

**CSA Community Advisory Group  
to Stillwater Timberlands – Plutonic Power Corp.  
August 22, 2007  
Minutes  
Town Centre Hotel**

Attendance: refer to attached sheet

6:02pm: Meeting called to order

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair welcomed everyone and introductions were made. Grig Cook from Plutonic Power Corp and Keith Ainsley from Knight Piésold and Martin Buchanan from Western were introduced.

**Safety Review**

Chair noted safety rules – also fire exits and first aid attendants in case of emergency.

**Code of Conduct**

Code of Conduct from Community Advisory Group was noted.

**Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

Agenda was accepted with additions and revisions.

**Tape recording of Meetings - discussion**

The tape recording of minutes was discussed. Grig noted confidentiality concerns, and agreed that the tapes could be used for minutes - recording only, and then destroyed after approval of the minutes. Members agreed with this option.

**Company Updates**

**Grig Cook**

Progress report-

1. Regulatory permits have been obtained from both provincial and federal government. These permits allow Plutonic to start field activities. Other permits will come as the project progresses.
2. Kiewit started on site July 1<sup>st</sup>, in order to take advantage of this year's construction weather window. Some time has been lost this year waiting for permits etc.
3. Construction of road to campsite has been started. (26km)
4. Photos showing progress at East Toba were shown –
  - East Toba Float Camp, July 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Barge unloading, July 9<sup>th</sup>
  - East Toba- Equipment arrival, August 11<sup>th</sup>

- East Toba- Quarry operation, August 11<sup>th</sup>
  - East Toba- Bridge 1: North Approach- August 11<sup>th</sup>
  - East Toba- Bridge 1: Grading Fill
  - East Toba- Bridge 1: Wrapping Pad- stitching tiles
  - East Toba- Bridge 1: Laying footings
5. Bridge will be launched across Tahumming River in a couple of days - right of way has been cleared.

*Question* – Are there any issues with private properties?

*Answer* – G. There are three on the north side of the river- construction will be north of those. We are avoiding all private properties. There is 26 km of road to the camp, with 3km needed to avoid the properties.

*Question* – How many river crossings?

*Answer* – K. Six that are designed by a professional engineer, as they are larger than a 20m span and are required to be done by professional engineers. Knight Piesold has hired another contractor to engineer the larger bridges. Knight Piesold doing the shorter span bridges (6-18m). There about also 50 embedded culverts, 600-800mm.

*Question* – Have there been any problems with fisheries?

*Answer* – K. We are working with DFO to supply information - there are five phases of approval and we are in the third phase. Fish compensation is required (habitat replacement); it will be a showpiece.

*Question* – Who is providing compensation?

*Answer* –G. Plutonic will be. Some parts of the Toba Valley will be enhanced for fish habitat; in other areas we are impacting habitat. We anticipate that the overall the project will be a net benefit to fish habitat.

### **Financing**

Grig noted that financing for the project will be closing in September; limited work is being done now. They have started clearing for the powerline from Saltery Bay north, working with Western. Chris Laing and company are helping out. Last Plutonic meeting in Vancouver with Western went well; they reviewed the first 20km in the TFL. This meeting was intended to establish a protocol for future discussions. Critical roads were identified. Both parties are now working on common data bases.

Martin (Western) agreed that the meeting in Vancouver went well, and things are moving forward.

Grig noted that they are working on a protocol and will be doing the line in segments- first one will be from Khartoum to Freda

*Question*- Is Plutonic dealing with Island Timberlands in the same way?

*Answer* –G. Yes but they are not as interactive with Island Timberlands.

**Access** – Member pointed out that the Saltery Bay and St. Vincent's Bay area is popular and well used by hikers and RTV users. Member requested that if there is any blockage to access, could there be a notice posted when the road is blocked? Member noted that along Third Lake today falling has been started.

Grig agreed that the access issue needs to be tightened up.  
Member suggested that access and road closures could be posted on the hotline.  
Member noted that there are a lot of hunters and mushroom season is coming.

**ACTION** - Members asked Plutonic to arrange for updates on road closures.

**First Nations**

Member noted that in working with First Nations through Kiewit, it was noted that Sliammon are not happy with the process with Kiewit.

Grig noted that they would like have all the financing in place to do more.

Member commented that Plutonic has hired the world's most expensive contractor. Grig noted that they are on a fixed price contract.

**Environmental Impact**

Member asked about environmental impact.

*Answer* – Grig noted that the Kootenay Environmental Services Limited (Principal Dan Gebhart) is contracted to Plutonic. There is one environmental officer based in Toba, plus two support technicians working full time on the program that is in place for the transmission line. They are permitted, licensed professionals. They report to the Water Stewardship branch in Victoria.

