

Bliss & Hellen Thompson FINAL ARGUMENT

We wish to express some of our personal concerns regarding the Naramata substation project, specifically the options cited by FortisBC for transmission and distribution line routing in the event the Arawana site is chosen. If the transmission line goes up the fence line between Andrew's and our (Thompson) lands it will result in our having power lines on all four sides of our property.

We have owned this property since 1971 and have always maintained it to be an attractive green space in a semi-rural setting. Subdivisions are now making this area more residential than rural. Because our acreage is long and narrow in shape – 201 feet wide on the east half and 786 feet long – if a T.L. is put along the fence line the effect will be that of two utility corridors in close proximity. Within a 201 foot distance there will be 10 sets of wires running parallel to each other, not counting the Telus and Shaw wires which increase the visible wire load to over 12 wires. How can this wire load be acceptable, especially in a residential area? It will also make our land unusable for any building site(s) on the south thus creating serious restrictions for possible subdivision in the future.

The comment made by FortisBC at the hearing that even when land owners were not willing to sell “we have always been able to negotiate agreements with land owners and are proud of our record” is very scary to us. We have previously stated and are still not willing to sell our land for a right-of-way. So, how will FortisBC negotiate – is it by a form of blackmail, i.e. “if you agree to sell we'll pay “x” amount but if we have to expropriate you will only receive “x” amount. We are left with the impression that big corporations like Fortis are very uncaring as to how their actions affect the ‘small’ individual. Also, of great concern is the fact that FortisBC will not contact the land owners until January of 2008 if the Arawana site is chosen. Our lives have been under great stress for over a year at the thought of power lines crossing our land and we are further stressed at the thought that we could go through this uncertainty for another year and a half.

We are convinced that the Arawana site is the wrong place for a substation. The fact that it is adjacent to a subdivision of existing homes raises concerns both for health and aesthetic reasons. There is absolutely no way that an 80 x 100 meter gravel area on a hillside with a 10 meter high structure on it can be hidden by a few sparsely situated Ponderosa Pine trees along a fence line which is at the bottom of the slope. Much of the existing stand of trees will be removed to obtain the 80 x 100 meter cleared area. It will certainly be visible by homes above the site. Why put an industrial type of structure in a residential area when there is an alternative which is in an existing utility corridor.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Bliss & Hellen Thompson

