

2009 Union of BC Municipalities Resolutions of Interest to the Mineral Exploration Community compiled by the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC)

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Direct relevance to mineral exploration and mining:

B33 CONSULTATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS AKBLG Executive

WHEREAS there have been instances when the Environmental Assessment Office scheduled a referral period on a controversial project, in such a manner that the affected local governments and other stakeholder or interest groups were unable to make comment;

AND WHEREAS in some of these cases, the Environmental Assessment Office refused all requests to extend the deadlines for commenting on projects;

AND WHEREAS there are many other examples of the Province establishing consultation periods that do not respect local government and the timelines that we work in:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ministry of Environment be requested to develop policies and procedures ensuring that referral periods are established in such a manner to allow local governments, as well as other stakeholder or interest groups, that wish to comment, a fair and reasonable opportunity to do so.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF KOOTENAY & BOUNDARY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership has consistently endorsed resolutions calling for the Province to provide opportunities for local governments to comment, with feasible timelines for local government response (2008-B42, 2008-B73, 2007-B32, 2006-LR2, 2004-B17, 2004-B75, 2002-SR1, 2000-B88, 1995-B43, 1995-B91, 1994-A2).

B42 COMPENSATION FOR LARGE SCALE MINING ACTIVITIES Sechelt

WHEREAS large scale mining activities on crown land have a negative effect on neighbouring local governments in that they decrease property values and impact overall quality of life of residents;

AND WHEREAS the Crown receives royalties from these mining activities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Province of BC be requested to put in place a mechanism that would allow local government to receive financial compensation.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed a previous resolution and policy paper requesting that a share of resource revenues be returned to the affected communities (2003-B30; Resource Revenue Sharing Policy Paper, 2004).

B43 GRAVEL MINING OPERATIONS Peachland

WHEREAS the Ministry of Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources is responsible for reviewing applications for gravel mining operations in British Columbia and for determining whether such applications should be permitted;

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the District of Peachland, the legislation and regulations governing the review of gravel mining applications would benefit from being updated to ensure that the process takes into consideration a broader range of social, environmental, safety and health impacts as well as the interests of the local government in whose area the permit is requested:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources be requested to urgently reconsider the review and approval process for the issue of gravel pit permits.

ENDORSED BY THE SOUTHERN INTERIOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that concerns around resource extraction (i.e., pits and quarries) have been long standing issues for many local governments.

Most recently, UBCM members endorsed resolution 2000-B25, which requested amendments to the Local Government Act, Mines Act and related provincial legislation to “provide for clear authority for local governments to regulate the location and operation of quarry and gravel operations as “land uses” within local bylaws which are open to public consultation and not subject to Ministerial approval.” In addition, members have endorsed previous resolutions calling for greater local control of sand and gravel extraction (1995-B65; 1993-A4).

The Committee notes that work has been done to assist communities develop bylaws that would regulate resource extraction activities, and various studies and pilot projects have been undertaken as to how to deal with these types of operations.

B49 HIGHWAY 37 ELECTRIFICATION NCLGA Executive

WHEREAS the electrification of the Highway 37 corridor is critical to the economy of the Province of British Columbia;

AND WHEREAS the memberships of the NCMA and UBCM endorsed a resolution in 2008 calling for the electrification of the Highway 37 corridor;

AND WHEREAS the government of British Columbia has committed \$250 million towards construction of the power line if a major partner could be found;

AND WHEREAS the Premier of British Columbia has expressed his interest in seeking federal infrastructure funds that could be put toward the permitting and potential construction of the power line along Highway 37:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to make the electrification of Highway 37 a high priority.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **Endorse***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that the UBCM membership endorsed resolution 2008-B45, which requested that the Province and BCTC continue the proposed environmental programs and projects, with a focus on the Northwest Transmission Line, namely the Terrace to Bob Quinn portion of the 287 kV line.

