



Northwest Transmission Line

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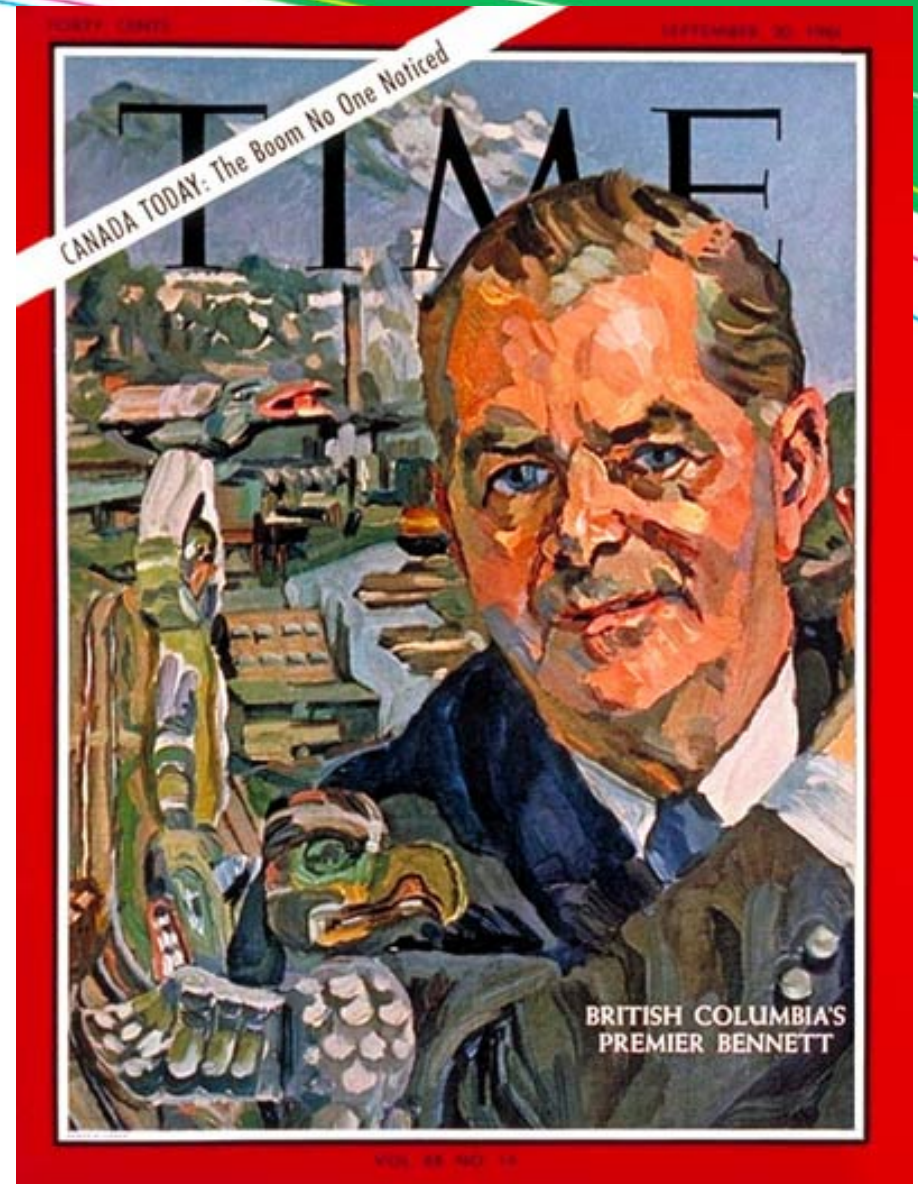
*Minerals North Conference
April 23, 2010*



Electricity in 1966

“The key to Bennett's dream of developing the vast mineral riches of the north is hydroelectric power.”

