

**CSA Community Advisory Group  
Plutonic Power Corp – Information Meeting  
June 5, 2007  
Minutes  
Town Centre Hotel**

**6:00pm**

**Present**

Plutonic Power Corp.

Grigor E. Cook, P.Eng. Chief Operating Officer

Alec Orr-Ewing – Timber Evaluator

Keith Ainsley – Knight Piesold Ltd.

CAG members

Jane Cameron, Chair

Ken Jackson, Vice-Chair - Recreation

Patrick Brabazon – Local Government - Regional District

Paul Goodwin – Local Business

Mark Hassett – Local Business

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair welcomed everyone and introduced Grigor Cook, Alec Orr- Ewing and Keith Ainsley. It was noted that CAG members were interested to find out more details about the transmission line and planned location.

**Background**

Grig Cook thanked members for attending meeting on short notice, and noted that he understands that dialogue between CAG and Plutonic has been frustrating for both parties as there has been limited detailed information to exchange and discuss. Most of Plutonic's energy for a number of months has been spent on permitting issues etc. and therefore detailed engineering information has not been available to share in an effective way. Now there is some real information and dialogue to share.

Since last year, our team has grown to include more staff:

- Alec Orr-Ewing – Forest management working with TFL holders
- Keith Ainsley – Forestry – has worked on some permitting issues
- Bruce Ripley, ex-BC Hydro; highly qualified engineer
- Paul Sweeney- Finance
- Bill Irwin –ex-ILMB; 20 years history of land tenure

Now that there is more certainty, team is being built up.

*Environmental Assessment Certificate* has been issued from the provincial government. That is the master certificate. Plutonic is now working with provincial and federal agencies, dotting I's and crossing the T's to mobilize the project. Plutonic has confirmation from all agencies that the necessary permits are forthcoming. Kiewit can now be mobilized into the Toba Valley and SALTERY Bay.

## **Schedules**

Grig noted that schedules are well off for a number of reasons. Programme for 2007 is now different. The immediate focus this year is the construction of the first 16-km of road in the Toba Valley.

*Question* – Will that road be built by local people?

*Answer* – Peter Kiewit Sons is responsible for the contacting. The actual land clearing for the right of way is being done by Klahoose. Kiewit have a list of people from the community to bid on the right of way clearing. This year we hope to put in infrastructure until the weather changes, and will continue to work through until the end of 2010, when the project will be on-line.

## **Transmission Line**

Development of the line is being designed by Gary Barnett of BC Hydro. Development is not further along because of permit delays. Now that permits are in place, permits will allow for funding from lenders. Detailed work still is to be done, including additional field work to develop design issues at a higher scale.

*Timber values* have to be established and *wildlife studies* are to be done specific to the final right of way. Any *sensitive eco-systems* have to be identified.

*Question* – Are there any references for the wildlife and sensitive eco-system studies?

*Answer* – These have been done by third party consultants to date and any additional will be also completed by third parties.

*Question* – Is Plutonic using the old air strip and will there be no-fly times?

*Answer* – The intention is to rehabilitate the old air strip. Currently the east end has been taken out by beavers; it is our intention to use.

Member noted that the camp that was up Toba is all gone. It was booming in the 70's. Grig noted that a \$900,000 kitchen and bunkhouses for the new camp have been purchased and are ready to be brought in from Edmonton.

Grig noted that the details in the maps that are presented this evening will show the details that we have to date. Maps showing timber and wildlife patches were shown.

*Concern* – Member noted that there are some concerns about isolation of timber by the line.

Alec noted that some roads to the tower may be temporary.

*Question* – Are you dealing with the height of lines for crossing under with machinery?

*Answer* – We are committed to Western on the mainlines. Western has given us six or seven future road crossings, looking at the near term. When we build the towers we can build the road down or build up. We can only build so much up-front.

*Questions* – Towers or poles?

*Answer* – Wood poles.

*Question* – What roads and will there be access to them?

*Answer* – (Alec) We have a set of 50 1:5000 maps; they are high scale; they show planned access tracks. Western will want us to keep some roads open. They will want to know all the information. We met with them today.

It was noted that they are working with WorkSafe BC and are looking at moving the whole line in some places.

Grig noted that they hope to meet every two weeks with Western.

Western may want to go a different way with temporary roads where there may be riparian zones etc.

*Question* – Will the poles be drilled in?

*Answer* – Member answered this question – 32 inch galvanized pipes put into the ground, they will be filled with rock and poles flown into some areas.

There are some areas where it is impractical to build infrastructure.

*Question* – In September we were told that the roads you build will be to the standards required by forestry. Do you still stand by that?

*Answer* – If new access roads that will become permanent roads will be to forestry standards. However, most roads will be temporary roads and they will be taken out after the construction. In the Toba Valley all the roads that are being built are to forestry standards.

*Question* – If you were to keep them, would they be maintained to forestry standards?

*Answer* - If we were to keep them – yes.