Prior to the 2008 resolution, members endorsed resolution B25 in 2004, which requested that the Province commit to the writing of a comprehensive plan for extension of the electrical grid into the Northwest region, with consideration of long term economic and resource development needs.

Responding to the 2008 resolution, the Province indicated that it is committed to building this transmission line, with \$250 million allocated to the project and an invitation to industry to join in planning and financing the Northwest Transmission Line.

The BC Transmission Corporation also responded to the 2008 resolution, referencing work with the Province and the BC Environmental Assessment Office to prepare for the project. Specifically, BCTC highlighted the resumption of “consultation with the Nisga’a Nation and First Nations with interests in the NTL areas” and also the fact that “Rescan Environmental Services, BCTC’s environmental consultant for NTL, will be completing baseline studies that were suspended in November 2007.” However, BCTC emphasized that “available funding is intended only to carry the project through to the preparation of the Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate,” with no decision having yet been made to proceed with constructing the NTL.

B138 MINING REGULATORY PROCESS Bulkley-Nechako RD

WHEREAS the current global economic crisis has resulted in significant job losses in the forest industry in British Columbia, and mining has been known as British Columbia’s second industry and could be providing jobs lost to forest industry cut backs;

AND WHEREAS there are 800 to 900 mining companies in BC, and no metal mines have been constructed within BC since the Kemess Mine in 1996, even though promising exploratory data has been gathered and 25 to 30 projects are in the regulatory process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the UBCM lobby the provincial and federal governments to conduct a review of the regulatory process for the approval of mine development within the province of British Columbia in order to streamline and expedite the approval process similar to the process in other Canadian provinces.

ENDORSED BY THE NORTH CENTRAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that in 1999 UBCM members endorsed resolution B68, which called upon the Province to undertake a review of the legislation and regulations governing mining and mining exploration with the objective of reviving the industry. However, members have also endorsed a resolution requesting that the public consultation process be enhanced (which may result in a longer approval process) and that the local government having jurisdiction is informed of mineral exploration and development initiatives that may impact its residents (2006-B38).

Indirect relevance to mineral exploration and mining:

B45 RESTORATION OF BC HYDRO MANDATE Highlands

WHEREAS the BC Energy Plan limits the mandate for BC Hydro to grow public green power assets and BC Hydro is instead directed to buy power from private power utilities;

AND WHEREAS there has not been a meaningful public debate on the Energy Plan or on the environmental, social and economic costs and benefits of different green power sources (such as run of river):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that BC Hydro have its mandate restored to look for opportunities to develop sustainable alternative energy sources.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: Endorse

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that in 2006, UBCM members endorsed resolution B26, which requested in part that the Province give “clear direction to BC Hydro to more aggressively pursue improvements in energy efficiency and low-impact renewable energy sources, such as wind, tidal or run-of-river power.”

In its response to the resolution the Province indicated that “about 90 percent of electricity generated comes from clean or renewable sources. “The BC Energy Plan: A Vision for Clean Energy Leadership,” (Energy Plan), released by Minister Richard Neufeld on February 27, 2007, commits the Province to maintaining this standard.” The Province identified clean or renewable resources as “sources of energy that are constantly renewed by natural processes, such as water, solar, wind, tidal, geothermal, wood residue and organic municipal waste.”

UBCM members have also expressed concerns about the cumulative social and environmental impacts associated with IPPs, need for greater regulatory control and monitoring as well as the impacts on associated transmission corridors. (2003-B95; 2003-B96; 2006-A4; 2007-B146).

In addition, members have requested that the provincial government create incentives for local governments to become involved in independent power production (2006-LR14; 2007-B131).

