

# Site C Clean Energy Project

## Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

*Meeting Summary*  
*September 9, 2020, 12:30 to 3:30 pm*  
*Conference Call*

<p><b>ATTENDEES</b></p> <p><i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i></p>	<p>Mayor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope</p> <p>Tamara Wilkinson, MLA Assistant, for MLA Dan Davies</p> <p>Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St. John</p> <p>Mayor Allan Coutoreille, Chetwynd</p> <p>Blair Lekstrom, CAO, Dawson Creek</p> <p>Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor</p> <p>Stephanie Rocheleau, Land &amp; Stewardship Director, McLeod Lake Indian Band</p> <p>Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Nathan Prince, McLeod Lake Indian Band</p> <p>Victor Shopland, General Manager of Integrated Services, Fort St. John</p> <p>Dave Conway, BC Hydro</p> <p>Shanna Mason, BC Hydro</p> <p>Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro</p> <p>Chris Waite, BC Hydro</p> <p>Neil Kelly, BC Hydro</p> <p>Kate O'Neil, BC Hydro</p> <p>Maria Eviston, BC Hydro</p>
<p><b>ABSENT WITH REGRET</b></p>	<p>Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North</p> <p>Dianne Hunter, City Manager, Fort St John</p> <p>Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South</p> <p>Carol Newsom, CAO, Chetwynd</p> <p>Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek</p> <p>Duncan Redfearn, CAO, Dawson Creek</p> <p>Jennifer McCracken, Doig River First Nation</p> <p>Terri Paulovich, Constituency Assistant, Peace River South</p> <p>Tony Zabinsky, City Councillor, Fort St John</p> <p>Chris Cvik, CAO Hudson's Hope</p> <p>Mayor Lorraine Michetti, Pouce Coupe</p> <p>Christopher Leggett, CAO, Pouce Coupe</p>

	Betty Ponto, Taylor Andrew Young, CAO, Taylor Mayor Keith Bertrand, Tumbler Ridge Aleen Torraville, interim CAO, Tumbler Ridge
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>	
<b>ATTENDED</b>	Ann Danilevich, AFDE Troy Van Bostelen, AFDE CJ Dann, ATCO Brian Hassain, ATCO Cory Cooper, PRHP Jamie Bodnarchuk, PRHP Danny Fortin, Voith Brent Davies, MoTI
<b>ABSENT WITH REGRET</b>	Jim Morgan, ATCO Christian Dann, ATCO Jamie Bodnarchuk, PRHP Erica Hitzroth, PRHP Craig Cornell, PRHP Stephane Giroux, Voith Sebastien Setticasi, Voith Adrianna DaCosta, MoTI

**Documents Distributed (on September 9, 2020)**

- RCLC Meeting Agenda
- RCLC Presentation Slides
- RCLC Action item log
- RCLC July Workforce Report
- RCLC Q2 Business Report
- RCLC Enquiries & FAQs Report May, June and July
- RCLC June 10 Meeting Notes
- River Diversion Update: September 3, 2020
- Letter from Chris O’Riley to the British Columbia Utilities Commission
- Letter from Neil Kelly to the RCLC addressing action item #2020-010 related to Farrell Creek Road.

**1. Opening / Welcome / Agenda**

- a) Dave welcomed all attendees.
- b) Acknowledgement of Indigenous Treaty 8 territories and additional traditional territories.

## 2. Review of Agenda & Action Items

- a) Dave reviewed agenda and action items.

**Action:** N/A

## 3. BC Hydro Project Update

### Dam On-site Construction Update

Chris Waite introduced himself and provided updates on on-site construction update.

