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TN # 69988

MAR. 20 2013

SIR ;

I am writing to protest against the proposed Narrows Inlet Power project by NI HOODINAH COVEP.

- This is causing high electrical prices & will cause much damage to our Ramona Crk - Ramona Lakee.

- Pls. Protect BC & Taxpayers from this project

- Protect our fish & environment

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Personal Information Withheld

October 27, 2012

Attention: Garry Alexander

Project Lead Environmental Assessment Office

Re: Narrows Inlet Hydro

As a landowner at the mouth of Ramona Creek I am very concerned about a number of issues relating to the proposed power plant.

We get our drinking water from the creek. The unnatural water flows from the discharge pipe could cause great turbidity. The expected silting of the river caused by drawing down the lake will have an adverse effect on drinking water and cutthroat spawning areas.

Construction of the power house and related roads and powerlines on such a steep slope could cause landslides. This would have a very bad effect on the properties directly below.

The floating pump barge on Ramona Lake is a very convoluted way of doing things. The flow of water down Ramona could stop completely if the pumps fail. There are way too many remote controls to make everything work properly. This could easily happen in alpine winters. The lake is going to be drawn down way too much. Almost 150 feet! If the pumps fail when it is down no water will be able to flow naturally. Ramona Creek will dry up.

The power produced and the costs of the contracts with BC Hydro are not needed by the people of British Columbia.

I am totally against this power project.

[Redacted signature]

Ken Holowanky - Coquitlam, British Columbia

The more I read about the Ramona component the more I am taken aback at how such a proposal could have reached this stage of the process. Approval by the EAO means Ramona Lake and the flow of Ramona Creek is put completely at the mercy of electric pumps on floating barges, their diesel back-ups and all of the remotely controlled valves and sensors. Catastrophic failure will be just that, catastrophic. The water will not be able to get out of the lake because it is 145 feet below the natural outlet. There is no fail safe. The waterfall and river dry up.

To quote the proponent "spillage occurs rarely and the IFR is very steady, assuming the IFR pump is working properly".

It is Abbott and Costello "who's on first?"...make electricity to power pumps to make electricity.

No pump no flow. Period. When it is working, all they are required to have is 5% of the flow where Upper Ramona Falls used to be. The rest is in a steel tank waiting to come down a steel pipe. No water coming down out of Lower Ramona will be natural, it will either have come through the IFR pump or the main penstock pump. There is a large steel holding tank before the penstock. The complete lake/waterfall system will be completely controlled by a company that needs to make money by selling electricity. Preposterous. If this is not correct somebody better let us know before I turn on the tap and rocks come out.

The proponent states " This is a very complicated project that makes use of natural lake regulation in coordination with run of river hydro project arrangements. It is difficult to predict, with a great degree of confidence, the pre- and post -project flows at so many locations."

This is not the kind of experiment to perform right over the heads of a community with their domestic water supply....never mind anywhere else there may be marine life to consider.

[REDACTED]

Ken Holowanky - Coquitlam, British Columbia

I submitted a .pdf with many of my concerns on Oct 26 at 3:30pm, but since then have noticed yet another possible issue. It appears the Ramona Lake component relies on electric pumps to pump water up over the dam and into a steel holding tank before entering the penstock. There does not appear to be any means to maintain flow in the event of electric pump failure, other than back up diesel pumps. It is conceivable for both systems to fail in adverse alpine weather conditions. This means all flow stops in Ramona. It is not just a case of opening a valve in a pipe or bypassing a turbine if this happens when the lake is drawn down 45m. Simply put, the water can't get out over the dam. If this is true, it goes directly against consultant Dave Bates recommendation to have a maintenance free IFR (minimum stream flow) system such that there is no chance of the river running dry because of equipment malfunction. If this is true it also means all (or a good part of) the water now sits in a steel tank first before coming down the mountain? Even the drinking

water? This couldn't be the design....could it? At minimum it proves the system is very complicated and relies totally on controls and electronics that are remotely monitored. Not a good idea with people below.

The models predict turbidity and SSC in the lakes and in the outlet streams when the lakes are spilling. The predicted values can be compared to the water quality guidelines to the extent that they apply at these locations. The predicted lake values also apply to the tailrace discharges for penstock flows drawn from the lakes. For the CC and SS components, the tailraces discharge into the Tzoonie River and mix with the water in the river.

The situation for the Ramona component is more complex as is illustrated in Figure 20. Depending on how the Upper and Lower Ramona components are being operated, penstock flow from Ramona Lake may flow directly into the intake of the Lower Ramona penstock and be mixed in the penstock with water from Ramona Creek below the lake before being discharged into Ramona Creek at the lower tailrace and mixing with the water in the creek there. If the Lower Ramona component is not operating, the penstock flow from Ramona Lake or it may be discharged into Ramona Creek at the Lower Ramona headpond. There it will be diluted by water from Ramona Creek below the lake before flowing over the weir and continuing down Ramona Creek. If the R1 diversion is operating at the time, the lake water may also be diluted by that flow before flowing over the weir.

