4C(ii)

DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH

REPORT TO:	Mayor and Council	FOR: Council Meeting
PRESENTED:	September 7, 2004	FILE: 6410.01.12
FROM:	Community Development	
SUBJECT:	Independent Power Projects – Ashlu and Sigurd Creek	

Recommendation:

(Motion on the floor)
THAT at this time, Council does not support the Independent Power Project proposed on the Ashlu River;

AND THAT this resolution and the September 7, 2004 Staff report be forwarded to the Squamish Lillooet Regional District and Land and Water BC.

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1. **Purpose:**

To provide the Squamish Lillooet Regional District with District of Squamish comments to the proposed Independent Power Projects on the Ashlu and Sigurd creeks.

2. **Time Critical:**

Moderate. The Squamish Lillooet Regional District is reviewing the proposed Independent Power Projects this fall.

3 **Background:**

Ledcor Power Inc. made an application to Land and Water BC in May of 2003 for a 5 to 30 year tenure for 149 hectares in the Ashlu Creek watershed, and 57 hectares in the Sigurd Creek watershed. The tenure would allow Ledcor to proceed with two Penstock/Intake hydro-electric projects.

On July 6, 2003, Council received letters from the public and put the following motion on the floor and deferred it pending a report from Staff:

> *THAT at this time, Council does not support the Independent Power Project proposed on the Ashlu River.*

The above motion on the floor is the Staff recommendation for this report.

District of Squamish responded to the LWBC referrals on August 12, 2003 stating the following points:

> The Ashlu is a significant recreational amenity to the District's residents and visitors for a variety of recreational activities;
> - The District recommends that the proponents continue to work extensively with local recreational users;
> - The District has concerns with the aesthetic impacts of IPP's particularly with the transmission lines within and adjacent to the District of Squamish;
> - That the cumulative impacts of multiple projects within this same watershed, and their impacts on the tributaries to the Squamish River be fully assessed prior to consideration of individual projects.

Moreover, the District of Squamish Council had previously passed a resolution that stated:

> "THAT staff investigate boundary extension to include the Stawamus and Mashiter watersheds, north to Daisy Lake, including the reservoir, and any other area which staff identify."

Letters to Council from the Public expressing concern over the proposed power project date back to the summer of 2003.

On January 19, 2004, Community Development sent a letter to the Squamish Lillooet Regional District with the following resolution:

> "That the District of Squamish request the Squamish Lillooet Regional District to make a formal request of the Ashlu Independent Power Producer of a community amenity of either full of a contribution to fix the Cheakamus River Bridge in the jurisdiction of the District of Squamish."

On August 8, 2004, the Squamish Lillooet Regional District advised the District of Squamish that an Open House regarding the project will be held in September, and a Public Hearing regarding the Ashlu and Sigurd creek power projects will be held in October of 2004.

In preparation for the Public Hearing, Council requested that staff prepare a report on the proposed Independent Power Projects for their review.

4 Project Information:

Both of the proposed hydro-electric power projects for the Ashlu and Sigurd creeks are "run-of-river" projects, where an amount of water is diverted from the creek to a pipe-tunnel that is located on the side of the mountain. Energy is derived from water descending the pipe at a certain speed. This water is then returned to the creek in what is called a 'tailrace'. The project requires constant amounts of water to be diverted to

the pipe, and to accomplish this an inflatable weir is located on the creek, and a 'penstock' is built to store a minimal amount of water. In order to convey energy that is generated from the powerhouses, a 2.5km long powerline is proposed along the existing Ashlu Forestry service road, and the Sigurd Creek project would connect to the Ashlu Creek powerhouse via a 1.5 km (approx.) powerline.

As part of the proposal, Ledcor Power Inc. has provided studies on fish habitat, eagle, and other wildlife habitat, and provided a report on Squamish Nation traditional use of the Ashlu Creek and Sigurd Creek watersheds. The extensive information on the proposed projects is available for review in the project files in the Community Development Department.

5. **Letters from the Public:**

There has been considerable correspondence (attached) from the Public to Council regarding the proposed project. The predominant theme in the correspondence is opposition to the project as it will alter the watersheds, and compromise what currently exists as a superior outdoor recreation environment. The Ashlu Creek is renown for its white water kayaking quality, and the watershed is visited by a full range of outdoor enthusiasts from around the world who identify the area as extremely valuable in its present state.

As well as outdoor recreation users, numerous tourism operators have expressed opposition to the proposed project.