- a. The construction of the diversion tunnels has been completed. The tunnel gates have successfully tested for leaks. The removal of the inlet and outlet cofferdams is in process. Water has been pumped behind the cofferdams to;
  - i. support the leakage test,
  - ii. equalise pressure for excavation,
  - iii. provide water to pump into the temporary upstream fishway to test the facility
- b. The temporary upstream fishway has been completed and testing in the facility is currently active. Water is running through the facility to test all of the systems.
- c. For the closure of the river, the right bank cofferdam is 20% / 25% across the river. Once the tunnels are in use and diverting the river, the cofferdam will quickly progress further across the river.
- d. The downstream cofferdam is significantly smaller than the upstream cofferdam.
- e. The debris boom has been cleared of debris from the late June/early July storms. A secondary boom will be installed and tested in the coming weeks.
- f. Preparation of core trench area is in progress. The Roller compacted concrete (RCC) has been installed. This work will continue through the fall. It was supposed to finish this year, but the work will now run into next year due to COVID-19.
- g. The penstocks are advancing. The Unit #1 penstock is almost complete.
- h. The insulation covering that was previously seen in photos has been removed from spillways.
- i. The powerhouse structural steel has advanced. The powerhouse crane has been commissioned and is ready for use. Voith will start with initial work in October on the generators and turbines.
- j. The 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue till conveyor is in use but is only being used minimally this year. Some improvements to conveyor are underway.
- k. There is an average of 1,400 workers at camp. A number of measures have been put in place to keep the workers safe. Reminders have been placed in camp to show maintain social distancing. The dining room has only a single chair at the tables. ATCO has introduced an app to book dining slots to manage numbers at the cafeteria. This helps to reduce the opportunity for COVID-19 transmission.

**Action:** N/A

## **Dam Off-site Construction Update**

Neil Kelly introduced himself and provided updates on dam off-site construction.

- a. The substation equipment testing is on-going and the southbank substation is on track for the October 2020 in-service date.
- b. The first transmission line (5L005) has completed the foundations for the towers, the towers are installed, and the stringing is almost completed. On track for October 2020 in-service date.
- c. The second transmission line (5L006) has 77% of foundations complete and 4% of towers installed.
- d. Nathan Prince asked about google earth layers (kmz files) for the highway segments. McLeod Lake Indian Band overlay these layers on their own maps on google earth.
- e. Dave Conway responded to say we would look into it and get the files to him.
- f. Highway alignment work for Cache Creek East, Farrell Creek and Dry Creek have been awarded. Procurement for Lynx Creek and Hudson's Hope shoreline protection are very close to being awarded.
- g. The Cache Creek east contractors are expecting to start soon. That contract was awarded to Kingston Construction.
- h. Halfway River IDL have completed the Cache Creek west segment of the highway realignment.
- i. The 1km bridge being constructed at the Halfway River approach has 11 of 12 piers in progress. The 12<sup>th</sup> pier is in the river and construction of that pier is commencing soon. After the completion of the piers, the bridge deck construction will begin.
- j. The contract for the Farrell Creek segment has been awarded to Flatiron. They expect to be mobilising to site this month.
- k. Lynx Creek east – Embankment and stability berm is complete and is ready for the Lynx Creek contractor.
- l. At Lynx Creek west, the clearing work has been completed. The rip rap stockpile is being held here and is ready to use for this segment. The procurement for this is almost complete.
- m. At the Portage Mountain Quarry, blasting started in mid-May and the blasting window closes mid-September. The hauling of rip rap will continue into October and will stop. Hauling will start again in spring.
- n. The area 4 aggregate stockpile allows the contractor to access material without having to go to the quarry. The material is moved from quarry at night. The Hudson's Hope shoreline protection project will access this stockpile.
- o. The Hudson's Hope shoreline protection procurement is almost complete. The contractor selected will be expecting to mobilise to site next month. The DA Thomas road and Hudson's Hope recreation site are not part of this contract. That will be done at a later date.
- p. There has been limited reservoir clearing. The focus has been on the design and the procurement.
- q. There are three packages of work for the upcoming season (1) Halfway River drainage; (2) western reservoir south bank, and (3) western reservoir north bank. BC Hydro are nearing the end of procurement process. The aim is to start work at the end of next month.