*Question* – After construction is there a shared responsibility?

*Answer* - There is a road use agreement that is signed by each of the TFL holders.

*Question* – How many structures?

*Answer* – (Keith) 4 structures per km - roughly 600 total.

Member noted that there will be 840 “sites”.

*Question* - Plutonic is coming through the TFL – what about all the other 12 or 13 projects that are planned, will this mean the power line will be even wider?

*Answer* - Grig noted that each new project would have to go through the same process as was done with Toba Montrose. Plutonic has the “right of way” for this one.

*Question* – Would Plutonic take on the shared burden along this corridor?

*Answer* – For other stakeholders? – Plutonic had promoted shared corridors. It is a practical way to go.

*Question* – With the structure you have along with the 230 kv, how many lines can you get on that?

*Answer* –We will use the full capacity.

*Question* – For which projects?

*Answer* – For this one and the next ones - Upper Toba River, Jimmie Creek and Dalglish Creek.

*Question* - When going up Bute will that carry the capacity?

*Answer* – We would have to petition for a new line.

*Question* - Member noted that these were always the concerns for the future—What about upgrading?

*Answer* – Difficult to do.

*Question* - Could another pole be added – another 5 instead of 40?

*Answer* – There are twin circuit transmission lines, such as Columbia Power, but one can not economically add an additional circuit to an existing single circuit.

*Question* - What would be the width?

*Answer* – Typical right of way is 40 metres - If another was added would need a similar width.

*Question* - Member asked about another plan that is coming from Jervis.

*Answer* - Another project, also from Phildola Creek, is with another company. We don't know how they are coming.

Member noted that maybe the best way to go is to “Build all, build once”.

Grig agreed, yes, that would be the way of doing it however noted that this concept has been difficult between all the parties – the Plutonic line is amortized against that project. Keith noted that all across the province there are other projects.

*Comment*- Member noted that there is a horrible nightmare vision of a proliferation of lines coming in all criss - crossed pattern. No one seems to get together and no one builds for the future.

Grig noted the WAC Bennett years was a period when infrastructure planning was good.

Member noted that the run-of-river projects are good, green energy is good, but the Squamish/Lillooet community has advised - not to worry about the generating stations, but to pay attention to the power lines.

*Question* – Since no one here on CAG is an electrical engineer, can you explain what it means when we hear about 230 megawatt lines, then we hear about 500 kilovolts – how do we match those numbers?

*Answer* – One is capacity. The conductors are typically aluminum with or without a steel core. We could have a 230 kv. line with a 200 megawatt capacity. Generation voltage is at 13.8 kilovolts.

*Question* – We would like to have a constant number to relate to.

What is the capacity of the cable?

*Answer* - Up to 400 megawatts – for East Toba, Montrose, Jimmie Creek, Dalgleish Creek and Upper Toba River.

One may choose to have a higher capacity to reduce line losses.

The line that is going in now is for East Toba and Montrose; the others are not approved yet.

*Question* – If approved will they use the same line?

*Answer* – Yes.

*Question* – What is the timeframe?

*Answer* - Grig- Another two years past 2010. All the other three by 2013.

*Question* – The other three projects are they going through the EAO?

*Answer* – Yes, we have already applied to go through the same process.

*Question* – Is Freda Creek going through the EAO?

*Answer* – Grig – We are not doing Freda Creek now.

*Question* - Are they still monitoring the flows?

*Answer* – Yes. Keith noted that it is a small project. They have looked at the cost of transformers. Grig noted that there has not been a go/no go decision yet. Currently Freda Creek is a low profile, primarily due to the small size. They are still monitoring the project hydrology.

Member noted that the idea, from CAG's perspective, with the line ending at Saltery Bay, running [a new line] from Freda Creek to the mill site, was a non-starter. It crosses the Canoe Route, Lakes etc.

*Question* - If Freda Creek is brought on line, how would it be brought to Saltery Bay?

*Answer* – Keith noted that we would get some answers. They would have to accept higher line losses.

*Question* – Would this small project (Freda) have to through to EAO? Would environmental studies be at a lower standard?

*Answer* – We would not expect to go through the EAO process for Freda, however the regulatory standards are the same whether a project is within the EAO process or outside of the process – they are the same standards. Grig noted that they have a Howe Sound project (14 megawatts) - the regulatory work is the same. The primary difference is that the Environmental Assessment office handles traffic well - they work with DFO and other agencies. Victoria does a good job handling permits and “traffic control”.

*Question* – When EAO came to CAG we got the impression that the Integrated Land Management office standards are less.

*Answer* - No – Grig noted that the Integrated Land Management office has a website that has all the guidelines for run-of-the river projects. There is no difference in what they have to deal with.

### **Maps**

Alec Orr-Ewing showed maps and members noted areas of blowdown from recent storms. (Dec 2006)

Mature timber, timber species were colour –coded on maps.

Data base is from Western.

