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# **Kokish River Hydroelectric Project**

## **Consultation Summary Report**

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**Kirk&Co**

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# Kokish River Hydroelectric Project Consultation Summary Report

## 1. Project Overview

Kwagis Power, a partnership of Brookfield Power and the 'Namgis First Nation, proposes to construct a run-of-river hydroelectric power project on the Kokish River in northeastern Vancouver Island. The project is located in the Regional District of Mount Waddington, approximately 50 km southeast of Port Hardy and 17 km east of Port McNeill, B.C.

The project, currently in the conceptual planning stage, will involve the placement of a weir or low dam across the Kokish River resulting in the back-up of enough water to submerge the inlet of an intake pipe. Diverted water will be drawn into a pipeline and transported to a powerhouse where it will be used to run turbines attached to generators that, in turn, will produce electricity.

## 2. Consultation Program

### 2.1 Introduction to the Consultation Program

Kwagis Power will consult with First Nations, local communities and stakeholders during the planning, environmental review and development stages of this project.

This initial consultation is intended to gather local community and stakeholder input regarding:

- Topics for environmental study and review
- Which aspects of the project are most important to the community
- How residents and stakeholders would like to receive information and be consulted

On November 19, 2007, the project team met with the 'Namgis First Nation Chief and Council to brief them on the status of the project. On November 20, 2007, an open house was held from 5:00pm to 8:00pm in Port McNeill, British Columbia at the Black Bear Resort.

Future consultation with First Nations, local communities and stakeholders will take place prior to submission of applications for licensing and environmental review. There will be additional opportunities for stakeholders input during public comment periods associated with the federal and provincial environmental review processes.

### 2.2 Participant Recruitment

To create awareness of the opportunity to participate the consultation program:

- 145 e-mails were sent to community organizations and businesses
- Phone calls were made to follow up the e-mails on November 19, 2007
- A one-quarter page advertisement was printed in the North Island Gazette on November 14, 2007

### 2.3 Participation

Thirty-two residents attended the November 20, 2007 open house and 21 completed and submitted the feedback form.

### 3. Summary of Input

The following is a key theme summary of the input received through the feedback forms:

#### 3.1 Do you have any comments regarding these (environmental) studies?

The most frequent comment (six respondents) was that the studies were comprehensive. Three respondents commented that they supported the project while another three expressed concern about impacts on fish populations.

#### 3.2 Are there other topics that you think should be studied?

The most frequent comment (four respondents) was that the project must mitigate impacts to fish populations and, where possible, enhance them.

#### 3.3 Please indicate how each of the following factors influences your opinion about the Kokish River Hydroelectric Project?

##### Local Job Creation

80% of respondents said that job creation positively influenced their opinion of the project while 20% said it had no effect on their opinion.

##### Potential Impacts on Fish

55% of respondents said that potential impacts on fish negatively influenced their opinion of the project, 30% said it positively influenced their opinion and 15% said it had no effect.

##### Local First Nations Development Opportunities

75% of respondents said that local First Nations development opportunities positively influenced their opinion of the project while 15% said it had no effect on their opinion and 10% said it negatively influenced their opinion.

##### Size of Powerhouse

40% of respondents said the size of the powerhouse positively influenced their opinion, 40% said it did not influence their opinion and 20% said it negatively influenced their opinion.

#### 3.4 Additional comments about the Kokish River Hydroelectric Project?

The most frequent comment (seven respondents) expressed support for the project.

#### 3.5 How likely would you be to participate in each of the following Kokish River Hydroelectric Project consultation activities?

95% of respondents said they would likely (very likely or somewhat likely) participate through open houses.

67% of respondents said they would likely (very likely or somewhat likely) participate through stakeholder meetings and on-line feedback form.

62% of respondents said they would likely (very likely or somewhat likely) participate by e-mail.

52% of respondents said they would likely (very likely or somewhat likely) participate through a newspaper insert or mail sent to their home or office.

#### 3.6 Additional comments?

The most frequent comment expressed support for power generation in the north island.

