

NORTHWEST TRANSMISSION LINE (NTL) PROJECT

April 2011

WHY NTL?

Northwestern B.C.

- Lacks reliable, long-term electricity infrastructure
- Holds the potential to deliver major economic benefits through responsible industrial development
- Is positioned to provide a secure interconnection point for future clean generation projects
- Lack of electrical grid power is viewed by many as a barrier to economic growth



PROJECT BENEFITS

Economic Benefits

- Clean electricity supply for potential industrial developments
- Promote development of new clean power projects
- **Employment: 280 direct jobs per year of construction**
 - Direct awards to qualified Aboriginal contractors

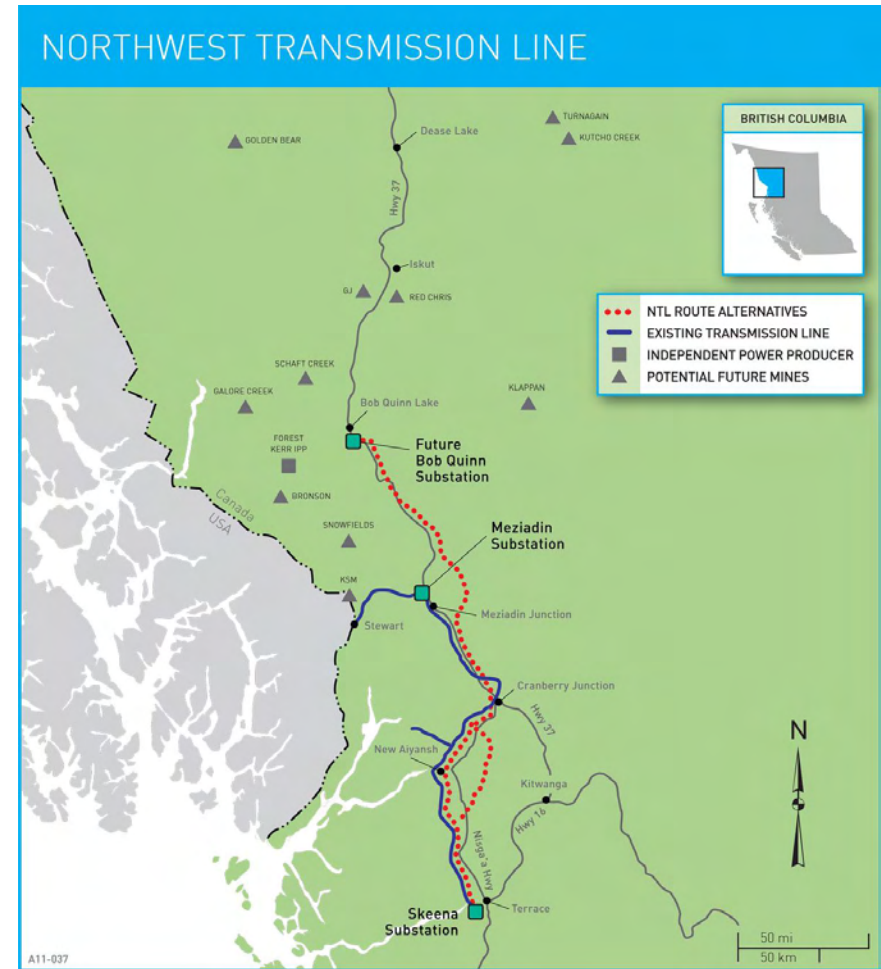
Environmental Benefits

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Connect certain communities now using diesel generators to electricity grid
- The proposed route has been selected to avoid environmental impacts as much as possible



ABOUT NTL

- NTL will be a new 287 kV transmission line starting from Skeena Substation (near Terrace) that will run approximately 344 km north to a new substation near Bob Quinn Lake
- **Cost: \$364 - \$525 million**
- Majority of project costs will be recovered through contributions from third parties including:
 - \$130 M from the Government of Canada's Green Infrastructure Fund
 - \$180 M from the private sector (AltaGas)
 - \$94 M to be borne by ratepayers



