

***SMC Consulting***

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April 7, 2005

Moe Lyons

c/o moe@kootenaycuts.com

Re: **Your Comments on the FortisBC Draft Pest Management Plan**

Dear Moe Lyons:

I have been asked by Brad Wright, Manager, Environment Health and Safety with FortisBC to respond to your letter of April 1, 2005.

The Pest Management Plan that FortisBC is developing for their rights-of-way vegetation management program does not emphasize the use of pesticides. Non-chemical control methods have been, and will remain to be, the primary methods of controlling vegetation that may contact their transmission and distribution lines and cause safety concerns.

What FortisBC is proposing is the use of pesticides, if required, to:

1. Selectively control individual deciduous vegetation that is prone to re-sprouting following manual and mechanical treatment. If herbicides are used, they would be applied to individual stems, injected into individual stems, applied to individual cut stumps, or applied to the foliage of small patches of deciduous vegetation to control re-sprouting. FortisBC does not intend to undertake massive foliar spraying on their rights-of-way, and will still be using manual and mechanical methods extensively.
2. Herbicides may be used to selectively control noxious and invasive plants that they have a legal responsibility to control under the BC Weed Control Act. As with controlling vegetation on their rights-of-way, herbicides are only one of several methods that may be considered. All other methods are non-chemical. The choice to control noxious weeds and invasive plants, as well as the control method, will normally be made by established weed control committees who have the expertise in these areas. The role of FortisBC will be to pay for the costs of control on their rights-of-way.

I trust that the above information has clarified the proposed use of pesticides by FortisBC  
Yours truly,

Stuart M. Craig  
SMC Consulting

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