

**Submission**  
to  
**Columbia Grid**  
June 12, 2007  
Regarding  
**The NorthernLights Projects**  
**Draft**

In response to your request of May 30, 2007, TransCanada is pleased to provide you with information on TransCanada's NorthernLights Transmission initiative. The initiative includes three HVDC lines; one from the Oil Sands area of Alberta to Celilo, Oregon; and the Inland Projects from the Powder River Basin area of Montana to Las Vegas; and the Powder River Basin area of Wyoming to Las Vegas. Attached is a fact sheet with maps, schedules, status and photographs of typical structures. More information about the TransCanada and the Projects can be found at [www.transcanada.com](http://www.transcanada.com). Under the "About TransCanada/Projects and Initiatives" tab there is more information about the Projects.

Each of the three NorthernLights Projects is planned to be a +/- 500 kV HVDC (High Voltage Direct Current) transmission line which are expected to carry up to 3,000 MW. TransCanada has chosen HVDC because it provides the lowest cost for moving large volumes of energy over long distances; has the least environmental and land use impact; has far reduced EMF concerns; and can be readily integrated with existing AC systems. In short, HVDC uses scarce energy corridors more effectively than AC transmission over long distances.

The NTAC<sup>1</sup> Canada – Northwest – California Transmission Options Study published in May, 2006<sup>2</sup> was jointly chaired by representatives from BPA and the California ISO. This study demonstrates the cost effectiveness of the Celilo Project to interconnect abundant resources from Alberta and BC to the Pacific Northwest and perhaps on to California. The NorthernLights Projects can also perform an important role of transporting surplus Pacific Northwest energy to the Desert Southwest, Alberta and BC when conditions are right.

TransCanada believes the NorthernLights Projects will also play an important role in helping to integrate wind resources with systems in need of renewable energy to meet their RPS's.

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<sup>1</sup> the Northwest Power Pools Transmission Assessment Committee – a sub-regional planning group

<sup>2</sup> see the Northwest Power Pool [www.NWPP.org](http://www.NWPP.org) in the NTAC/Publications area.



TransCanada is fully committed to these projects and is working as quickly as possible to move them to the next stage. Any assistance Columbia Grid can provide will be greatly appreciated.

In consideration of these important potential benefits, TransCanada request that you include the NorthernLights Projects in your inventory of area transmission plans.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Hosie

TransCanada's NorthernLights Project