PROJECT STATUS

British Columbia Environmental Assessment

- Environmental Assessment Certificate granted on February 23, 2011

Other

- NTL is subject to the finalization of a screening level assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency* and necessary permits

- NTL cannot proceed without federal decision
 - Infrastructure Canada funding dependent on positive federal decision
 - DFO approvals also required for stream crossing work
- MNRO permitting processes underway
- Design Build contract scheduled to be awarded in Spring 2011
- Process for direct awards to qualified Aboriginal contractors underway



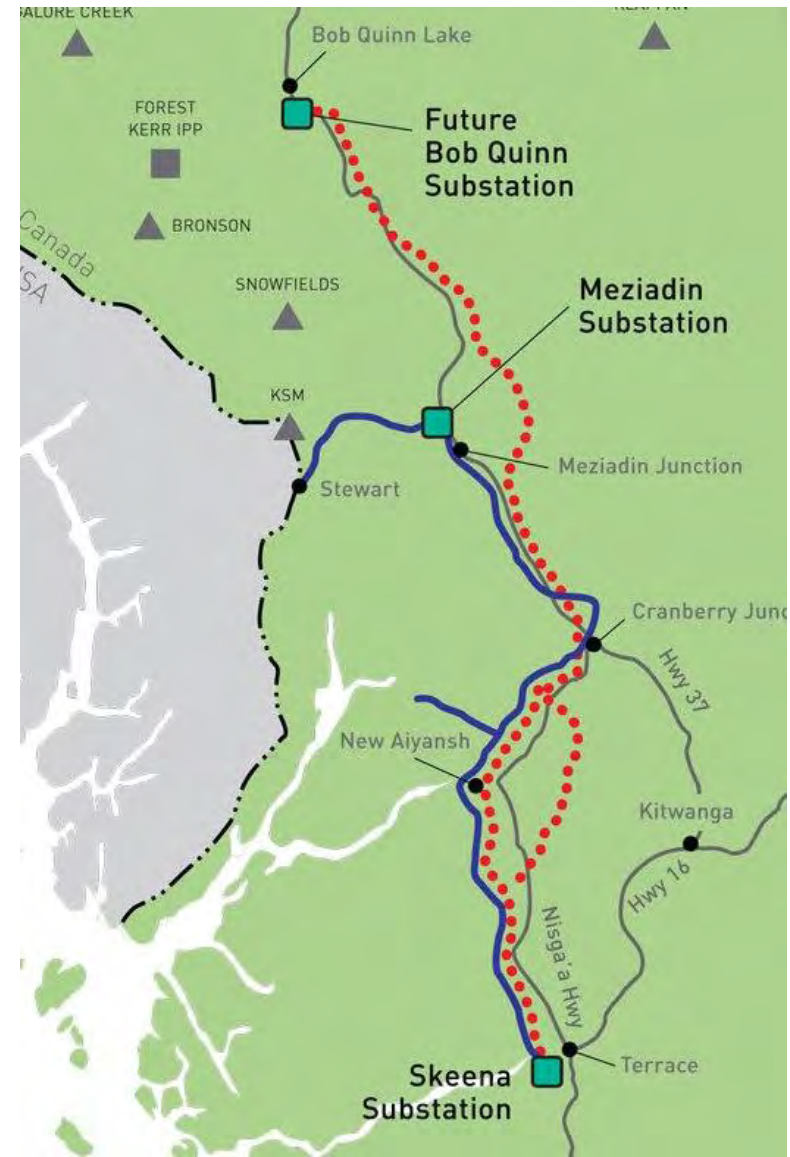
PROJECT ROUTE

Confirmed route:

