



West Kootenay EcoSociety

Activating people through leadership and education

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2011

Will common sense prevail and bring an end to the provincial review of the Glacier/Howser project?

Three Regional Directors ask the Province to stop the Environmental Assessment of Glacier/Howser.

Nelson, BC - The West Kootenay EcoSociety applauds the Regional District of Central Kootenay Directors Andy Shadrack, Ramona Faust and Regional District of East Kootenay Director Geri Willkie for speaking out in the best interests of the people and places they represent by requesting that the provincial government abandon the review of the controversial Glacier/Howser private power project.

On February 7, 2011 an open letter was sent by the three Directors to the President and CEO of BC Hydro, President and CEO of Fortis BC, President of AXOR, Chair and CEO of the BC Utilities Commission, the BC Minister of Energy, the BC Minister of Environment and local MLAs and MPs with a plea to “make common sense prevail” in regards to the proposed power project.

The letter highlights crucial social, economic and technical concerns related to the Glacier/Howser proposal that have not been addressed despite persistent attempts. A concern of particular interest is the viability of the transmission line, an issue also noted by a retired professional power system engineer, who is signatory to the letter, and has previously submitted his own evaluations on the transmission lines.

“As the letter states, AXOR no longer has an electricity purchase agreement with BC Hydro; there is overwhelming opposition from the public; it is proven environmentally unsound, and it is flawed with economic, social and technical issues. It is time that this project be shut down once and for all” says Raelynn Gibson, West Kootenay EcoSociety, Wild Rivers Campaign Coordinator.

Additionally the letter urges the public to “insist that this colossal waste of taxpayers' money be halted” and that the review process of the Glacier/Howser process be stopped

AXOR proposed to develop a 100 MW private hydro project, complete with a 92 km transmission line stretching from the West to the East Kootenays through the Purcell Mountains. As the biggest proposal of its kind in this region, it has raised considerable controversy due to projected negative impacts on threatened populations of bull trout and grizzly bear, and because water would be permanently diverted from Glacier, Howser Creeks and two tributaries.

-30-

For more information contact:

Raelynn Gibson, Wild Rivers Campaign Coordinator, West Kootenay EcoSociety.

E-mail: raelynn@ecosociety.ca ph: 250 366 0077