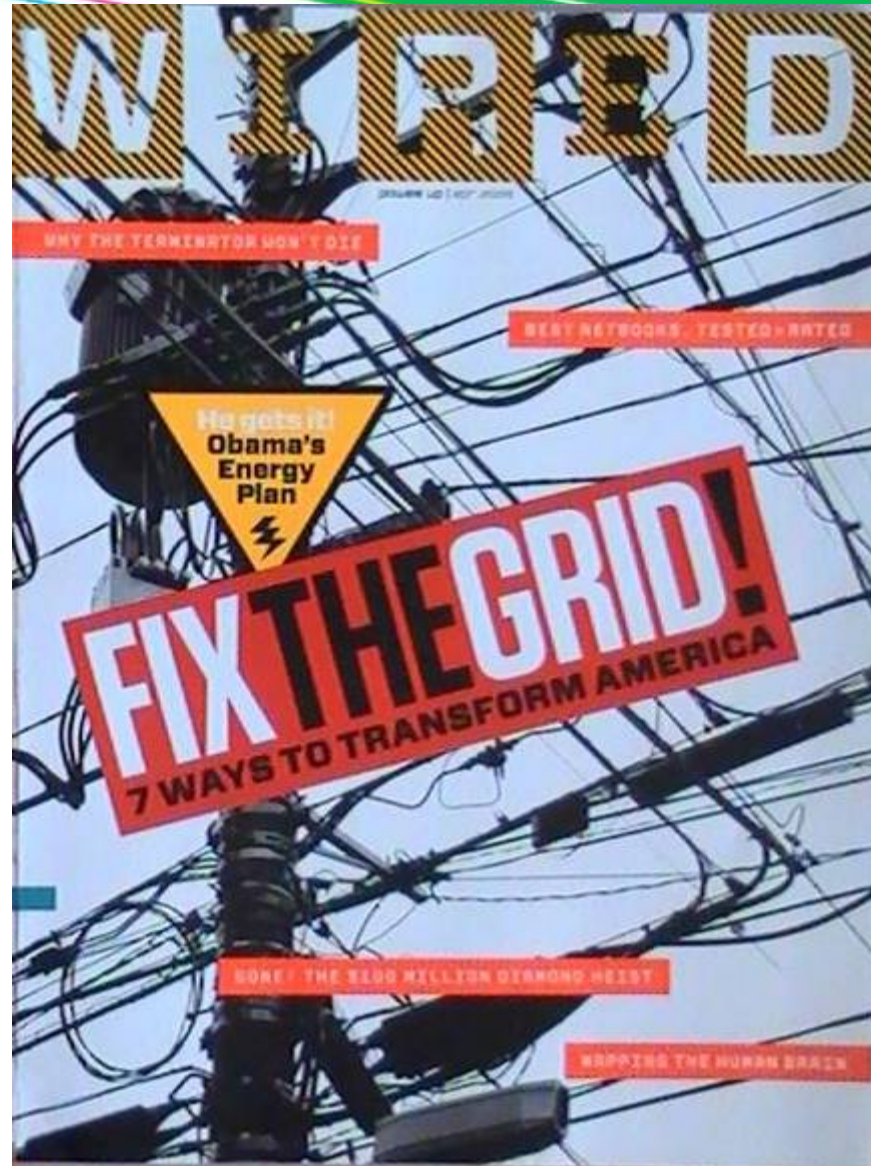
Time Magazine
1966



Electricity today

“A new transmission line along Highway 37 will replace dirty diesel power in First Nations communities, open new opportunities in mining and clean power production and create job opportunities throughout the Skeena Region.”