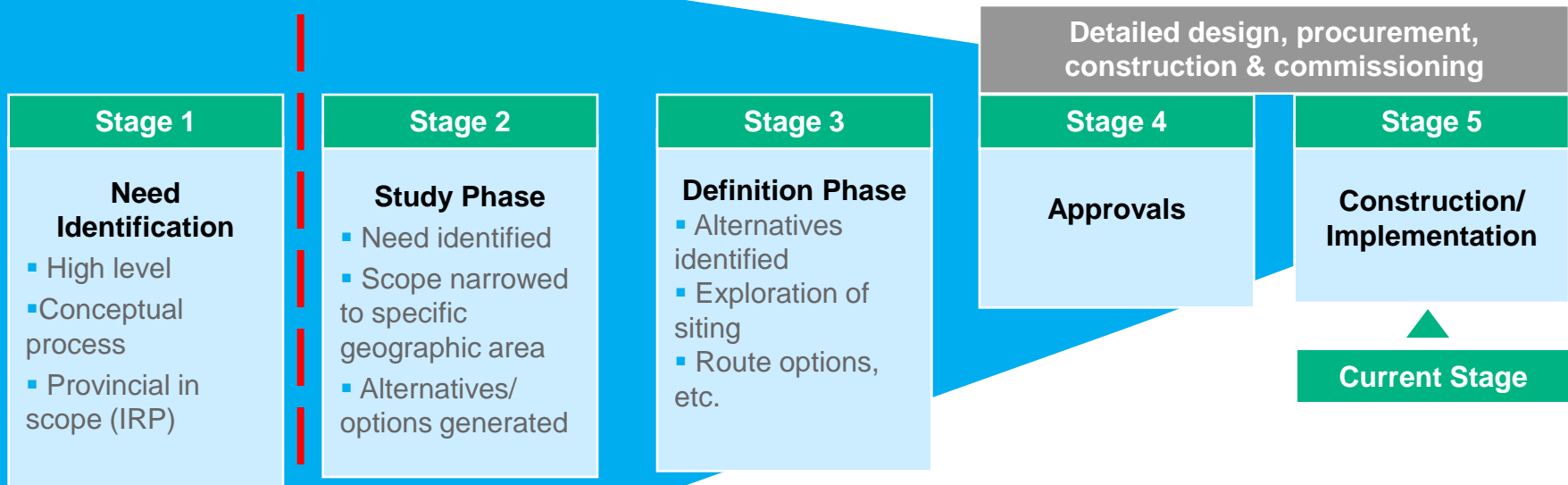
- North to New Aiyansh
- NE to join Hwy 37 corridor near Cranberry Junction
- Parallel Hwy 37 to Bob Quinn Lake

Alternative routes:

- Stirling River Valley versus Cedar-Kiteen Valley
- Recent Benefits Agreement with Nisga'a Nation facilitates use of Stirling route
 - Subject to Park Boundary Amendment



TRANSMISSION PLANNING STAGES



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Discipline-specific Studies include:

- Fish and Aquatic Habitat
- Geotechnical and Terrain Hazards
- Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat
- Vegetation Ecosystems
- Archaeology and Heritage Resources
- Atmospheric Environment
- Surface Water and Groundwater Resources
- Terrain, Surficial Materials and Soils
- Wetland Ecosystems
- Land and Resource Use
- Socio-Economics
- Visual Resources and Aesthetics
- Human Health
- Transportation, Utilities and Navigable Waters
- Traditional Use/Traditional Knowledge



PROCUREMENT

- NTL will be built as a Design Build Contract with the contract award anticipated in Spring 2011
- Request for Qualifications was posted on BC Bid
 - Four qualified contractors were shortlisted to receive Requests for Proposals fall 2010
 - Three submitted proposals in February 2011
- In evaluating proposals from the Design Build short-listed proponents, BC Hydro included weighting for inclusion of subcontracts or employment of local Aboriginals and Aboriginal businesses
- Direct award contracts will be given to qualified Aboriginal businesses for NTL ROW clearing and road access

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Three years of Public Consultation Including:

- 2 Regional Districts, 5 Municipalities, 23 provincial ridings
- 25 property owners during route selection process
- Outreach to more than 80 Crown land tenure holders
- Outreach to more than 80 E/NGOs
- Multiple meetings with local economic development groups
- Project mailing list of about 450

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY SUPPORT



“It is the greatest catalyst for economic stimulation for this region in many years.”

