

District of Wells

Highway 26

Powerline Upgrade

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Project Overview

- Veronica Woodruff, Senior Project Manager, Clear Course Consulting
- Started in September, 2022
- Objective: Explore opportunities for upgrading power to Wells and surrounding region to support economic growth and de-carbonizing region
- Engagement
- Final report summarizes information collected and provides recommendations



BACKGROUND

Alignment Options

- A. **Twin existing line**; existing ROW widened by at least 12 m
- B. **Build new transmission line** in the existing right-of-way; existing ROW widened by approximately 12 m
- C. **Build new northern transmission line route**; routed north of Highway 26 along a new 36 m wide ROW



BACKGROUND

Issues & Concerns

1. Timing of power upgrade
2. Insufficient power load allowances
3. MOTI
4. Burial sites
5. Landowner impacts – ROW, power reconnection
6. Endangered caribou
7. Visual impact
8. Demand doesn't exceed supply...yet
9. User upgrade fee not feasible



RECOMMENDATIONS

Quick Wins

1. Initiate a Hwy 26 Power Collaborative
2. Continue to work with BC Hydro to actively improve power along Hwy 26
3. Determine a more accurate cost for a three-phase power upgrade along Hwy 26



RECOMMENDATIONS

Short Term

1. Initiate engagement and consultation with Lhtako Dené Nation regarding the burial sites along Hwy 26
2. Use emissions reduction as a driver for power upgrades to align with BC Hydro/provincial/federal mandates



RECOMMENDATIONS

Long Term

1. Explore transferring ownership of the three-phase power transmission line to a third-party operator at the end of the BGM project
2. Develop a funding strategy to determine how communities can contribute to the BC Hydro fees for a three-phase power upgrade



Next Steps

- Next step...
- Next step...



Questions?

Thank you.

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