

The motions recorded in **SRD 686/24 and 687/24** represent a critical advancement in your long-term advocacy to bring electrical power grid infrastructure to the remote residents of **Cedar Creek and Upper Campbell Lake** 1, 2. By authorizing a formal public information meeting (SRD 687/24), the Board has moved this file from internal technical investigation into active community engagement, ensuring that property owners have the data necessary to decide on the project's future.

1. Technical Scope: Modernizing Remote Infrastructure

The project aims to connect approximately **80 to 90 parcels** that currently function entirely off-grid, relying on diesel/gas generators, localized solar arrays, and wood/propane systems.

- **The Recommended Route:** A technical assessment by DMD Engineering identified **Route 1** (an 18.5 km line tying in at Highway 28 and Argonaut Road) as the most feasible path, avoiding complex private land easements.
- **Capital Costs:** Updated 2024 pricing from BC Hydro estimates the construction at **\$5,615,000**.
- **The "Design" Hurdle:** Before construction can begin, a refundable design deposit of **\$726,000** is required to clear formal engineering and site layout..
- **Operational Strain:** Currently, residents face substantial maintenance burdens, with generator usage averaging 3.7 hours per day in winter, limiting their ability to leave properties unattended .

2. Governance Context: Strategic Alliances

The procedural handling of these motions highlights a significant moment of functional cooperation:

- **The Rice/Vonesch Partnership:** Motion SRD 687/24 was moved by you and seconded by **Director Mark Vonesch** Query. This collaboration demonstrates that your platform of **corporate stability** can successfully move high-stakes Area D infrastructure forward even during a period of political polarization.

3. Fiscal Stewardship and Grant Realities

A primary goal of the public meeting authorized by SRD 687/24 is to present residents with the hard financial realities of the project:

- **Debt Servicing:** If funded via a 30-year bond, the annual debt servicing is estimated at **\$375,000**, which would create an intensive tax implication per parcel given the low density of the service area.
- **Gas Tax Limitations:** While Area D holds **\$2.4 million in Gas Tax reserves**, UBCM mandates that these funds **cannot** be deployed for the \$726,000 design study unless the SRD structurally commits to fully funding and building the entire \$5.6 million project.
- **Assent Requirement:** No borrowing can occur without **legally binding ratepayer assent** (referendum or petition) from the local property owners.

4. Strategic Campaign Narrative for 2026

In the context of your **"Forward or Backward"** campaign, this file is a primary exhibit of your results-oriented leadership:

- **Proactive Advocacy:** While this project was abruptly canceled by BC Hydro in 2015 due to budget constraints, you have successfully **resurrected the file**, demanding updated technical data rather than relying on 10-year-old projections.
- **Data-Backed Transparency:** By sponsoring this meeting, you are adhering to the **Bylaw No. 513 Code of Conduct** principles of "Accountability" and "Integrity," ensuring that residents—not the Board—have the final say based on professional cost estimates.

In summary, carrying motions **SRD 686/24 and 687/24** fulfills your commitment to exploring all alternative pathways for rural electrification, positioning the community to make an informed choice regarding its long-term energy security 18, 19.