6. **Department Comments:**

Staff still have concerns that were stated in previous letters to the Squamish Lillooet Regional District and Land and Water BC dated August 12, 2003 and January 19, 2004. Although staff are in support of alternative energy projects, staff do not support this specific project as it will seriously compromise watersheds that exist as important natural recreation areas. Ideally, alternative energy projects should not be located in established recreational areas where there is potential for conflict between existing long-standing uses, and the proposed project. The geography that has drawn the applicants to the Ashlu Creek and Sigurd Creek watersheds, is the specific geography that has made these watersheds valuable for outdoor recreation users.

Staff believe the implications to outdoor recreation are significant, and that industrial development in this world-class recreation area is extremely concerning. The potential concentration of uses will inevitably alter the quality of outdoor experience that is unique to this part of the Squamish Backcountry.

7. **Alternatives to Staff Recommendation:**

Staff Recommendation

That Council pass a resolution stating that The District of Squamish DOES NOT support the development of Independent Power Projects on Ashlu Creek and Sigurd Creek;

AND THAT this resolution be forwarded to the Squamish Lillooet Regional District.

Implications:

The SLRD will be aware that District of Squamish DOES NOT support the proposed Independent Power Projects on Ashlu Creek and Sigurd Creek.

Alternative 1

That the District of Squamish not comment on the proposed Independent Power Projects in the Ashlu and Sigurd Creek watersheds.

Implications:

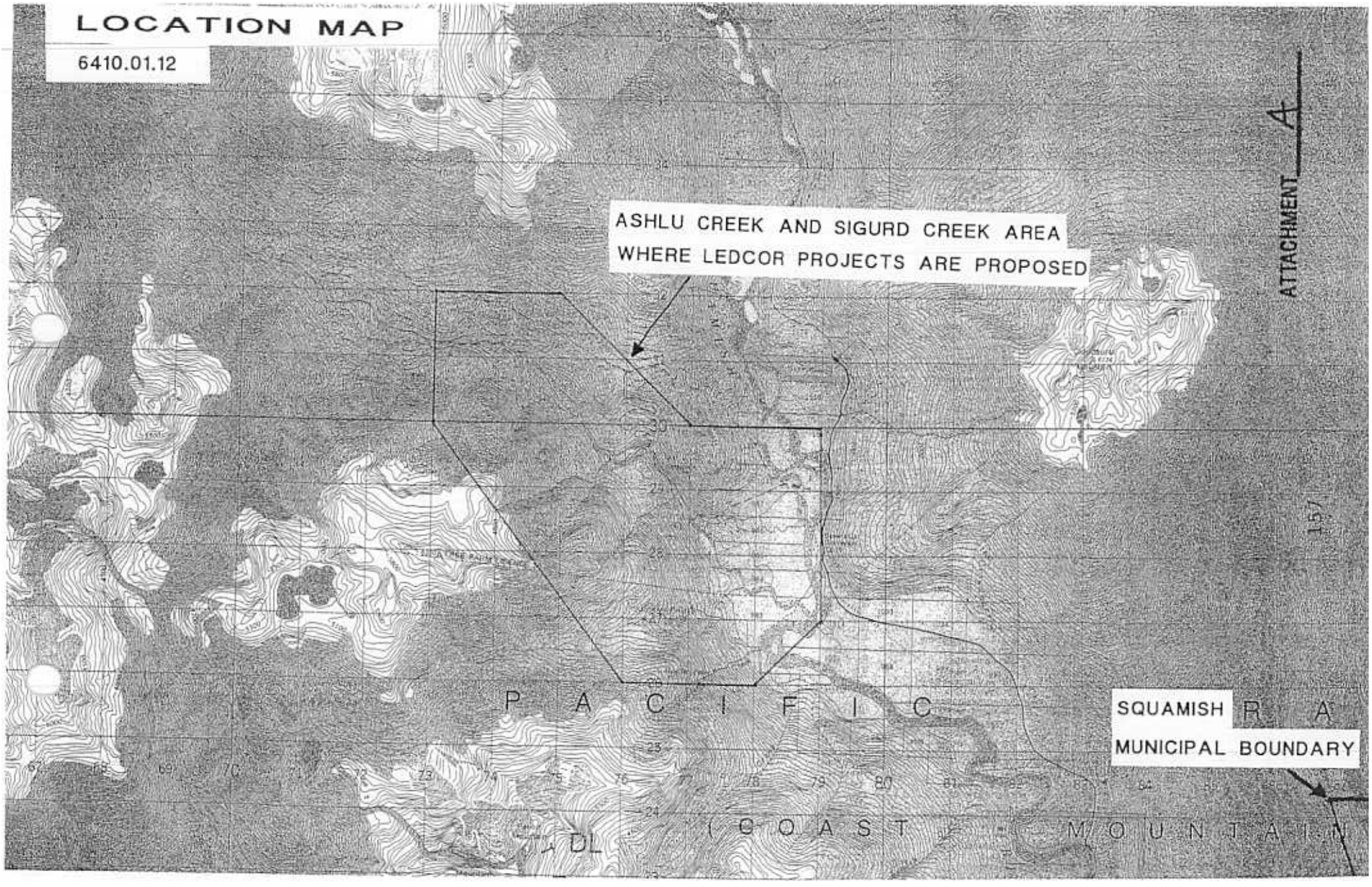
The Squamish Lillooet Regional District will have no current comments on the proposed IPP's from the District of Squamish.

