



# West Kootenay EcoSociety

*Activating people through leadership and education*

## Glacier/Howser Project History

AXOR resubmitted their application for the controversial Glacier/Howser private hydro project on May 6 2009 after it had been rejected the previous year by the provincial Environmental Assessment Office (EAO). The EAO accepted the revised application in late May 2009, which initiated the final public comment period for the project.

After requests by local governments and organizations for a public meeting on the project to be held in Nelson were ignored, more than 1100 people attended the public meeting in Kaslo. The attendance at the meeting exceeded the population of the town. Following the public meetings, more than 1000 public submissions were made to the EAO about the project. The vast majority of these, more than 90 % were opposed to the project.

On September 2 2009, halfway through the 180-day review period, the EAO stopped the clock on the environmental assessment, citing that the impacts to fish and fish habitats posed a 'significant challenge'. This announcement came after a major influx of submissions from citizens and different levels of governments opposing the Glacier/Howser project, most notable was a joint submission from the Ktunaxa Nation Council-Canadian Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission, Okanagan Nation Alliance, and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regarding their concern about the blue-listed bull trout. The project was put on pause and AXOR was given an undefined time period to collect additional information if the review process was to continue.

On July 14 2010, the proponent submitted a letter to the EAO stating that they are working on a project redesign. The proponent has submitted additional data on fish and fish habitats pertaining to Howser Creek. So far, information submitted has not been sufficient to move forward with the application process. In November 2010, it was found out that AXOR no longer had an Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPA) with BC Hydro. The proponent has stated that it continues to work on the environmental assessment and has every intention to apply for another EPA in the future, or apply to BC Hydro's standing offer program.