*BC Throne Speech
August 25, 2009*



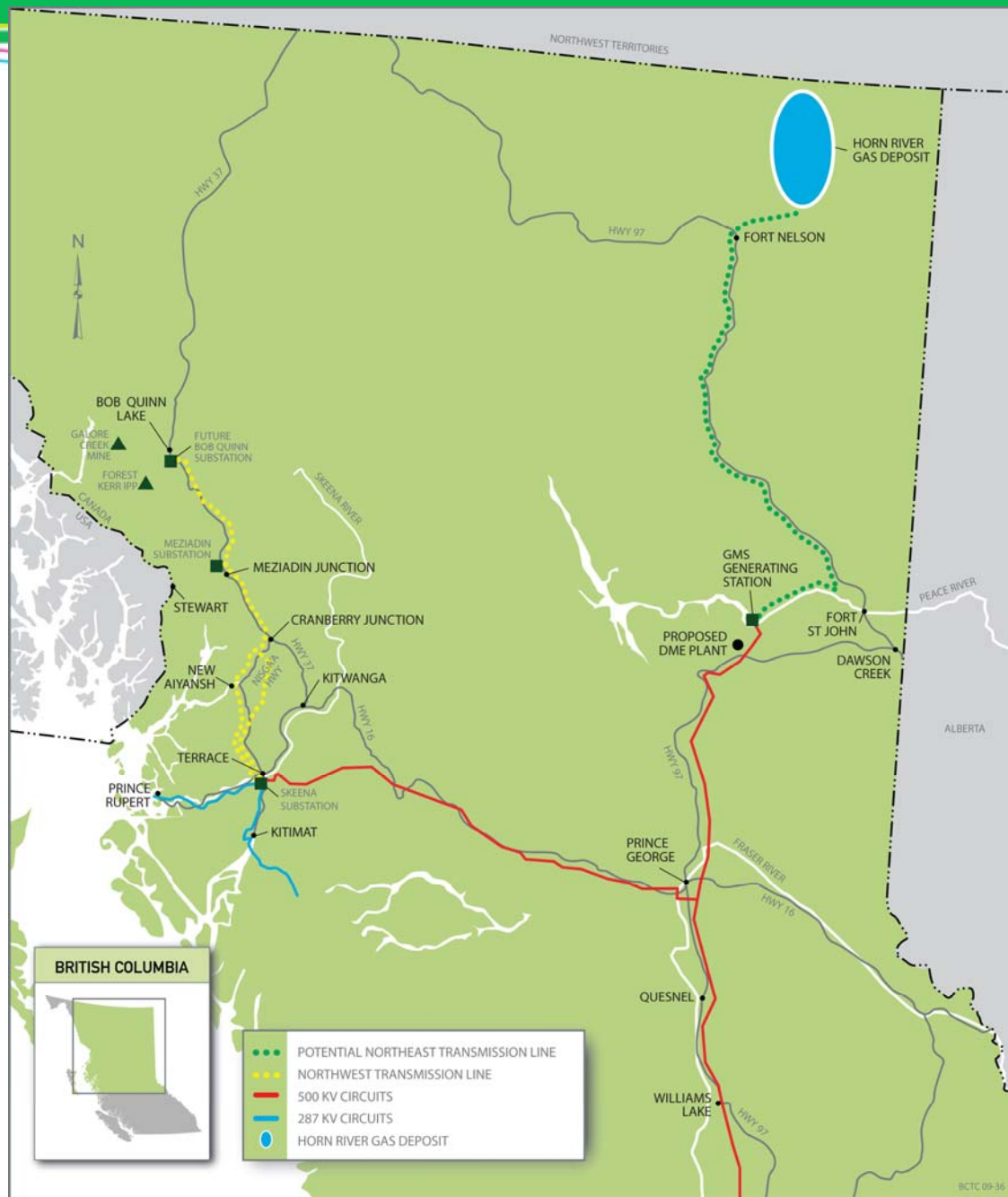
BC's Transmission Grid

BC's electrical transmission system, or "grid", is the second-largest in the Pacific Northwest and is made up of an extensive network of:

- 100,000 wood poles
- 22,000 steel towers
- 18,589 km of transmission lines and underwater submarine cables
- Almost 300 substations
- 7 grid connections to Alberta and Washington State
- A state-of-the-art system control centre and backup facility