Alternative 2

Another direction/course of action to be specified by Council.

Sabina FooFat
Planner

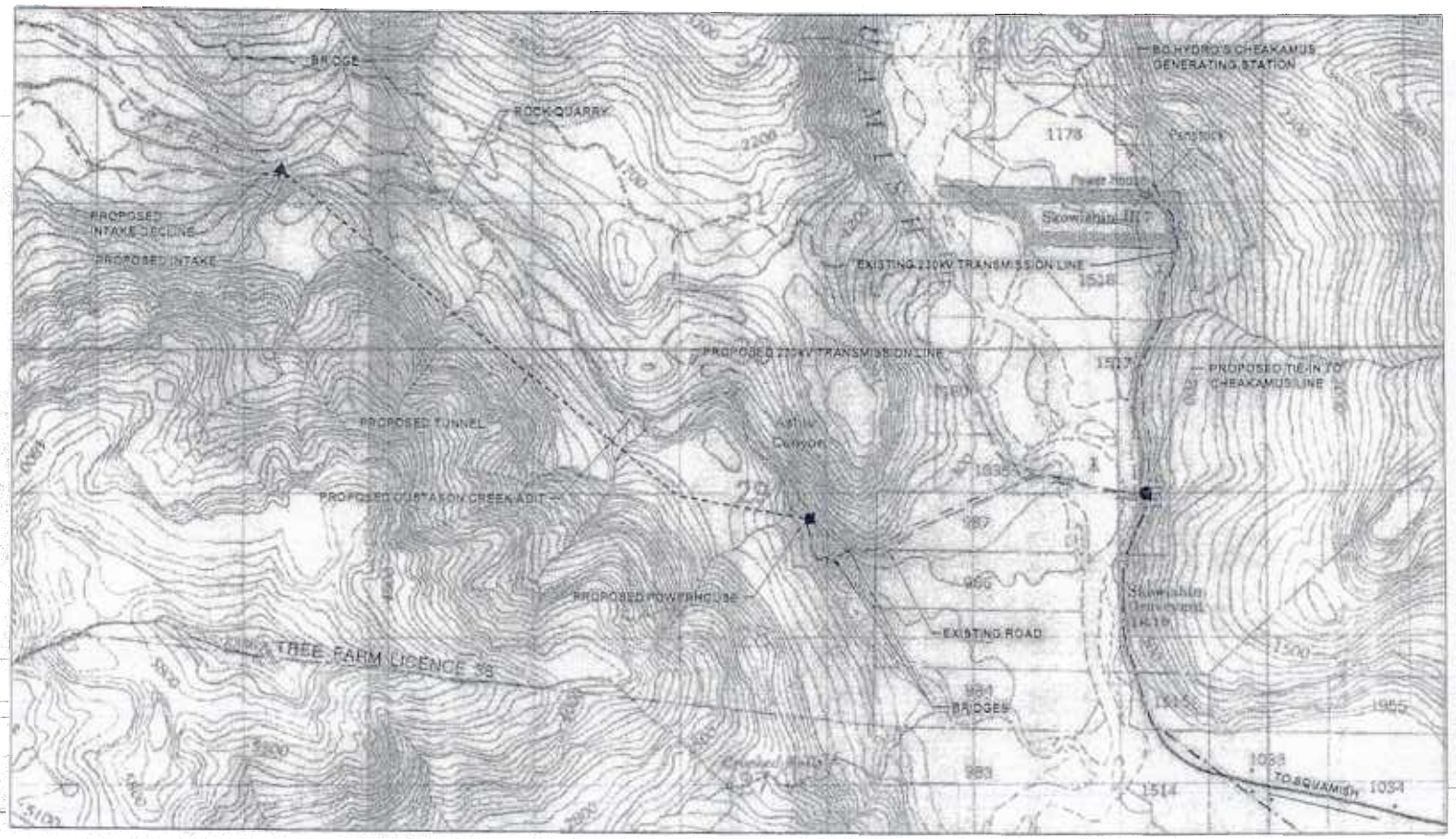
Attachment A	Location Map
Attachment B	Ledcor Overall Plan, Project Layout and Drawing List – Ashlu Creek and Sigurd Creek
Attachment C	Letters from the Public regarding the proposed projects
Attachment D	Letter from District of Squamish to LWBC, August 12, 2003
Attachment E	Letter from District of Squamish to SLRD, January 19, 2004
Attachment F	Copy of Referral Package from LWBC


