



City Of Prince George

Regional District of Fraser – Fort George

Briefing Note

TOPIC: Expansion of three-phase power to the communities and businesses along the Highway 26 corridor.

BACKGROUND: The Cariboo Regional District is experiencing a downturn in the forestry sector. We must expand opportunities to all areas in order for our communities to remain sustainable.

While we understand that Barkerville Gold Mines has initiated the process to bring three-phase power to their industrial property, this will do nothing to alleviate the issue in Wells and Barkerville, or other communities or businesses along the Highway 26 corridor. It would be less than ideal not to use the expansion plans of Barkerville Gold Mines as leverage to facilitate the expansion of the power grid, and the resultant expansion of opportunity, to the communities and businesses along the Highway 26 corridor.

The capacity and reliability of the single-phase electrical power system along Highway 26 is barely sufficient to support the existing commercial, residential and tourism requirements in the Wells-Barkerville area including the District of Wells and Barkerville Historic Town & Park. Furthermore, industrial operations in the area, as well as the Troll Ski Resort, rely almost exclusively on diesel generators for their electrical power needs.

The Wells-Barkerville area is seeing increased development and opportunities for growth. Without the extension of three-phase electrical power to the area, this growth may not be possible.

Extension of three-phase electrical power to the area means:

1. Barkerville Gold Mines is growing and expanding its operations and is looking to bring three-phase power to their industrial property. This development will bring 200-300 jobs to the community for more than 10 years. These newly created jobs in Wells will support many indirect jobs, require new accommodations and services and increase revenues for local businesses as well as generate opportunities for the establishment of new businesses.
2. Troll Ski Resort has been in operation for over 45 years and it currently operates its ski lifts with diesel engines due to the lack of three-phase power. The resort cannot increase its ski lift capacity as three-phase power is needed to operate affordably. Further, the lack of three-phase power is limiting their ability to construct on-hill tourist accommodations. In order to meet the power requirements of its existing operations, support ski lift expansion, and other surface facility demands, Troll Ski Resort requires approximately 1,000 to 1,500 kW of three-phase electrical power.



3. New residential development is needed in the District of Wells to meet the increase in demand for housing due to the investment of the Barkerville Gold Mine and Wingdam mine. At a minimum, Well's power requirements are expected to double over the next 5-10 years.
4. New resort development in the region – such as back-country lodges and helicopter ski resorts.
5. New hotel and motel development in Wells, Barkerville Historic Town, Bowron Lake and Cottonwood House.
6. New development at Barkerville Historic Town & Park.

For these reasons, it is essential that three-phase electrical service is extended to Wells and Barkerville. It will mean the direct creation of between 400-600 new jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of investment. Without it, none of this economic development will occur.

Barkerville Gold will proceed with the installation of 3 Phase Power for their operations. When the project is complete, they will remove the infrastructure and revert (abandon) any right-of ways or easements they may have needed. This is wasteful, and partnership is needed to make the best public benefit to this investment,

It should also be noted that the installation of 3 Phase power to the community will result in a reduction of the production of greenhouse gasses. More efficient motors, pumps and the transition away from diesel power generation all represent real, sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas production.

REQUEST: That the City and Regional District support the Cariboo Regional District in it's lobbying efforts with he Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro to have permanent 3 Phase power established along the Highway 26 corridor to the community of Wells.