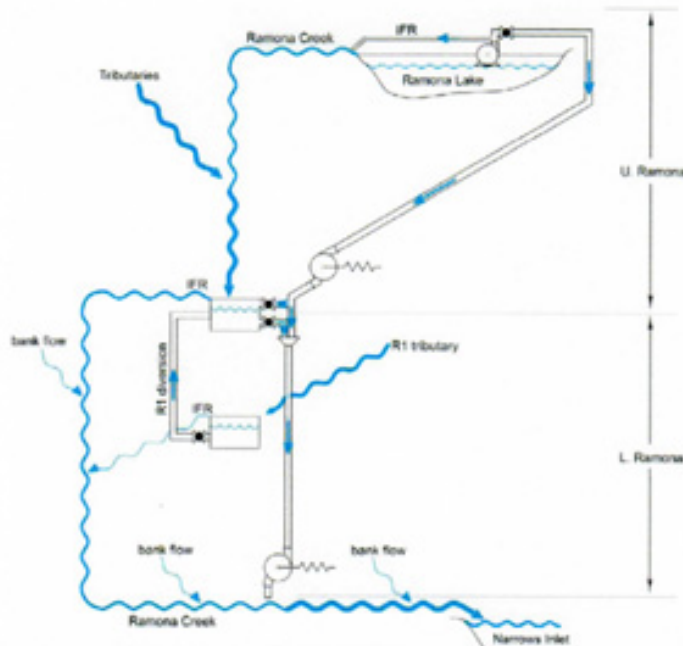


FIGURE 20. SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF WATER FLOWS FOR UPPER AND LOWER RAMONA
Turbid flow from Ramona Lake may affect some or all reaches of Ramona Creek, with the degree of dilution at various points depending on flow in the creek and tributaries, but also on the operation of the upper and lower components.

Billie McDermid - Gibsons, British Columbia

With plenty of comments already registered against this project, I will not repeat them all here, all of which I agree with. This project will forever alter a pristine wilderness area that is so close to Sechelt and easily accessible to the public. I wish to register my strong opposition to this project. It should not be allowed to proceed.

[REDACTED]

Personal Information Withheld - Gibsons, British Columbia

My family owns property near Ramona Creek and I dont want to have the power project ruin the nice wilderness that we and so many others enjoy. I am against this project Thank you

[REDACTED]

Hunter Popil - White Rock, British Columbia

I do not want this because the place where the cabin is is just fine the way it is. The animals should stay healthy the way it is now. I do not want you to kill the animals living there. I like to swim in the water all the time. The waterfall makes a nice sound. Please do not make this place sick.

[REDACTED]

R.Price, C.D., B.Ed - Narrows Inlet, British Columbia

As property landowners and residents since 1976, we strongly oppose the proposed private profit power projects, particularly the Ramona Lake project for the following reasons: Not enough competent research has been done to ensure that there will minimal environmental impact by draining the lake. 1. Wildlife- trumpeter swans, owl, cougar, herons, Roosevelt elk, black and grizzly bears, mountain goats, wolverines, mule deer, owls, rare plant species, river otters, pacific salmon, herring, "blue listed" cutthroat trout- which is a species at risk. seals, sea lions, marine birds dolphins, porpoises and trumpeter swans. 2. Salinity- and ambient water temperatures will be altered-affecting wildlife and fish habitat 3. Licensed drinking water- Negative impact on drinking

water for residents 4. Silt-Tyson Lake and Seaton Lake IPPs dumped massive amounts of ice scoured silt into fish habitat and killed off indigenous fish which is a testament that these projects do not have enough research and practice to be safe. 5. Environmental Assessment is both inadequate and superficial. The placement of a power house in the "backyard" of property owners absolutely spoils both the historical and natural setting of the inlet properties and grossly and negatively impacts the property values- both financial and recreational... in addition to power lines, clear cuts, and industrial noise from float plans, water taxi's and helicopters. 6. Road Construction in steep areas-can and most likely will create slides and a potential risk of stream contamination. 7. Research and good information- There is not enough research or enough studies, or any kind of safeguards that will ensure the public that this is a safe and "green" project. 8. Profit- the profit gain for the investors of these projects is the primary goal of the proponents who themselves are likely stake holders. This is more about money than the long term safety of the environment. The environment, the public, and the landowners become the losers in the quest for these independent IPP's. It is well understood that BC Hydro is also a loser, and the public will be forced to buy back power at a much higher rate. 9. Mining Practices Code: These projects go against good practice... and typically undermines its values by using mining regulations and codes which are grossly different than Forest Practices Codes. The average person has no concept of the devastation this project causes and has caused to the wildlife and wilderness of BC, It is a complete fallacy that these are "Green" projects. Summary: Clearly there is not enough information, not enough studies done, and not enough fair practices used to inform and involve the public, and protect the natural beauty and wildlife of Narrows Inlet. The property and home owners of Narrows Inlet have never even been taken into consideration. At the very least this kind of project should not even be considered in the backyard of landowners who have purchased the property to be part of the wilderness, and the tranquility of a small piece of this beautiful province we live in. This project

