheap,” said GSXCCC director Arthur Caldicott. “It’s time for the BC Transmission Corporation to renew the sub-sea cables, so that the Island will not be cut off from Mainland sources of electricity.”

The GSX Concerned Citizens Coalition has campaigned against BC Hydro’s Vancouver Island electricity strategy since 2000, bringing expert evidence to the National Energy Board review of the Georgia Strait Crossing (GSX) natural gas pipeline and to the BC Utilities Commission review of the Vancouver Island Generation Project, both in 2003. The Coalition has a hundred individual members and eight member groups, including the Sierra Club of Canada - BC Chapter, Georgia Strait Alliance; Council of Canadians – Victoria and Cowichan Chapters, Saturna Island Community Club, Pender Island Conservancy Association, Shawnigan Lake Watershed Watch and the Canadian Parks And Wilderness Society – BC.

- 30 -

For further information, contact:

Tom Hackney (250) 616-7895 cell or (250) 381-4463
Arthur Caldicott (250) 370-9930 x.22