- r. Mayor Dave Heiberg enquired about how the closure of DA Thomas road for river access as part of the start of the shoreline protection work will be advertised to the public and when?
- s. Neil said he did not have the answer, but he will get it to Mayor Heiberg.
- t. Mayor Heiberg said that the river is accessed by the local community frequently and he has gotten a number of questions about it.

**Action:**

- 1. Provide Nathan Prince (McLeod Lake Indian Band) with google earth (kmz) files for the highway 29 realignment sections.
- 2. Provide Mayor Heiberg with information on river access closure at DA Thomas Road - how that will be communicated to the public and when?

**EAC Amendments Update**

Shanna Mason

- a. There are 7 amendments, BC Hydro need to adjust the plans for Geotechnical reasons etc.
- b. The next amendment anticipated is to be able to haul material from 85<sup>th</sup> Ave, either in the event of conveyor being shut down or due to schedule constraints due to COVID.
- c. There may be another EAC amendment on the transfer of infrastructure to MoTI once the roads are complete.

**Action:** N/A

**Mitigation Update**

Nancy Pepper provided mitigation updates.

- a. There was not a lot of demand this year for the portage program, which we anticipated. Two people used it recently to portage their canoe to Peace Island Park.
- b. The Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund is currently open for the 3rd intake of applications. There is \$250,000 available. It is still open for 3 weeks to apply. Every fall there is recruitment for reappointment of current members or appointing new Board members. Ads from BC Hydro and NDIT will be posted to recruit a new member. There are 10 members on the board. We will send information to the RCLC when these get posted.
- c. There is a GO Fund meeting tomorrow evening. There will be an announcement next week for the \$100,000 available funds in December. Please help promote the fund to eligible non-profit businesses.
- d. Each community will receive a letter soon regarding appointing or reappointing the elected representatives on the committee.
- e. Nathan Prince asked what was the GO fund?
- f. Nancy explained what it is a fund to generate opportunities to support non-profit businesses in the area. Nancy will send information directly to Nathan.

**Action:**

- 1. Send Nathan Prince GO Fund info package.

## **Job and Business Update**

Kate O'Neil presented the business update.

- a) The July workforce numbers reflect mid-May decision to gradually resume construction activities on the dam site.
- b) There was a total of 4,645 workers in July 2020; 3,298 from BC (73%) and a total of 865 workers from PRRD (22%).
- c) Q2 business participation has increased after COVID.

**Action:** N/A

## **4. Contractor Updates**

Jamie Bodnarchuk PRHP

- a) PRHP are continuing work on river encroachment and are focused on river diversion.
- b) PRHP Community update – they are working on a site c dam colouring book. If anybody would a copy, please send email to [info@prhp.ca](mailto:info@prhp.ca). They will mail out a copy to anybody. Let them know how many copies and send your address.
- c) Nancy asked Jamie to send the email to BC Hydro, so BC Hydro can send it out to the RCLC along with the correct link to the transmission video?

Ann & Troy - AFDE

- d) Work is continuing on the headworks at the top of the spillway.
- e) In June the subcontractors came back to site to recommence work on the powerhouse.
- f) The penstocks continue to be delivered to site and are being moved down more frequently at the moment.
- g) Work will safely ramp up and will continue through winter. 200 craft workers will be hired between now and January. AFDE are also hiring for bus drivers and level 3 first aid.
- h) McLeod Indian Band had a back to school outdoor event. AFDE attended and safely maintained social distancing at the event. Backpacks with school supplies were donated by AFDE to children for the event.
- i) Troy added that the peace river debris boom work was carried out with the Halfway River IDL.
- j) Nathan (MLIB) thanked AFDE for their contribution to their community.
- k) Brent – MoTI – Bent had no Highway Realignment additions as Neil did a great job presenting it. He thanked the communities for bringing forward any safety concerns they have had. MoTI tries to make sure they and their contractors are working and travelling safely at all times. If anybody does encounter a safety concern or issue, please share as much information as possible as it is useful for MoTI when speaking with contractors about it including, time, date, location and any other details
- l) As construction advances on Highway 29, it means there will be more contractors and more traffic.
- m) Dave commended Brent on his timely responses to any safety concerns BC Hydro has forward to them.
- n) Brent said that safety is number 1 priority for MoTI.