LOCATION MAP
6410.01.12
ASHLU CREEK AND SIGURD CREEK AREA
WHERE LEDCOR PROJECTS ARE PROPOSED
ATTACHMENT A
157
P A C I F I C
SQUAMISH R A
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY
DL
(C O A S T M O U N T A I N

ATTACHMENT B

158

ASHLU CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



DRAWING LIST

P120	r0	OVERALL PLAN AND DRAWING LIST
P130	r1	INTAKE ACCESS ROAD, PLAN
P131	r1	INTAKE ACCESS ROAD, PROFILE
P132	r1	POWERHOUSE ACCESS ROAD, PLAN & PROFILE
P133	r0	ACCESS ROAD, TYPICAL SECTIONS
P200	r0	INTAKE SITE LAYOUT
P201	r0	INTAKE CONSTRUCTION COFFERDAMS
P211	r1	INTAKE, PLAN & SECTIONS
P240	r0	TUNNEL, PLAN & PROFILE
P242	r1	INTAKE DECLINE
P243	r1	GUSTASON CREEK ADIT
P250	r0	TUNNEL, TYPICAL SECTIONS
P251	r1	TUNNEL BULKHEAD, DETAIL AND SECTION
P300	r1	POWERHOUSE, SITE LAYOUT
P301	r0	POWERHOUSE, GEOLOGICAL SECTION
P311	r0	POWERHOUSE, PLAN
P312	r0	POWERHOUSE, SECTION
P313	r0	POWERHOUSE, SECTION

SCALE A 0 500 1000 1500 2000 METRES

DRAFT
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

REV	ISSUE	DATE	REV	ISSUE	DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION	DWN	CHK	APVD	DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION	DWN	CHK	APVD	DATE
2	DEVELOPMENT PLAN	MAR 7, 2003															
1	FOR REVIEW (BC HYDRO)	DEC 16, 2002				2	INTAKE DECLINE, GUSTASON CREEK ADIT ADDED.				FEB 2003						
0	DRAFT FOR REVIEW	AUG 23 2002				1	GENERAL REVISION				OCT 18 2002						

