

December 10, 2008

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**Via Email**

Tom Green, Chair, Technical Studies Subcommittee (TSS)  
Brian Silverstein, Chair, Planning Coordination Committee (PCC)

Dear Tom and Brian,

**RE: NorthernLights Project Phase 1 Comprehensive Progress Report**

TransCanada is developing a 500 kV high voltage direct current transmission line from Central Alberta to the area around Buckley, Oregon<sup>1</sup> (the project known as NorthernLights) with an in service date of 2015. The line will be bidirectional and be capable of interchanging 2000 MW between the markets of the U.S. Pacific Northwest and the three western provinces of Canada. The Regional Planning Process for this project was initiated in July, 2006 and completed in January, 2008 when the WECC Phase 1 process was initiated.

Attached you will find the Phase 1 Comprehensive Progress Report for NorthernLights. TransCanada has been planning this project through the Transmission Coordination Work Group (TCWG) which is an open coordination group composed of utilities, regional and sub-regional planning groups, Northwest Power Pool members, state regulatory staff and other interested parties. The TCWG has held monthly meetings through 2008 and has focused on coordinating WECC Phase 1 studies of eight large transmission projects that converge in the Lower Columbia area of Oregon. All meeting notices, meeting materials, attendee participation, study plans, results, presentations and reports are posted on the Northwest Power Pool website ([www.nwpp.org](http://www.nwpp.org)) under "TCWG Publications". These meetings have acted as a forum to share results, discuss activities, exchange technical data, and coordinate power flow and stability base cases that have been used in the Regional Planning Process.

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<sup>1</sup> About 30 miles SSE of the Celilo converter station at The Dalles, Oregon.

With the submission of this Comprehensive Progress Report to TSS, TransCanada is requesting that NorthernLights be granted Phase 1 Path Rating status, after a 60 day review period. Please address any comments or questions to Bill Hosie at the coordinates below within the 60 day comment period.

TransCanada plans to coordinate the Phase Two review through the TCWG. Interested WECC members and other stakeholders, who would like to be included in this NorthernLights Phase 2 Review Group and are not already on the TCWG membership list, please contact Bill Hosie at (403) 920-7338 or at [bill\\_hosie@transcanada.com](mailto:bill_hosie@transcanada.com). More information about NorthernLights can be found on TransCanada's web page at [http://www.transcanada.com/company/projects\\_initiatives.html](http://www.transcanada.com/company/projects_initiatives.html).

Thank you,

Russell Hantho  
Director, Power Growth  
TransCanada Corporation

Attachments:  
Comprehensive Progress Report for the NorthernLights Project

cc: WECC Technical Studies Subcommittee  
Dana Reedy – NWPP Planning Committee and NTAC  
Jeff Miller - Columbia Grid  
TCWG Members – NorthernLights Phase 1 Review Group  
Neil Brausen - AESO  
Bill Hosie – TransCanada Corporation