B90 COSTS OF RESPONDING TO PROVINCIAL REFERRALS Sunshine Coast RD

WHEREAS local governments expend significant staff resources in order to respond to referrals and requests for comments related to applications within their boundaries from various provincial ministries related to forest fertilization, mining, logging, foreshore leases, licenses of occupation, water licenses, etc.;

AND WHEREAS local governments face an ongoing struggle to balance budgets and respond to workload issues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of BC Municipalities lobby the provincial government to provide funding to offset the costs of responding to the large number of referrals.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: No Recommendation

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee understands the concerns expressed by the sponsor with respect to the time expended by local government staff to respond to provincial referrals.

However, the Committee notes that members have endorsed previous resolutions seeking to ensure that adequate consultation takes place by the Province and to encourage the development of MOUs on specific referrals with affected local governments prior to their making land use, development and environmental decisions; as well as other specific referrals such as private moorage wharf tenures (2001-A9; 2008-LR2).

B137 INDEPENDENT POWER PROJECTS Tofino

WHEREAS the public power strategy of creating a crown corporation (BC Hydro) which for over forty years produced great dividends for the people of BC, providing a secure, long-term supply of power as well as surplus electricity for export;

AND WHEREAS over 600 water license and land tenure applications have been submitted to the Integrated Land Management Bureau for river diversion projects on creeks and rivers across BC, with a typical project requiring river diversion, dams, logging, powerhouses, and many kilometres of roads and transmission lines, with no requirement for environmental assessment process for projects under 50 megawatts;

AND WHEREAS proposed run-of-the-river power projects do not take into consideration the various social, economic, recreational and environmental impacts that the construction and operation of a facility may have on the neighbouring areas and the region at large, and where each project is considered independently, not assessing the cumulative impact of multiple projects on the landscape;

AND WHEREAS the Union of BC Indian Chiefs has called for a moratorium on private hydro development until there is assurance of “transparent” consultation with First Nations and a review of the terms of existing water licenses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the provincial government place a moratorium on issuing water licenses or licenses of occupation for independent power projects (IPPs) until:

1. All IPPs are regulated by BC Hydro for the public good.
2. Regional plans for IPP development are completed by the BC government with full public participation with regional and local governments.
3. IPPs are only developed when other less costly and less damaging forms of sustainable power have been developed, and when new development is required for provincial power self sufficiency.
4. Regulations require all IPPs to be assessed under the BC Environmental Assessment Act to determine if they are appropriate; this would include an examination of the cumulative impacts of proposed projects.
5. The development of IPPs is acceptable to local First Nations and local non-native communities.

ENDORSED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF VANCOUVER ISLAND & COASTAL COMMUNITIES

*UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: **No Recommendation***

UBCM RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

The Resolutions Committee notes that UBCM members have endorsed resolutions related to local government consultation on proposed independent power projects, concerns around the cumulative impacts of IPPs, and local government’s role in IPP development. However, members have not endorsed a moratorium on issuing water licenses or licenses of occupation for IPPs.

Specifically in 2003 resolution B95 requested (in part) to:

1. *Develop, in consultation with local government, industry, the public and regulatory stakeholders, clear and measurable criteria by which to evaluate independent power production projects against community social, land use and environmental values and an agreed upon “green energy” standard for both the generation and power line components of the projects;*

Members also endorsed 2003 resolution B96, which sought to return regulatory authority over powerline interconnection associated with independent power production projects to the BC Utilities Commission. This resolution was in response to Bill 30, which amended the Utilities Commission Act to provide for removal of local government involvement and engagement in IPP review and approval processes.

In addition, members have supported better pre-planning and coordination between BC Hydro, BC Transmission Corporation and the Province when looking at transmission lines and corridors for IPPs (2008-B38).

In 2008 UBCM members endorsed B39, which requested the Province “to take a leadership role when granting environmental permits and land tenures within British Columbia relating to the development of private power. The Committee has offered no recommendation since the five points that have been put forward are all separate matters some of which the membership might be able to support and others which the membership may not feel comfortable supporting based on the experiences in their own jurisdictions. In fact there are local governments who are supportive of IPPs and some local governments have even developed their own IPP projects.