should not go ahead! There is already the Tyson Lake project in Narrows Inlet that still is not running well and has caused significant damage to the environment and wildlife of the inlet. Do not start another project in this small and beautiful inlet, creating financial prosperity for few, and devastating effects for the people of BC, and the property owners of Narrows Inlet.

[REDACTED]

Personal Information Withheld - Chilliwack, British Columbia

I am against this project. The risks associated with the Narrows Inlet Hydro Project are too great. The results are irreversible. The negative impacts are many. I say no to private industrialization of this beautiful area.

[REDACTED]

Birgit Pioch - Lohmar, Germany

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very surprised to hear that there is still the intention is the plans for the destruction of Narrows Inlet perform. For this purpose I had in 2009 expressed my indignation. The people in poor countries are often out of ignorance devastate our planet and nature is known to recombine and tragic enough. The but a highly developed country like Canada (rich in knowledge, money and nature) permits, which will be destroyed as a landscape irrevocably Narrows Inlet is completely incomprehensible to me.

How far do we want this "higher-faster-farther-game" play still exist? A government elected by the people and has the obligation to protect the habitat of the population in the long term and to place the welfare of people and nature over short-term profits of individual.

Of course, we are by advanced technologies capable of such "Mamut projects" carried out for more progress and prosperity alleged. The real question, however, we are smart enough not to do it and to look for environmentally friendly alternatives.

In Europe and I am talking in particular of Germany, because I live here, in the past, companies or

groups have earned billions in the industrial progress has been made over the welfare of man and nature. There were dammed rivers and poisoned landscapes leveled and forced into molds. Now, we are renaturalisieren employed for decades and thus detoxify and desperately trying to establish already almost extinct animal and plant species again. It can not be the future generations have to expend so much effort and money to pay the consequences of short-sighted policies and the damage unscrupulous profiteers.

Sometimes I really want to shout:

Hello - you still remembers what??

I therefore appeal to the responsible authorities of a democratic government that was elected by the people for its welfare.

Do your job and get our greatest asset - our habitat.

Evelyn West - White Rock, British Columbia

Where else can a silly little bird, no larger than your average budgie, fearlessly follow you around while you play bocce and captivate children who hold out crackers in the hope that it will take the crackers from their hand? Where can you find peaceful and calm waters where, from your paddleboard, you can effortlessly cast a line in hopes of catching something for dinner or glide in a canoe and get a little too close to Mr Beaver who slaps the water with his tail in warning? Where can you look into the "Aquarium" after dinner and watch the local sea life come to dine? Where can you catch and dine upon the sweetest crab you've ever had and that you caught only meters away? How many places can you find your children laughing and splashing around as they ride the currents down the creek toward the inlet? Where can you listening to the gentle lapping of the water at the shore or the creaking of the dock and boat against the bumpers or the babbling of the creek over the rocks? Where can you float in the raft as it bobs around on top of the water and watch the children play at the shore edge or swim fearlessly around in the water? Where can you hear the eagles and watch them as the float effortlessly on the wind or watch the bats play about in

the air above your head as they come out while the sun goes down? Where can you watch the ducks swim with their babies in tow or see sea lions follow around their soon to be dinner. Simply – one place – Narrows Inlet.

On my first trip to my friend's cabin I was amazed at how clear the water was and how far down you could see. Although I have lived in the lower mainland all my life and travelled around BC I was not prepared for the beauty I saw on this trip. The air is amazing. My ears rang because they were not used to hearing such peace and they were searching for that continuous drone of background noise we city dwellers are so accustomed to unconsciously hearing. The moss that hangs from the trees is like lace draped over the branches. There is this amazing pool that smaller falls fill and as you sit you feel recharged. Further up there is a beautiful waterfall you can see from the inlet. Spectacular! Every trip to this enchanted area has revealed new, more unique and amazing treasures to me.

What the IPP has proposed to do is eradicate all this. It is disgusting to think that in order to produce a mere 44 MW "at peak flow". This peak flow would only be realized during the spring/summer run-off which is an off-peak usage time. Habitats will be destroyed and obliterated. The fact is 44 MW is an estimate and five of these "projects" will be needed to produce this measly 44 MW. That's five times the devastation. 7 of the MW are planned to be made by Ramona Creek. And do you know where the noisy, droning powerhouse will be put?! It will be put on the property right behind the cabin. Instead of being able to hear the waterfalls we will hear the noise of the powerhouse. Along with that powerhouse comes transmission lines and towers. They will hum and buzz and snap. How can the IPP make the statement that 'no one will even know it's there'?