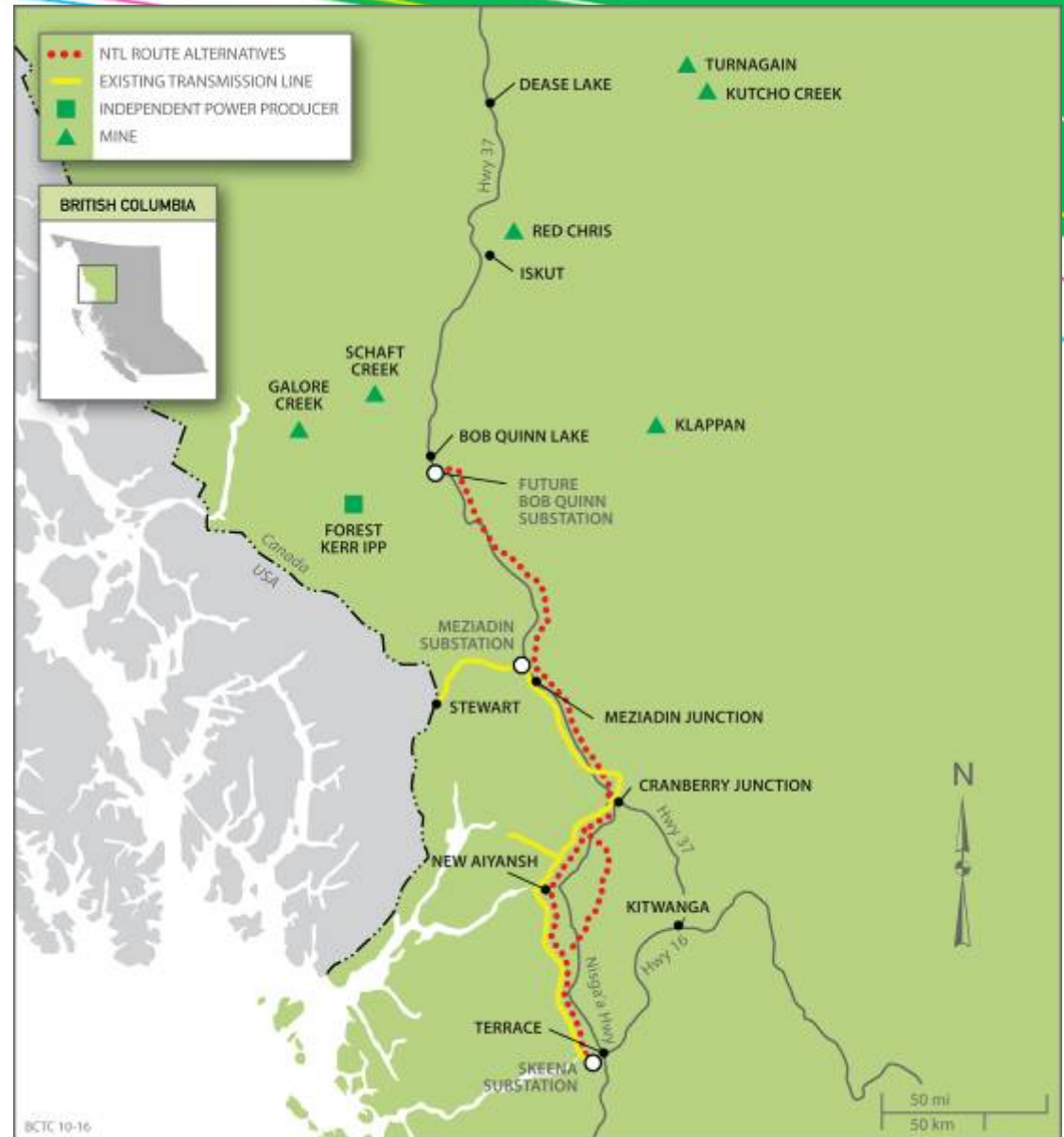
Connecting the North



Mineral Potential in the North

- 11 projects
- \$15 billion in investment
- Up to 10,000 jobs
- \$300 million in annual tax revenues

(Delivering Green Power to Northern British Columbia Report, 2009)