SIGMA ENGINEERING LTD	
DRAWN KV	
DESIGNED CL	
CHECKED	
INSPECTED	
APPROVED	

LEDCOR POWER INC

ASHLU CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

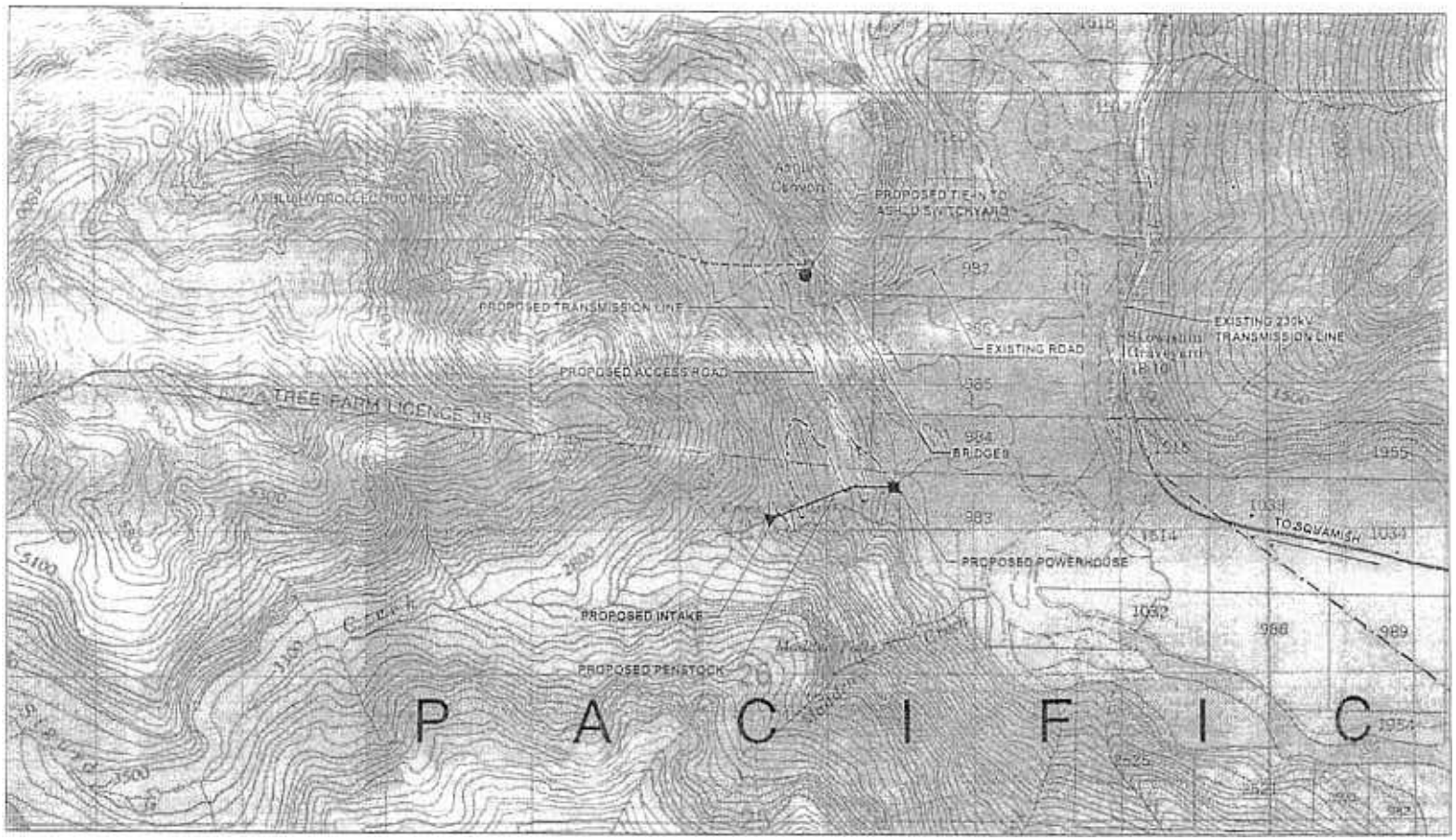
PROJECT LAYOUT & DRAWING LIST

PROJECT	E6020
SCALE	AS SHOWN
DATE	JUL 2001
DRAWING NO.	P120
REV	2
SHEET	1 OF 1

ATTACHMENT B

159

SIGURD CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT



DRAWING LIST:

P120 r1	OVERALL PLAN AND DRAWING LIST
P130 r0	ACCESS ROADS, LAYOUT
P200 r1	INTAKE, PLAN & SECTIONS
P201 r0	INTAKE CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE
P240 r1	PENSTOCK PLAN & PROFILE
P300 r1	POWERHOUSE, SITE LAYOUT
P301 r0	POWERHOUSE, PLAN

SCALE A 0 500 1000 1500 2000 METRES

DRAFT
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

REV	ISSUE	DATE	REV	ISSUE	DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION	DWN	CHK	APVD	DATE	REV	DESCRIPTION	DWN	CHK	APVD	DATE
1	DEVELOPMENT PLAN	AUG 2, 2002				1	ACCESS ROADS UPDATED, DRAWING LIST UPDATED	KV	CH		AUG 2002						
0	FOR REVIEW (BC HYDRO)	DEC 16, 2002															

SIGMA ENGINEERING LTD

DRAWN KV
DESIGNED CL
CHECKED
INSPECTED
APPROVED

LEDCOR POWER INC

SIGURD CREEK HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

OVERALL PLAN & DRAWING LIST

PROJECT E6029
SCALE AS SHOWN
DATE DEC 2002
DRAWING NO. P120
REV 1
SHEET 1 OF 1