**Action:**

1. Jamie (PRHP) to send Nancy the email for the coloring book and BC Hydro will send it to the RCLC.

## 5. Roundtable

A roundtable update occurred from the local community representatives:

- a) Tamara – Nothing to update
- b) Mayor Heiberg – Thanked BC Hydro for the information as it's helpful. He asked if there is a recent artist rendering of what the Lynx creek east road segment will look like? He also asked if there a list of the contractors and what pieces of work they are responsible for?  
Neil will send out artist renderings when complete.  
Dave asked if Mayor Heiberg was looking for of a global list of all the contractors? Mayor Heiberg said that they just want a list, local to their area as they get a lot of questions about what companies are doing Site C work.  
Shanna said we can provide a list of our subcontractors, but they will also have subcontracted the work too.
- c) Chair Sperling – Nothing to update
- d) Mayor Fraser – They are hoping to repair the causeway over to the island at Peace Island Park. He is looking for confidence in the forecasting of storms and asked how well did BC Hydro did forecasting the June & July storm events and if we changed anything about our on-site operations as a result?  
Shanna said that the details on the storm were refined each day but BC Hydro was aware of it a few days out. Because of the debris accumulation on the debris booms, some activities were paused. There was quite a bit of turbidity in the river and this made us stop some of our non-essential in-water work due to the regulations.  
Brad Sperling suggested that BC Hydro's presentation on emergency response planning from the Old Fort townhall might work here.
- e) Mayor Ackerman – Nothing to update
- f) Director Goodings – Asked when will the conveyor start to be used?  
Chris W said it won't hit full production until next season/next year. It is being used on a limited basis this year. Jamie (PRHP) will check with the conveyor experts and BC Hydro will can share the plan for use of the conveyor.
- g) Victor - Work is continuing on the City's water supply wells along the river. The spilling at the WAC and PCN has stopped and allowed them to continue their work. He asked about overall project schedule but acknowledge that BC Hydro wouldn't be able to provide an update on that yet.  
Dave said that the schedule is currently being updated
- h) Director Rose – Nothing to update
- i) Nathan Prince – McLeod Lake Indian Band is going on a Site C field visit on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to look at some projects that came out of the ITEC program.
- j) Mayor Coutoreille – said that we should not forget that Site C will have a profound affect on the environment when the reservoir is being filled. He asked if the local employment of 22% etc. counteracts these impacts? There are 3 big dams on the Peace River that affect a lot of land and the way people live. Aside from the power that his community gets from BC Hydro, does the community really get a benefit of the 3 dams of the area in the long run? He said they appreciate the contractor's business in the local area but I don't see a benefit in the long run.  
Shanna – BC Hydro fully acknowledge that there are impacts, that's why we have mitigation and compensation programs. We can revisit these programs and remind everyone of what they entail for longer term benefits to the region including the Legacy Benefit Agreement. She said she appreciated that there isn't something in it for everyone. Some programs will remain in place up to 30 years after the dam is in service.

**Action:**

- i. Neil to send artist renderings of the Lynx Creek east segment once it is complete.
- ii. Provide the District of Hudson's Hope with a list of contractors and their subcontractors who are working in the area.
- iii. Jamie will check with the 85<sup>th</sup> Ave till conveyor experts and we can share the plan for its use.

**6. Next Steps**

- a) Proposing November 25<sup>th</sup> or December 2<sup>nd</sup> for next RCLC meeting. Nobody opposed either of those dates.

**Action:**

1. Maria to send out a poll for next meeting dates.

RCLC meeting ended 2.02pm