



British Columbia Transmission CORPORATION™

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

British Columbia Transmission Corporation Granted Environmental Assessment Certificate for Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement Project

VANCOUVER, FEBRUARY 15, 2007 — British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC) has been granted a provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate approving construction of the Vancouver Island Transmission Reinforcement (VITR) project today. This follows a comprehensive review through the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) which considered environmental, economic, social, heritage and health factors.

“The population and economy of B.C. are growing rapidly, and Vancouver Island’s electricity needs are projected to increase by as much as 45% over the next 20 years,” said Jane Peverett, BCTC President and CEO. “This project will help to ensure a reliable supply of power for the over 700,000 residents and businesses of Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands.”

The EAO is a neutral provincial agency that coordinates assessments of the impacts of major project proposals in B.C. After review of all the questions raised by the public, federal and provincial government agencies, local governments, and First Nations, and the responses and commitments from BCTC, a certificate was granted by the Minister of Environment and the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

“We are pleased that our commitment to sustainability, First Nations engagement, and public involvement has been recognized by the EAO,” said Peverett. “Moving forward, we are committed to ongoing communications with residents, the public and other interested parties to minimize the impact of the construction of this project.”

The certificate contains over 200 commitments that BCTC will implement throughout the construction and operation of the project. Included are commitments to environmental, wildlife and vegetation management, archeological and cultural resources, and land use.

On July 7, 2006, the VITR project received approval from the British Columbia Utilities Commission after almost two years of stakeholder consultation by BCTC.

More information about the certificate is available at:

www.eao.gov.bc.ca/epic/output/html/deploy/epic_project_home_250.html

British Columbia Transmission Corporation is the Crown corporation responsible for the planning, operation and maintenance of the Province’s publicly-owned electrical transmission system

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