**Visual Impact**

Grig noted that Plutonic has hired Timberline, the largest forestry consulting company in North America. Timberline has the tools and the ability to produce pictures and computer generated photos, and they are familiar with the Forest Practices Act. Computer generated photos are based on current forest inventories. View points were selected on worst case scenarios that show the most extreme results. Twelve sets of photos, in conformance with CAG's requested view points, showing sixteen polygons (traced in red) were provided for viewing. Polygons were all rated by the MoFR. Grig noted that the technology used is very expensive.

**Photos were shown on the screen**

**1. Rainy Day Lake**

Member noted that Rainy Day Lake has a recreation and campsite area.

Grig noted the information provided.

*Question* – Some of the sites shown were already logged?

*Answer* –K. Yes, there is already a road there.

Keith showed animated views how the view will look five years from now.

*Question* – What about isolated timber?

*Answer –M-* Martin noted that Western is presently engineering timber adjacent to the power line in the Lois Lake area so that it can be harvested before the lines are in place. These cutblocks may help to reduce the linear aspect of the transmission line across the hill.

*Question* – It looks like the line is coming out up the hill, could it be lowered down? The Sunshine Coast Trail goes up there. (from Rainy Day Lake).

*Answer – K.* They have re-routed the line to have fewer crossings of the trail.

*Question* – What about VQO's

*Answer-K.* – R- Retention = 0 – 1.5  
PR- Partial Retention = 1.5-7.5  
M- Modification

Member noted that the information on VQO's needs to be on the map.

**ACTION-** Include VQO information on maps.

Keith noted that only one polygon where the VQO is exceeded, that is on Goat Lake.

## **2. Brooks Lake**

Viewscape shown:

*Question* – What retention standards for viewscales are being used?

*Answer – K.* Using CAG's 7%, that meets MoFR standards. We spent time looking at the worst case scenario model

Member noted that the concerns are from the public regarding views of the power line from the lake.

## **3. Khartoum Lake**

Member noted that there will be some visual impacts if harvesting goes ahead to get the isolated timber. It may help linear viewscales. Impact would be on the road from Khartoum. Crossings need to be clear on the map.

*Question* – What about the next cycle?

*Answer – K.* The timber could be isolated.

*Question* –If the line goes through the timber, will it reduce future inventories?

*Answer-K.* – It could be isolated.

*Question* – Would it reduce inventories?

*Answer –G.* Yes, it will isolate timber from conventional logging.

*Question* – What does the "M" mean on the map?

*Answer –K.* Allowed to modify.

Martin noted that a lot of timber to be harvested may also be hidden from view in a large modification landscape.

**4. Lois Lake**

Martin noted that they have been working on this block.

*Question –* How much will be alienated from logging?

*Answer –M.* Some will be heli-logged to get it before the power lines go in.

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**5. Up Freda Creek**

Member noted that in the resource extraction business the landscape is always changing with new cutblocks and old ones greening up. The visual image is static and it looks like a gash, but in reality the right-of-way is dynamic and will change appearance over time

Member noted that there is a prime growing site higher up (Freda Creek).

Member noted that if Plutonic follows the roads, how will they change the visuals?

Member noted that recreation values will be affected in this area.

**6. Phelan Lake**

No comments

**7. Freda Lake**

Campsite at far end. Will always see more right of-way clearing from the open water.

**8. Powell Lake**

Photos from west side of lake, Jim Brown – behind trees, out from the south end.

**9. Private Property- (Island Timberlands)**

**10. Goat Lake**

Martin noted that there will be some impact in this area - line location is on unstable terrain.

BC Hydro has flagged this area. Keith noted that Western has addressed concerns in this area more than once.

**11. Goat Lake**

Crossing at Goat 2 shown. There will be some isolation of timber. Martin noted discussions in the area whether the road could go under the power line. It was noted that Walt flagged the road as unstable. Keith noted that there could be

some changes to the alignment in this area. Timber will be isolated, but they could fly to it.

Member noted a significant patch of *old growth* in this area.

*Question* – Would Plutonic go through the old growth area?

*Answer* –K. Where feasible, we will avoid OGMA.

Martin noted that there are some issues between Western and Plutonic that will be addressed.

Grig noted that strategic planning and GPS mapping will be used. Plutonic is now putting ribbons through to see where the existing roads are and making better maps. For the first 20km (they go along in short segments) there is a lot of detail the people on the ground will make assessments as they go along.

*Question* – When they get funding, will that speed up the process?

*Answer*-G. Yes, Plutonic anticipates funding in September.