The process of building doesn't happen magically either. It takes years. Months and endless months of noise and destruction that will leave serious scars on the landscape and environment. There will be blasting, ripping up trees, pounding and constant noise. There will be increased barge traffic – 200 trips per month I read somewhere – that is 6 per day, every day or 8 per day on a 5 day work week. So, there go the calm, peaceful waters. I've been at the cabin many times and

have only ever seen 1 barge on the inlet. There is absolutely no way that this project cannot leave damage and to think otherwise is ludicrous. This project will kill off what is endangered and endanger what was in equilibrium. No healthy creature will stick around an area being devastated in the manner planned. They certainly won't be sitting around, hypothesizing about their dilemma – 'Well now, let's see, I hear this construction project will only take a few years to complete. I'm sure we can wait until then to get back to our natural cycle'. No. They will run in fear. The wildlife and environment have already suffered from damage done by logging. From the top of the mountain to the bottom of the sea, all will be impacted, and the epicentre will be this project. A wall of devastation will ripple outward from this point.

Contractors will take short-cuts. Mistakes will be made. Irreversible damage will be done. It is inevitable and has been proven during the Tyson Lake Hydro Project. Even if this project is constantly supervised there will be no way to errors. The IPP even violated the federal Fisheries Act when their HADD authorization failed take into consideration the degree of sedimentation that entered the Inlet in February and March of 2010. The IPP stated that they fixed the problem when it happened but fails to say that it took public outcry to get action taken. And what consequence is there for permanently screwing up sensitive areas? A fine? They will deduct that as a cost of doing business from their taxes and we the tax payers get to swallow their mistake or they will make that back from the sale of power. It's not like anyone is going to say – You've been a very bad company and as punishment I'm taking away your power plant. The damage has been done and there is no way to reverse it. You've cut deep into the living breathing sole of the earth and the damage is permanent.

They only have to make sure that 5% of the river flow remains. That means that the beautiful water fall, pool and smaller falls will practically disappear. The creek will not sustain fish because the water level will drop so low that the water temperature rise and kill the fry. Don't be so gullible as to think they won't always run at that 5%. The bottom line is the all-mighty dollar and they will try to squeeze every dollar out of the project.

No one has an exact idea what damage will be done to the environment. There are too many unknowns. The IPP complains that they have already spent millions on research. Well, that's the way it goes. Once they are in there they are set. You won't be able to go backward. There's no take-backsees on the permanent damage done. Everything is "a best guess" and that's simply not good enough.

Don't let them destroy the Narrows.

[REDACTED]

Personal Information Withheld - Powell River, British Columbia

To all concerned with review of this project, I am against the issuance of an environmental certificate for this project for the following reasons:

There are too many unknown factors with large potential for impact involving the effects of the draw-down of Ramona Lake with regard to the temperature regimes, turbidity and maintenance of abnormally high flow above low summer flow.

Although the reports list many potential effects which are addressed and quantified by comparison to standards and experience with existing similar projects, the effects of the factors listed above are not described with confidence with regard to the scale of effects expected, or addressing how these harmful effects on fish and fish habitat will be mitigated. Temperature effects, turbidity from lake shore draw-down and sloughing, as well as physical fish habitat alteration due to change of flow regimes are all identified as likely and negative toward downstream fisheries resources which include Cutthroat and Coho.

Due to the reported turbidity event at the nearby Tyson project, involving similar lake draw-down strategy, the precautionary principal must be employed, especially until it can be shown that the lake draw-downs can be conducted without unacceptable negative effects in this existing development.

Finally, the fish bearing status of the reach above the tail race, although proven non-anadromous, must be determined before proceeding with any issuance in my view.

Thank you for considering these general points in the detailed analysis which is paramount for such

a large scale impact.

[REDACTED]

Marina Stjepovic - Halfmoon Bay, British Columbia

The application does not address safety for backcountry recreational users. There is no way for the public to know what the risks are of travelling over (during winter) or along the shores of a lake that is being, or has been, drawn down by up to 45m. If there are risks, then it should be noted that hydro electric projects that use lake drawdown are precluding the use of lands and waters that were previously freely accessible by the public.

I also have concerns that fish, amphibians, Grizzlies and other wildlife, including numerous species of concern, that are known to exist in this wild area will be impacted beyond what the project can offer in terms of mitigation of its impacts. There are a lot of uncertainties referenced throughout the application, and until these are adequately addressed, this project should not be approved.