

Kokish River Hydroelectric Project Consultation on Draft *Terms of Reference* – Environmental Assessment

Potential Biophysical Impacts

Background

Kwagis Power, a limited partnership of Brookfield Renewable Power and the 'Namgis First Nation, is proposing to develop a run-of-river hydroelectric power project on the Kokish River on northeastern Vancouver Island, approximately 50 km southeast of Port Hardy, 15 km east of the Town of Port McNeill, and 4.5 km southwest of Telegraph Cove. The Kokish River Hydroelectric Project will generate up to 45 megawatts of clean renewable power, producing enough electrical energy to supply approximately 15,000 homes.

The Kokish River Hydroelectric Project is subject to a harmonized federal and provincial environmental assessment process under the BC *Environmental Assessment Act* (BCEAA) and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA).

Environmental Assessment Application

Kwagis Power must receive Environmental Certification under the BCEAA before the Project can proceed. The first step in this process is to obtain approval from the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) regarding a draft *Terms of Reference* (TOR), a document that specifies the studies to be conducted and the information that Kwagis Power must provide in its application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate.

In addition to a detailed Project description and summary of public, First Nations and government consultation programs, the Environmental Assessment Certificate Application will present the findings of the following biophysical assessments. For each assessment study, the Application will describe scope and methodology, project-related impacts and benefits, recommended mitigation measures, and the potential for residual effects.

As required under CEAA, the Application will also address potential accidents and malfunctions, effects of the environment on the Project, and cumulative environmental effects.

Surface Hydrology Assessment

Description of existing surface hydrology conditions in the lower Kokish River and an assessment of potential project impacts on surface hydrology, including short-term changes to the river's flow regime during construction, proposed flow diversion regime, and potential effects of climate change on hydrologic patterns in the Project area.

Surface Water Quality Assessment

Description of baseline surface water quality and assessment of potential project impacts to water quality, including effects on water temperature and water chemistry.

Hydrogeology Assessment

Description of the existing groundwater regime in the Project area and assessment of potential project impacts on the relationship between the Kokish River, groundwater conditions and groundwater use.

Geomorphology Assessment

Description of baseline geomorphology on the lower Kokish River, including surface and subsurface sediment characteristics, river classification and physical channel conditions, and assessment of potential effects of the Project on channel morphology and sediment transport processes.

Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Assessment

Description of existing fisheries resource values in the Project area, assessment of potential impacts to fish and aquatic habitat associated with Project construction, decommissioning of temporary facilities, and operation and maintenance, and recommended monitoring regime, mitigation measures and habitat compensation opportunities to be implemented to avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts.

Wildlife, Wildlife Habitat and Vegetation Assessment

Description of existing terrestrial vegetation and wildlife values in the Project area, assessment of potential impacts to vegetation, wildlife and wildlife habitat associated with Project construction, decommissioning of temporary facilities, and operation and maintenance, and recommended monitoring regime and mitigation measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

Air Quality Assessment

Description of the Project's location relative to nearby human receptors, assessment of potential project-related effects on air quality associated with construction, decommissioning of temporary facilities, and operation and maintenance, and potential for greenhouse gas emission off-sets during Project operation.

Consultation on Draft Terms of Reference

A 30-day public comment period on the draft TOR is taking place from January 12 to February 11, 2009. After taking public comments into account, the EAO will finalize and issue the approved TOR to Kwagis Power. For more information on how to participate in the consultation and to view the draft TOR, please visit www.eao.gov.bc.ca or www.kokishriver.com. Copies of the draft TOR document are also available for public review at the Alert Bay Public Library and the Vancouver Island Regional Library, Port McNeill Branch.

Contact Us

Your input will help us to plan, design and implement a better project. We encourage you to share questions, comments or ideas on the Kokish River Hydroelectric Project by email, phone, fax or mail.

Chris Oakley

VP, Hydro Project Development

Brookfield Renewable Power

Suite 2050 – 1055 Georgia Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 3R5

Email: info@kwagispower.ca

Phone: (604) 669-3141

Fax: (604) 687-3419

George Speck

Board Member, Kwagis Power

Senior Administrator, 'Namgis First Nation

Box 210

Alert Bay, BC V0N 1A0

Email: info@kwagispower.ca

Phone: (250) 974-5556

Fax: (250) 974-5200

