



NEWS RELEASE

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CLEAN POWER CALL KEY STEP TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND GHG REDUCTION

VANCOUVER, B.C. – British Columbia’s independent power producers today welcomed B.C. Hydro’s new Clean Power Call as a key step to help meet the province’s goals of electricity self-sufficiency and greenhouse gas emissions reduction with the additional benefits of creating hinterland jobs and increasing revenues to government.

By purchasing the targeted 5,000 GWh of clean and renewable energy BC Hydro will significantly reduce currently imported energy - most of which is produced by fossil-fueled power plants in the U.S. and Alberta.

“If this new clean power is used to displace coal-fired power which BC is currently importing, the reduction in GHG reduction would amount to several million tonnes per year,” said Steve Davis, President of the Independent Power Producers Association of BC (IPPBC).

Replacing imports that are purchased in the price-volatile ‘spot’ market with IPP-produced electricity through 30 – 40 year fixed price contracts also gives greater price certainty to BC Hydro ratepayers.

“Those prices should be some of the most competitive renewable energy prices in North America since we expect several dozen projects to bid and they will be using a variety of fuels including wind, hydro, geothermal and more,” says Davis.

As those types of renewable energy projects mostly occur in undeveloped areas the result should be the creation of over 2,000 person-years of new direct employment throughout the hinterland. This will especially help interior towns suffering from recent forest industry layoffs.

Power projects also make significant payments to governments by way of water rentals, property and school taxes, payroll taxes, and benefit sharing arrangements with many First Nations. By building those projects here as opposed to paying to import power from projects outside the province, a significant amount of BC Hydro ratepayers’ payments are recycled to various governments here in B.C.

“Most of our 300 members have been preparing their projects for this Call for several years. Today’s launch will allow them to show that BC IPPs deliver more benefits to British Columbians than importing electricity on all the above measures and more.” concluded Davis.

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For additional information contact:

Steve Davis

President IPPBC

Phone: (604) 926-8352

Independent Power Producers association of BC

#26 – 181 Ravine Drive Port Moody, BC V3H 4T7

Tel: (604) 461-4778 Fax: (604) 469-3717

email: info@ippbc.com website: www.ippbc.com