



BC LEEF Leadership Chair's serious concern response to MLA Linda Reimer's strong support of BC Hydro Expansion through Anmore and Port Moody

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Dear Honourable MLA Linda Reimer,

You have sent us a letter of strongly supporting the BC Hydro expansion through Anmore and Port Moody as a safe, beautiful and optimal option! You also state "... you are committed to ensuring that our voice is heard, and you will ensure that Hydro listens to our concerns....", Therefore, I ask you to please carefully read and hear my serious concern response as a resident of Anmore and on behalf of my BC LEEF Leadership Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience Childhood Health and Development.

I further copy our BC Minister of Health, the Honourable Terry Lake, to this email as well as several residents from Anmore, who already registered their serious concerns just within the last 1-2 weeks about the BC Hydro expansion through Anmore and Port Moody, and many more residents will be signing in. In addition, I copy to the Anmore council; some of them have expressed serious concerns in the past, but since the council recently met with BC Hydro in a closed meeting, they are not allowed to share or disclose any such information with the public (... obviously BC Hydro is more than aware of its dangerous solutions and plans!). FYI: I also submitted a similar 1-page concern-letter including a 1-page summary of health risks to various newspapers and TV channels, and various other neighbour residents are active starting to reunite residents and communicate with all the media.

(1) Short Summary of Health Risks:

- Many published scientific articles have found links between living near power lines (and other electrical wiring configurations) and a range of health woes, including: brain cancer, childhood and adult leukemia, Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS), Alzheimer's disease, breast cancer in women and men, miscarriage, birth defects and reproductive problems, decreased libido, fatigue, depression and suicide, blood diseases, hormonal imbalances, heart disease, neuro-degenerative diseases, sleeping disorders among others.
- It is alarming to see how dangerous these power lines are: One study involved close to 30'000 matched case-control pairs of children living in the United Kingdom. It was found that children living in homes as far as 600 m from power lines had an elevated risk of leukemia. An increased risk of 69% for leukemia was found for

children living within 200 m of power lines, while an increased risk of 23% was found for children living within 200 to 600 m of the lines.

Reference: Draper G, Vincent T, Kroll ME, et al. Childhood cancer in relation to distance from high voltage power lines in England and Wales: A case-control study. *British Medical Journal*, 330:1290, 2005.

- In our case in Anmore alone, our homes will be 25+m away and the second row of homes will be about 160m away to each side of the additional new power lines on private property, including many families with children! A quick "Google-Map" estimate considering only a distance of 200m away from the existing and new decided power lines to either side in Anmore alone, having an increased risk of 69% for leukemia according to the study mentioned above: About 144 homes and at least 550-700 people (calculated on 4-5 people/home) are already and will be additionally affected with the new decided project, located on Spence Way, Eagle Crest Road, Sugar Mountain Way on one side, and on Legget Drive, parts of East Road, City Hall, Hemlock Drive, Magnolia Way, Oak Court, Fern Drive, and large parts of Crystal Creek Drive on the other side. I am most positive that most residents at 200m distances on Eagle Crest Road, Legget Drive, parts of East Road, City Hall, Magnolia Way, Oak Court, Fern Drive, and Crystal Creek Drive are not even aware of this! In addition, the many other homes at distances of 200-600m, having an increased risk of 23% for leukemia according to the study mentioned above, are not even included here.

Sadly, I learned a few days ago that a child living in an Anmore home adjacent to the existing power lines recently died of leukemia (coincidence? - - - probably not, living in a home with an increased 69% risk for leukemia according to scientific facts)!

(2) Loss in Property Value:

The Wall-Street journal mentioned several years ago that the resale of homes near power lines pose an average 30% loss in property value; i.e. in Anmore about 500,000-700,000\$ per home! Again, on a quick "Google-Map" estimate considering only a distance of 200m away from power lines to either side, having an increased risk of 69% for leukemia according to the scientific study mentioned above, there are about 144 homes, resulting in a loss of about 86M\$ in Anmore alone! Such numbers have to be openly disclosed to the public!

(3) Guidelines:

BC Hydro ignores international recommendations and guidelines and mentioned on several occasions that Canada has no guidelines. In addition, BC Hydro is hiding and not releasing health-risk data, despite various residents have specifically asked over the past 2-3 years for such emission data based on the projected load calculated to the realistically affected Anmore homes at various distances.

I will start pushing to finally generate basic guidelines for BC, and working with colleagues, the Health Authorities and Ministries, to finally promote more safer solutions, in order to save human lives and prevent large losses of property values affecting many hundreds of residents life-savings!

BC Hydro should strongly be reminded that health and safety issues to human life, to the most precious assets we have, can and shall never be overseen or neglected!

(4) Safer Options:

Safer options such as deep underground are used world-wide, not just 3-4m deep but much deeper underground, or even way above spanning over the entire Anmore valley, similar to the Swiss-built Peak-2-Peak Gondola up at Whistler. In comparison and two days ago, the longest tunnel in the world opened up in our native country of Switzerland. The Swiss tunnel through the alps is 56km long, 2,500m deep, having two large tubes with additional emergency tubes, allowing trains with electric power to speed up to 274km/h; cost: about 15B\$. If we can do it in little Switzerland, we can do it in Canada hiding these power lines in much smaller tubes, approximately less than 6% in total diameter with walk-through capabilities, at only 200-300m depth through the Sugar Mountain, only about 1-2km long. A vague linear cost projection estimate may be around 4M\$; translating into approximately 0.014% of BC Hydro's assets, or 0.07% of their 2015 revenues, or only about 0.67% of their net income in 2015 alone!

PS: BC Hydro published its 2015 Financials Statements with a total Assets of 28B\$, a total 2015 revenue of \$5,7B and a net income of at least \$581M in 2015 !

(5) Goal:

If BC Hydro is a honest and most responsible company up to all the Canadian ethical standards and proceeds with a much safer plan, is willing to spend only about 0.01% of their assets, or 0.07% of their 2015 revenues, or only about 0.67% of their 2015 net income, just imagine that they can save about 550-700 human lives

(children and adults) in Anmore alone and prevent a 86M\$ loss in all property values in Anmore alone!
This is the reality; does it not make more sense to come up with a more safer and optimal plan, especially living in the 21st century?

(6) BC Hydro facing enormous consequences:

It has to be further stressed that my above vague "Google-Map" projections of number of affected homes, number of affected people and various costs for safer solutions in Anmore and beyond should not be done by myself or by anyone of us residents, but by BC Hydro itself, in a most accurate, responsible and transparent manner to come up with the safest and economic most reasonable options for optimally facilitating a strong economy and contributing to building a healthy and beautiful BC! Otherwise BC Hydro will hurt itself; over the next ten years, there will be much tighter recommendations and guidelines worldwide due to the increasing need of electric power. If BC Hydro will continue to hide and cover up scientific facts and will not pursue the most safest options, they will face billions of dollars in lawsuits in the future, similar to what we witnessed with tobacco companies hiding and covering up data for years, especially since all such data are published in black/white. The beauty in life and nature is that the truth will always prevail !

Linda, this is the reality! We have to focus on real facts not on superficial issues as you describe in your letter, such as the beauty of poles, or that we will see 5-7 less poles in the future, wooden poles that look like trees among many other trees anyway! The BC Hydro option through Anmore and Port Moody is dangerous to many hundreds of people, makes people sick, makes children and adults die and generates large property losses, with about 86M\$ in Anmore alone.

Thank You for hearing and Sincerely,
urs.

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