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0175-20-BCHP1  
(1)

28 August 2008

The Mayor of the District of West Vancouver and Council  
District of West Vancouver  
3755 Cypress Bowl Road  
West Vancouver, B.C.  
V7S 7E7

Dear Mayor and Council:

**Subject: Funding Available for Electric Beautification Projects**

Annually, BC Hydro budgets one million dollars for municipal beautification projects. Municipalities wanting to place existing overhead distribution lines underground to address environmental concerns, improve visual aesthetics or accommodate community redevelopment projects are welcome to apply for funding.

Funding is available for one-third of the BC Hydro beautification project estimated cost and the original scope. The attachment describes our program in more detail.

If you are considering a beautification project, an application form (attached) must be returned by October 1st with a description of the project, a map showing the extent of the project and an explanation of the project's objectives.

After receiving your application, we will prepare a "ballpark" estimate of cost for your municipality to consider. The municipality will be asked to confirm intent to fund two-thirds of the project's estimated cost and to confirm that the telephone utility has been advised of the project details. This confirmation must be received at BC Hydro by November 15th to be reviewed by our VP, Field Operations and the successful applicants will be notified in February. All accepted projects must begin within the fiscal year that they are approved and be completed within 12 months.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about the program. If you would like to be considered for funding in 2009, please submit your application no later than October 1, 2008.

Yours truly,



Ed Waugh  
DS&D Manager  
North Shore Coastal

Enclosures

# Beautification Projects

## Introduction

The purpose of BC Hydro's participation in Beautification Projects is to cooperate with municipal governments in achieving their objectives related to environmental concerns and visual aesthetics. This summarizes Hydro's policy and describes the principal considerations that should be included in a proposal for participation by Hydro.

## Funding Objective

Municipal governments may request Hydro to share 1/3 of the cost to convert overhead distribution lines to underground.

The municipal objective will be one or more of the following:

- a) to minimize or eliminate environmental concerns;
  - b) to improve visual aesthetics;
  - c) to accommodate a public redevelopment project.
- In addition, consideration will be given to:
- a) confirmed financing of remaining two-thirds;
  - b) projects which also provide benefits to Hydro.

## Hydro Funding

Hydro's budget for Beautification Project participation is fixed annually (April 1 to March 31).

Applications must be received by October 1 for Hydro's upcoming fiscal year.

Applications which collectively exceed Hydro's budget must be reapplied for the following year.

Construction of Beautification projects must begin within the fiscal year Hydro has committed its share, and the applicant's intention must be to complete the project within 12 months.

Hydro participation is not contingent on provincial participation. Applications for provincial funding under the Revenue Sharing Act are at the discretion of municipalities.

*NOTE: Municipalities must deal directly with Telephone and other third parties to negotiate the costs of undergrounding their facilities on the same poles.*

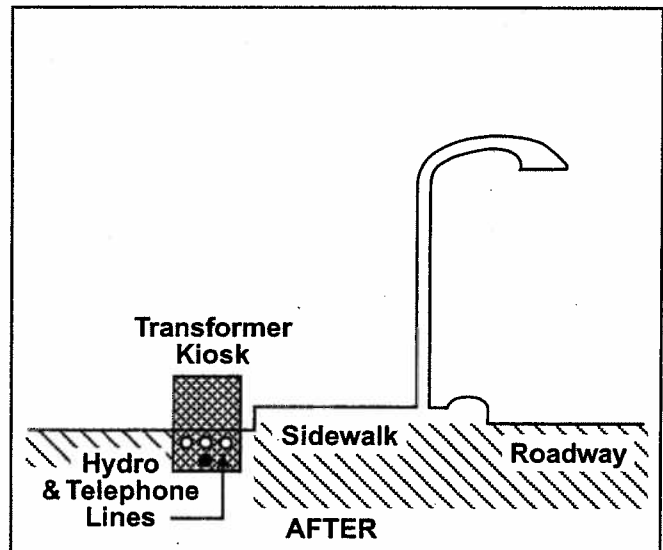
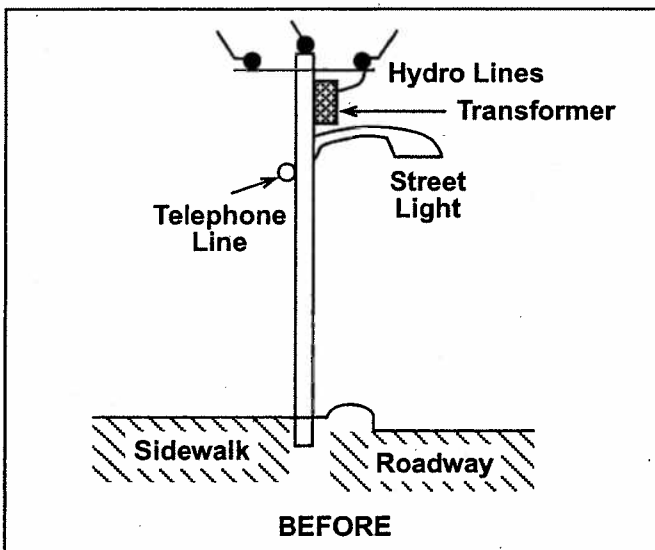
**NOTE:** Payment must be made to BC Hydro in advance of construction.

## Cost Sharing (based on estimated cost & original project scope)

Includes work on:

- a) physical plant and equipment owned and maintained by Hydro;
- b) temporary overhead lines needed during the conversion;
- c) restoration of roads, lawns, etc to a condition similar to that prevailing prior to the project;

(continued)



Diagrams illustrating a typical overhead electrical service before the work, and how underground service is typically arranged after

the work. The example includes an instance where a transformer, street light and telephone line are involved.

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Shared costs exclude work on:

- a) ornamental street lighting systems;
- b) physical plant and equipment not owned and maintained by Hydro;
- c) customer requests for alterations to service wiring or wiring within buildings;
- d) converting overhead private-property lines to underground;
- e) restoration of land beyond the level existing before the project began;
- f) provisions for telephone or other third-party requirements (municipalities must deal directly with such third parties)

### **Application to Hydro**

Proposals for Beautification participation should be forwarded to Hydro's Area Office nearest you. The deadline for proposals is October 1.

Proposals need to be in writing and include a complete description of the project, location maps and the Municipality's reasons for the project.

The project is as follows:

- a) your application is made by the dates noted previously;
- b) we then will develop a rough cost estimate for the project and send it to you within a week;
- c) you will confirm your acceptance of the estimate and intent to proceed with the project within 2 weeks of receiving it.
- d) the successful applications will be announced January 31 for the upcoming fiscal year.