It was noted that maps will be posted to the (Plutonic) website.

<http://www.plutonic.ca/s/Projects.asp>

*Question* – Is the line close to the shore? There should be buffers.

*Answer* – Alec noted that modifications have been made.

*Question* – Will line follow the blowdown route?

*Answer* – No - not following recent logging. There is a buffer between all.

*Question* – Are the timber values shown accurate?

*Answer* – Yes.

Member noted that they don't want to see timber isolated.

*Answer* – If Western can go in ahead it will be roadsided. Small business will take it in other areas.

*Question*- Blowdown – How do you talk to Western regarding blowdown?

*Answer* – Timber will be roadsided. Western will go in ahead.

Alec noted that an analysis of what will be left is another study that will be done. Some uneconomic wood could be moved (fire danger)

Map showed Transmission line in areas of Eldred and Goat Lake. It was noted that line was moved from previous plan.

### **OGMAs**

Members asked about OGMA's – they are a critical issue.

Keith noted that he can give CAG more information on OGMA studies (ongoing)

It was noted that the impact on OGMA's has to be addressed.

### **Visual Assessments**

New visual assessment maps and viewsapes are coming soon.

## **Road Building**

Keith noted that road building will be going ahead. 65 km of road is to be built in the Toba Valley. The first 16 km will hopefully be complete by mid-September. They are hoping to be up to camp (km 27) by December. Will that give access to other sites? Tributaries into Toba -just for East Toba – For Montrose there will be more road constructed.

## **Visuals**

Grig asked members what values other than wood values are to be addressed. It was noted that when it is determined where the line will go, there will be more information available. Alec noted that the line location has changed.

Member noted that there are forestry jobs being lost over the next 40 years. Plutonic, government and Western weren't talking to each other for a while, now there is dialogue. Members noted some of their other values and concerns for future dialogue.

- Visuals
- OGMA's
- Sensitive areas
- Wildlife
- Canoe Route
- Recreation sites
- Hiking trails
- Lois Lake all the way up to Freda Lake recreation areas
- Khartoum Lake
- Campgrounds
- All other areas used by hikers
- Areas used by boaters
- A-800
- Emma Lake
- Eldred Valley – recreation and tourism area
- Interface with the Sunshine Coast Trail
- Buffers on the SCT trail and lakes as laid out in the Pilot Project
- FSP buffers that are committed from the Pilot project
- Impact on crossings
- Areas used by ATVers
- Visual assessments from top of Powell Lake
- Ongoing dialogue with Western
- Ongoing dialogue with CAG

[It is noted that not all of the above list was raised during the meeting].

Grig noted that the route was adjusted for the Climbers camp. An alternate route, McVey Lake / Freda Lake was reviewed, but Grig noted this routing presented a higher avalanche risk factor; and would have gone through more sensitive and wildlife areas.

First Nations were concerned with this routing related in increased access. The Mcvey/Freda route is actually shorter. A report was previously given to CAG on this routing investigation. Member requested a copy. **(Action)**

### **Stillwater Pilot Project**

Keith asked about the Stillwater Pilot Project – had trouble finding reference to it. It was noted that it is posted as a link from the CAG website [www.cagstw.org](http://www.cagstw.org) and that it is still in effect. Member noted that some of the values have transferred over to the new FSP.

### **Meetings for more information sharing**

Member asked for another meeting with more notice so that other member could have a chance to attend. Members will be asked at next meeting whether there is any interest in meeting in the summer. More information on visuals may be available, maybe not before June 20<sup>th</sup>. Tentative date would be Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>?

Maps will be shown to members of CAG on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Questions and comments to be prepared ahead of time for July meeting.

### **Final Line**

Alec noted that the final line is not there yet. Pole placements to be looked at with Western. Some OGMA's are in the valley. Company is happy with the design so far. Huge leaps have been made from the beginning

More work to be done:

- DFO models will be made.
- More dialogue is needed before final line is drawn.
- Dialogue with Hayes and Interfor in Toba,
- Dialogue with BCTS in Sechelt.
- Ministry of Forests in Sechelt for more strategic details.
- Forest Fire analysis
- GPS maps

*Question* – Will Plutonic be using pesticides?

*Answer* – No pesticides, manual brushing will be used for maintenance

Member noted that elk and grizzly bears may be a problem too.

Grig noted that when more details are available, they will share them with CAG.

*Question* – Will the contractors be hiring locally?

*Answer* – Contractors have to make reasonable efforts to hire from the community. It is the right thing to do economically and to build long term relationships, but they haven't been forced to do so.

Member noted that with Plutonic moving here, it will be a boon to the economy, average wage will be up for a while, but it will be a short window. Small businesses may have a problem.

Grig noted that Peter Kiewit has people who come from all over BC, they keep their people.

*Question* – What is the BC Hydro timeframe?

*Answer* – 35 years. Then free to sell to others.

Next meeting – July 18, 2007

**8:00pm - Meeting adjourned**