Northwest Transmission Line Facts



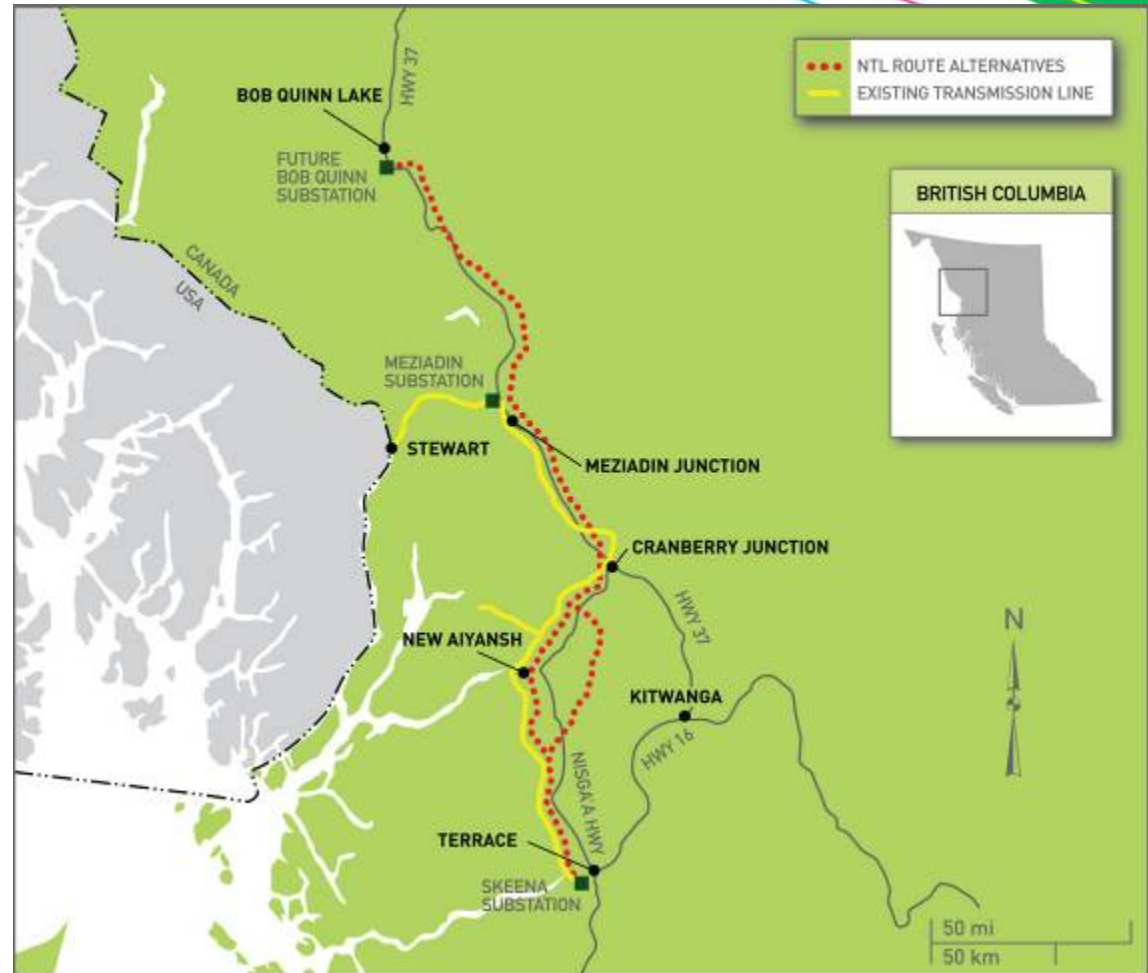
- New 335 km (approx), 287 kV circuit
- Estimated cost: \$404 million
- Connecting Skeena substation (near Terrace) to new substation near Bob Quinn Lake
- Funding commitments:
 - Prime Minister Harper announced \$130 million for NTL in September 2009
 - Province included project in its March 2010 budget
 - Anchor tenant being sought to contribute to cost of NTL

Routing: Potential NTL

General route location based on initial studies:

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

Alternative routes being studied in some locations



Environmental Assessment

- Application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate accepted by BCEAO April 14, 2010
- Project is now in 180-day Application review period, including public meetings and public comment period
- Studies examine a range of values and resources, required to assess the impact of the potential project, and mitigation required



Nisga'a Nation & First Nations Consultation

Consultations (led by BC Hydro) ongoing with Nisga'a Nation and with First Nations whose traditional territory could be impacted by NTL:

- 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 and the Kitsumkalum Band
- Gitanyow Wilp: Wii Litsxw; Malii; Gamlakyeltxw; Watakhayetswx
- Kitselas First Nation
- Metlakatla First Nation
- Lax Kw'alaams First Nation

Public Consultation

To date has focused on:

- Meetings and communications with communities, regional districts, economic development groups and property owners near the proposed NTL corridor
- Three sets of public information meetings
- Ongoing updates to interested individuals and groups
- Project website

Going forward:

- Continuing to update and meet interested stakeholder groups
- Public meetings in support of EA process

NTL: The Benefits



- Clean Energy
- Greenhouse gas reductions
- Electrifying mines
- Increased activity in Prince Rupert port
- Getting communities off diesel power

QUESTIONS

