

## Nikki Cooper

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**From:** ML Vollmer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 21, 2020 11:25 AM  
**To:** whitegoldundergrounding  
**Cc:** corporate [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Whitegold Undergrounding project Concerns and a Request for more information

Hello Christine Boehringer (Project Manager) & Whistler Mayor and Council

I hope you are all well and are enjoying Summer.

Our household received the petition for the Whitegold Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities petition package. Thank you for all the information. After thoroughly reading through the package I have a few questions/concerns about the Petition for Whitegold Undergrounding of Overhead Utilities:

1. Petition Threshold. I am wondering why you are using the petition threshold as detailed on page 6 numbers 2 & 3. (50% of the parcels and 50% of the total tax assessed property value)
  1. "According to the BC government page. The petition threshold being used is meant for a "Petition for Service"; "initiated by local residents interested in receiving a service in their area". <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/governance-powers/powers-services/municipal-powers-services/services/local-area-services>
  2. We already have a hydro service in our subdivision. This project's petition is not a request for a service but for a change to the look of the existing service (ie "beautification").
  3. Do you have an example of where this threshold has been used to petition for a change to an existing service?
  4. This petition threshold process does not appear to be a very democratic process? and it seems to pit those that have "improvements" (ie more costly houses) against those that do not have "improvements" (original subdivision cabins without upgrades).
2. Project cost.
  1. How has the cost, of \$5.5 million, for this project been determined?
  2. Are there any similar projects by BC Hydro?
    1. I found the following article on the BC Hydro website but the cost example presented is from Anaheim, California. <https://www.bchydro.com/news/conservation/2019/pros-cons-underground-power-lines.html> It is not clear if the cost example is in USD or CAD?
    2. I have reached out to BC Hydro to ask if they have examples of a similar project. I will forward once I have heard back.
  3. FAQ – end of page 2 of 10; You write that the BC Hydro grant (up to \$1.2 million) is for 1/3 of the estimated cost of 5.5million. 1/3 of \$5.5million = 1.8million. A difference of \$600,000.

1. **Concern: I find it a little frightening to sign off on a project that does not have a fixed cost. In effect we are “writing a blank cheque”.**
4. Exactly how much is the BC Hydro grant?
3. What happens to a household that cannot make any of the Private changes to hook up to the new hydro system?
  1. Are you allowed to cut off an existing service to someone’s household?
  2. Have you considered that with COVID issues some may not have the same resources available to them as before?
  3. Some of the older houses may not have the infrastructure to add underground hydro to their structure.
4. Project Information Session, scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup>.
  1. Why is this scheduled in the middle of Summer holidays?
    1. I understand there is a timeline but can we not wait until school is back, so more residents can attend in person or virtually?
  2. Please include me in this and any future information sessions.

Thanks so much for taking the time to review my concerns and to answer my questions. I will appreciate hearing from you soon.

Sincerely

Lorraine Vollmer

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