- Sam Harling, May 2010

“When you live in a small town and most of the jobs are service-based, it’s very hard to support a family on those wages.”

- Robin Austin, NDP MLA for Skeena

“The power line represents an outstanding economic opportunity for the northwest region and provides an energy solution for our Red Chris mine.”

- Imperial President Brian Kynoch, Feb 2011

“This power line is going to transform the region.”

- Terrace Mayor Dave Pernarowski, Feb 2011

“The recession that the rest of the world was feeling recently didn’t even phase us, because we’ve been in the recession since 1997.”

- Valerie Gauvin, business manager at Terrace’s Progressive Ventures.

“We need something to bring back workers and families, especially young families, to Terrace.”

- Nino Roldo, Feb 2011

“It’s going to be transformational. “To start, it’s just the construction phase ... and that construction will bring jobs and opportunity and all the good things associated with it.”

- Terrace Mayor David Pernarowski, March 2011

“We need something to bring back workers and

FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATION

- BC Hydro has been consulting since 2007 with Nisga'a Nation, and with the following First Nations whose traditional territory could be impacted by NTL:
 - Kitselas First Nation
 - Tahltan Nation as represented by the Tahltan Central Council
 - Gitxsan Wilp: Tenim Gyet; Wii Hlengwax; Lelt; the independent Skii km Lax Ha
 - Kitsumkalum First Nation
 - Gitanyow Wilp: Wii Litsxw; Malii; Gamlakyeltxw; Watakhayetswx
 - Metlakatla First Nation
 - Lax Kw'alaams First Nation

- Impact benefits agreements finalized with:
 - Kitselas First Nation
 - Metlakatla First Nation
 - Nisga'a Nation
 - Tahltan Nation -- subject to final signatures
 - And with the Skii km Lax Ha

- BC Hydro continues to meet with other area First Nations to work towards mutually beneficial agreements

FIRST NATIONS JOB TRAINING

- The NTL Project has funded boot camps or made training dollars available to **Nisga'a Nation, and the First Nations potentially impacted by the NTL.**
- As of April 2011, approximately **150 individuals** have participated in the boot camps and are ready to fill jobs as they become available
- Boot camps involve partnerships with the Northwest Community College and Aboriginal education programs providing training and certificates in areas such as:
 - hazardous materials
 - fire suppression
 - radio operation
 - chainsaw safety
 - bear awareness
 - driving
 - occupational first aid
 - environmental monitoring
 - helicopter safety
 - environmental and spill management

Business Opportunity Networking Session

- Forum for local contractors to exchange business information with the proponents shortlisted for the design build contract Request for Proposals
 - Networking sessions held October 2010
 - More than 150 Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal business representatives attended
- Under AIT, BC Hydro cannot require that its contractors hire locally
 - But BC Hydro will do all it can to encourage local hiring

Labour Market Program

- BC Hydro obtained funding through the provincial Labour Market Program to undertake a labor market gap analysis
- A steering committee has been set up comprising representatives from:
 - Industry, the education sector, First Nations and local communities
- Outcome: recommended strategies for practical training to bridge the gap

TERRACE NTL OFFICE

- Office to provide community outreach and construction support
- Staffed three days per week by local person
- Includes meeting space for key stakeholders
- Official office opening scheduled for Spring 2011

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date (subject to change)
First Nations, Nisga'a Nation, public consultation	Ongoing
Permits in place	Early 2011
Noninvasive pre-construction activities	Underway
Design-build contract awarded	Spring 2011
Construction begins	Summer 2011
Construction Completed	Fall 2013
NTL fully commissioned and in-service	December 2013
Restoration and cleanup	Spring 2014