## **4. Feedback Form Input**

### **4.1 Do you have any comments regarding these (environmental) studies?**

- This is a comprehensive plan - be sure to do a clear community consultation process
- Hope to learn more.
- Not really, it's a government process that we all know is very thorough.
- I support the project. It will help the north island and hopefully will reduce our dependence on power from the south.
- I look forward to more power generation on the island.
- Are the assessment criteria aligned with current expectations for other development in the area? (i.e., timber development)
- From a review of the charts, it would appear studies are well developed and provide key information.
- Appears to be a comprehensive list.
- Good presentation. Keep us informed of any future developments.
- I am nervous having such a large water intake in a river that has steelhead issues.
- Needed in this area.
- As none of us trust DFO to properly manage enough water for fish, how will you ease our concerns?
- Why would anybody want to jeopardize fish populations that are close to extinction? There are many waterways on Vancouver Island that have no fish and lots of potential for production of power.
- This list seems to be comprehensive and should meet the expectations of any public concerns.

### **4.2 Are there other topics that you think should be studied?**

- Fish enhancement of the Kokish, help the hatchery.
- Economic impact, labour market impact training opportunities
- Yes, the benefits of a dam to create a reserve for times of lower rainfall.
- "Land and Resource Use" should address short and long term timber supply issues in this corridor.
- Natural fish and wildlife habitat.
- Topics listed appear comprehensive.
- Wildlife.
- I believe stakeholders need to be guaranteed that the power company will not be greedy at times of low water.
- I think the power project should be looking at ways to enhance the salmon populations.
- I am concerned about the volume of water being diverted from the regular flow during low water time periods (August and September).

**4.3 Please indicate how each of the following factors influences your opinion about the Kokish River Hydroelectric Project?**

	<b>Negatively influences my opinion</b>	<b>No effect on my opinion</b>	<b>Positively influences my opinion</b>
<b>Local jobs created</b>	0%	20%	80%
<b>Potential effect on fish in the Kokish River</b>	55%	15%	30%
<b>Local First Nations development opportunity</b>	10%	15%	75%
<b>Size of powerhouse</b>	20%	40%	40%

**Other:**

- Exactly where is the powerhouse to be? A proper map will help.
- Good wishes for the success of the project.
- Excellent opportunity for B.A.M., 'Namgis and entire north island. Ensure that other stakeholder's current and future needs are addressed.
- Need more information and assurance that the effects on fish are minimized.
- Impact environmentally; aesthetically. Will this building stick out like a sore thumb in the middle of God's creation?

**4.4 Additional comments about the Kokish River Hydroelectric Project?**

- IPPs are a wave of the future for sustainable power. There is exciting opportunity here.
- It is fantastic to see another company working with the First Nations, a win/win for both parties.
- Ideal project, needed in our time, well presented and laid out.
- Use and development of local employment and ongoing partnerships a key to maintaining local connectivity.
- I look forward to its completion.
- Having no idea what the project entails - I was impressed by the studies that have been conducted. I very much appreciated answers to my questions by project representatives.
- Sounds interesting. If it can be done with little environmental impact it would be a benefit to the renewable resource supply.
- Public information by way of newspaper, media, and information meetings will be needed to keep the public well informed. A timeline presented when or if the project is a go.
- Must not flood valley at any time.
- I would like to see a project like this work. But my trust level is very low when it comes to governments or corporations entrusted with the health of our salmon, steelhead, etc.
- The project should not be allowed.
- I like the idea that the north island will be able to produce enough power to be independent of transmission from southern sources.

**4.5 How likely would you be to participate in each of the following Kokish River Hydroelectric Project consultation activities?**

	<b>Not at all likely</b>	<b>Not very likely</b>	<b>Neither likely nor unlikely</b>	<b>Somewhat likely</b>	<b>Very likely</b>
<b>Through a newspaper insert / feedback form in the <i>North Island Gazette</i></b>	5%	9%	33%	24%	29%
<b>Attend a stakeholder meeting</b>	15%	10%	5%	20%	50%
<b>Attend one or more open houses</b>	0%	0%	5%	9%	86%
<b>Participate through an on-line feedback form</b>	14%	14%	5%	43%	24%
<b>By e-mail</b>	14%	19%	5%	29%	33%
<b>Through mail sent to your home or business</b>	14%	14%	19%	14%	38%

**In what other ways would you like to be consulted?**

- Send me information by mail
- Open house and stakeholder meetings are best. They should have an agenda and a facilitator to keep focused.
- Phone me.

**4.6 Additional comments?**

- Good luck!
- I would like assurances that water will not be taken at low water periods.
- Should generating capacity be sufficient, can this project supply power for north island communities should mainline (BC Hydro) transmission fail? i.e., emergency, isolate Kokish from main grid for local use
- I was surprised that a representative of the 'Namgis First Nation was not present at the open house in Port McNeill on November 20, 2007.
- The ready access to surplus power may lead to industrial development opportunities for business looking to locate in the area.