Martin noted that some areas have to be looked at on the ground. Bridging is being done with independent consultant, and it is difficult to handle the amount of detail. Staff at Western can't handle a project of this size. Kevin Giles has been hired for the project.

Grig noted that the process seems to be working.

*Question* – Has Plutonic been talking to all stakeholders?

*Answer* –G. Yes, Western, Island Timberlands, Canfor and BC Timber Sales.

*Question* –What about recreation stakeholders, such as Alan Rebane, Pacific Mountain Outfitters?

*Answer*-G. We are talking to him regularly, and he has noted that what Plutonic is putting in will help.

*Question*- Any issues with other stakeholders?

*Answer* –G. None so far.

### **Road Crossings Update**

*Question* – What about the crossing past Little Toba, there is a log jam there, a habitat has been created by log jam

*Answer* – G. The routing that has been selected avoids this area.

Member asked for updates on road crossings.

**ACTION** –Provide updates on road crossings

### **Safety Concerns - Clearance heights**

Martin noted that Chris Laing and Kevin Giles have been working on the project. There are ongoing issues about the 4.5m clearance requested. Walt wrote

to WorkSafe for clarification on the 3.8m clearance proposed by the designer. Keith noted that there are safety problems with low clearance. Martin noted that there are real safety concerns about vehicles under the line with low clearance.

**Proliferation of Power lines**

Member voiced concern about the proliferation of power lines that are planned for the future. (Bute, Campbell River etc.)

Grig provided a map showing the five phases of green power corridor transmission line. Projects that are actively being done now are East Toba River and Montrose Creek. How to get the power out is the question – as for the Bute projects, no decision has been made about whether to take the routing over to Campbell River, or into Toba. Plutonic is working with BC Hydro. Information is on the website. Plutonic is also consulting with BCTC.

*Question* – What is the role of BCTC?

*Answer-G.* They manage all the power transmission in BC. They decide who and how companies can connect to the system. Green Island Energy is one of the companies that potentially will be connecting into the Vancouver Island grid. BCTC has the authority to decide. Plutonic has commissioned BCTC to complete a number of studies, with a cost in excess of \$140,000; a very expensive process.

Martin asked to see the plans for up Knight Inlet. Martin noted that there is frustration as other companies are coming in. Independent power producers (such as Klinaklini Power Ltd) are working in isolation from each other. is not efficient; BCTC needs to provide some planning and protection.

Grig noted that they are trying to work with the other groups, and noted that the government (BCTC) needs to take a role in establishing where the power is needed (e.g. Vancouver Island or Lower Mainland).

Member noted that the Regional District has offered no objections to generating stations, but there are concerns about power lines. Referrals keep piling up on the planners desk. Other companies such Synex and Hawkeye have proposals.

*Question* - For the Phase I power line, what is the megawatt capacity of that line?

*Answer - G.* It could handle up to 400 MW.

Member noted that with the first five projects: East Toba, Montrose Creek, Jimmie Creek, Dalgeish Creek and Toba River, that leaves room for another 100 MW.

Grig – Line capacity is one consideration but line losses must also be considered when potentially accommodating additional generation.

Member noted that the Regional District has concerns that there is the plan for additional generating stations, which would run either a bigger line or a twin line through electoral areas A and C. Multiple lines are not acceptable as Chair of Regional District has noted that the power lines will be a problem; they don't want to see parallel lines. Would there be room to cooperate with Synex or Hawkeye?

Grig- We don't know the details yet of these other projects.

Member noted that they don't want to see multiple lines coming down the valley. Regional District has considered approaching BCTC, but they say that it is not their role; companies should be able to "play nicely" together.

Grig agreed.

Martin noted that Western is also opposed to the twinning of lines. One 500kV line would be better than twinning but there isn't enough power for the cost at present.

*Question* – What would be the width of a twin line?

*Answer-G.* Approximately 50% more (RoW for one is 120m; for 2, approximately 180m)

Martin noted that from past experiences, in the case of a "twin line", the two never follow themselves. Concerns were noted that two lines now, and more following in the future, there would be a problem

*Question* – Is 500 kV the max in BC?

*Answer –G.* Yes, they have 1000 [kV] in Ontario.

*Question* – What is the date of completion?

*Answer-G.* Cluster of 3, 4, 5 into one project, it will be five years. Toba will be done in four years. Other projects, shown in red on the map are in the preliminary proposal stage. There is a raft of issues; it will be some time for those.

*Question* – Are you aware of anyone in Howe Street staking [speculative] water claims?

*Answer –G.* Miners are staking claims on the Tahumming River. Markets these days are speculative. A lot of people underestimate the costs of run-of-river projects.

