



June 4, 2010

Ms. Kathy Eichenberger  
Project Assessment Director  
Environmental Assessment Office  
*Submitted via website*

Dear Ms. Eichenberger,

**Re: AME BC Support for Construction of the Northwest Transmission Line**

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On behalf of the Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia (AME BC), I wish to extend our support for the construction of the Northwest Transmission Line along the Highway 37 corridor in northwestern B.C.

The development of the Northwest Transmission Line will lead to critical economic development in a region of the province which currently has an unemployment rate of over 11 percent. The transmission line will provide up to 10,700 jobs from 11 potential mine projects, which will reverse the decline of employment in this region. With regard to the environment, the line will have a small physical footprint and will provide the first step in a green energy corridor leading from Alaska to British Columbia, and possibly Yukon. Importantly, it will reduce reliance on fossil fuel use and will lower emissions. The net environmental benefits of the powerline will outweigh the localized impacts, which can be mitigated.

We appreciate the financial commitments made by the provincial and federal governments as well as AltaGas to develop hydroelectric and transmission infrastructure. These investments are important for the economic growth of our province and Canada, and the mines connecting to the grid will ultimately make enormous contributions to the well-being of communities in the Northwest and pay taxes that will fund services used by all Canadians.

People and the environment are key elements of sustainability. AME BC promotes a healthy and sustainable mineral exploration and mine development sector in British Columbia and as a proud supporter of the Northwest Powerline Coalition, we have seen the enormous level of support for the construction of a transmission line along Highway 37. Similarly, we have noted the broad level of support for the line during the environmental assessment process, particularly from people residing and earning their living in the Northwest.

AME BC is pleased to support the construction of the Northwest Transmission Line. It will be a significant investment in the future of British Columbia.

Sincerely,

Gavin C. Dirom, M.Sc., P.Ag.  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Association for Mineral Exploration British Columbia