



IN THE HOUSE

Released April 28, 2006

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO RESTRICT THE APPLICATION OF LOCAL BYLAWS TO PUBLIC UTILITIES

Bill 30 – Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act (No. 2), 2006 (s. 121 of the Utilities Commission Act)

On April 28, the provincial government introduced legislation to exempt certain public utilities from having to conform to local government bylaws. The purpose of the amendment is to facilitate the development of Independent Power Production, which is considered by Government to be in the provincial interest.

The amendment is to an existing section of the *Utilities Commission Act* (s.121) and confirms that a public utility that meets the conditions set out in a Cabinet regulation meets the exemption test. Public utilities for this purpose would be ones that have entered into an energy supply contract with BC Hydro, Powerex or with FortisBC and have also completed a provincial permitting and authorizations process. The facilities also must be located on Crown land; on private land these provisions do not apply.

UBCM Schedules Consultation Session

The Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, and Minister responsible for this legislation asked UBCM to propose an opportunity where he could speak about these amendments to those local governments that are considering active IPP calls for power. UBCM has a number of questions about the effect of this legislation and its relationship to overall resource planning exercises. The UBCM Executive has proposed that a member consultation be held on the afternoon of May 25 at the Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel in Richmond.

A Notice of Consultation will be circulated separately to UBCM members. Further information on the Consultation will follow.

Further information on this matter will be posted to the CivicNet website as it becomes available.

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