### **Rainy River Project**

Grig noted that Plutonic's Rainy River project has been abandoned as they could not mitigate the fish issues satisfactorily due to the presence of salmon and steelhead.

*Question* – Were they aware of the fish before they started the project?

*Answer* –G. No one had seen fish there before. They were identified after we applied for the water license. There were some good environmental studies done, it was hard to abandon the project.

**Impact on Wildlife habitat**

Member noted that there are wintering grounds for goat issues in the Toba Valley.

Grig –Noted.

*Question* – Will they be impacting the Powell Daniels habitat?

*Answer*-G. We are not there yet but we have the baseline information.

**Impact on OGMA's**

*Question* - The power line looks like it goes through a number of OGMA's in the BCTS area south of Khartoum Lake, When OGMA's were moved from other parts of the TFL, some were replaced in that area, replaced with both actual OG and recruitment OG. There are a number of OGMA's being impacted where BCTS has jurisdiction. There has been a lack of public oversight, is that the reason?

*Answer*-K. There are a few but in order to avoid frequent crossings of the SCT, the line was moved to the east side of Rainy Day Lake. The routing then went through a few OGMA's. It looks like it can't move. As for the OGMA's, we are working with ILMB. They have requested detailed information. They are the planning department of the forest service.

Martin noted that the takeback area is still within the TFL. They anticipate that this will be rectified by the end of this year.

Western is not happy that the Crown has made a decision that the power line is highest use of that piece of land; and the price should be less OGMA.

Keith noted that they have hired a consultant. He will put together a proposal to send to ILMB to move and replace OGMA's. Keith also noted that part of the process is consultation with the public. OGMA's have to be within the LUP.

Member noted that they don't know how many will come out; it is unknown how it will impact the area of the TFL.

Martin noted that they will most likely use Western's information for the TFL.

Keith noted that the original path of least resistance is avoiding wildlife and OGMA's.

Member asked whether there is room for adjustment.

Keith received from the ILMB the latest OGMA's. Some have been adjusted, some have shrunk and some have become bigger.

Grig noted that there will be an initial 40m. swath through for the first 20km.

Member noted that it will be good to see the maps when done; TFL's are based on the landscape level. It has to be looked at on the ground.  
Grig noted that strategic GPS surveys will also be available.

**Public Meetings**

*Question* – Are there any more public meetings are planned?

*Answer G.* Yes, meetings with the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary and Open Houses are planned

Martin noted that it has been frustrating, waiting for plans, but now they are out, they will have to watch at ground level.

Grig noted that they will be flagging each and every pole in advance. There may then need to be some modifications for example, relocation to avoid boulders.

Martin asked to be informed if the alignment changes.

**ACTION** - Western is to be informed if the alignment of the line changes.

Chair thanked Grig and Keith for the opportunity for CAG members to talk and have questions answered.

**Meeting Adjourned 8:08pm**

**Action List**

**ACTION#1-** Provide updates on road closures.

**ACTION#2-** Include VQO information on maps.

**ACTION#3-** Western is to be informed if the alignment of the line changes.

**CSA Community Advisory Group to Stillwater Timberlands  
Plutonic Power Corp.  
August 22, 2007  
Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Seat</b>
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Jane Cameron – Chair</b>	Primary	Member at large
<b>Ken Jackson – Vice-Chair</b>	Primary	Recreation
<b>Patrick Brabazon</b>	Primary	Local Governments
Bill Maitland	Alternate	Local Business
<b>Rory Maitland</b>	Primary	Contractor
Dave Hodgins	Alternate	Recreation
Paul Goodwin	Alternate	Forest Dependent
<b>7 Seats represented</b>		
<b>Absent members</b>		
Kathy Kirk	Alternate	Member at Large
Ted Byng	Alternate	Local Governments
<b>Nancy Hollmann</b>	Primary	Environment
Brent Rothwell	Alternate	Contractor
George Illes	Alternate	Environment
Ron Fuller	Alternate	DFA Worker
<b>Doug Fuller</b>	Primary	DFA Worker
<b>Mark Hassett</b>	Primary	Local Business
<b>Dave Rees</b>	Primary	Tourism
Andrew Pinch	Alternate	Tourism
<b>Wayne Borgfjord</b>	Primary	Forest Dependent
<b>PRESENT</b>		
<b>Grig Cook</b>	Plutonic Power Corp.	
<b>Keith Ainsley</b>	Knight Piesold Ltd	
<b>Martin Buchanan</b>	Western Forest Products Inc.	
<b>Pam Dowding</b>	Recording Secretary	