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Transmission policy a welcome cornerstone of British Columbia's Energy Plan

VANCOUVER, BC (February 28, 2007) – The British Columbia Energy Ministry's decision to adopt a "Congestion Relief Policy" as part of the BC Energy Plan "is a positive signal to the private sector that transmission constraints will not hold back the development of sustainable energy," Sea Breeze CEO Paul Manson said today.

"The policy is one of a number of initiatives that will encourage the development of clean, renewable energy, which is good for BC and North America", Manson said. "We think the Government of BC is providing strong direction towards addressing climate change, and we are proud to be part of the solution."

Manson praised the government's recognition that "an important part of meeting the goal of self-sufficiency is ensuring a reliable transmission infrastructure is in place."

Manson also praised the move towards an approach to transmission planning that builds infrastructure in advance of need, and noted that Sea Breeze's Juan de Fuca Cable Project is in line with this policy direction.

"Sea Breeze's plan to construct an international power line between Victoria, BC and Port Angeles, WA can be a vital element of the government's strategy. The power line will provide producers of renewable energy with an incentive to invest in environmentally sensitive energy projects."

Manson said his company hopes to work closely with the BC Energy Ministry, BC Transmission Corporation, and BC Hydro to determine how to best incorporate the Juan de Fuca Cable Project into the system. The state-of-the-art project will provide energy security and economic benefits within the province.

"This government recognizes that our transmission system is part of a much larger, interconnected grid. The government also recognizes that we need to work with other jurisdictions to maximize the benefits of interconnection, and to remain consistent with North American reliability standards.

"Sea Breeze can help BC realize its goal to ensure a secure, reliable, power supply," Manson said.

Construction of the 550 megawatt High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Light® underground and submarine Juan de Fuca Cable is scheduled to begin in late 2007. The required "Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity" granted by the National Energy Board in 2006, followed a thorough review of the environmental impacts of the project and a broad consultation process.

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