

August 19, 2022

Dear neighbour,

Thank you again for your time and sharing your experiences with us about the Site C project.

We've heard your concerns and are committed to mitigating the impacts of construction wherever we can. Everyone's needs and circumstances are different and there are a number of things we can do to reduce the impacts of our work until construction slows down for the winter. However, it is important to also acknowledge that the presence of the project and related activities cannot be completely eliminated, even with these efforts.

## <u>Dust</u>

We recognize that we were late to mobilize this season's dust suppression activities. We have since increased our efforts to reduce as much of the dust as possible. This includes increasing our levels of dust suppression over previous seasons and prioritizing work areas and roads most affecting Old Fort. This mitigation also extends to the areas of the islands close to you.

Following our initial discussions in July, we applied calcium to the roads, increased the frequency of our watering trucks and deployed mobile dust monitoring devices that can provide data specific to a home or property. We have received feedback that these efforts are making a notable improvement.

At the time of this letter being sent, we have not recorded any exceedances of the 24-hour rolling provincial air quality objectives over the past 90 days for dust and we are often well below these objectives. Although we heard community concerns regarding the use of provincial objectives for air quality, reporting against these objectives is a requirement of the Site C project.

However, we do recognize that some individuals may be sensitive to dust at lower levels then the provincial objectives. Following the July 27 meeting, we began offering residents the opportunity to stay in a local hotel as a temporary option for respite from dust. We'd also like to extend an offer to temporarily relocate you and your family until the end of October, 2022.

This option could include a local hotel or short-term rental property that you arrange. BC Hydro would reimburse the costs of this alternative accommodation along with a per diem for each member of your family. We know that each situation is different and there may be other costs and considerations such as pet boarding. We would be happy to talk about all of those with you.

In addition, we recognize that there has been dust build-up at properties in Old Fort and BC Hydro is also offering to reimburse you for the reasonable costs you incur for dust cleaning of the exterior of your home in late September or October, when the majority of the fish habitat enhancement work is complete.

If you would like to either relocate for a few nights, temporarily until the end of October, or would like to be reimbursed for the exterior cleaning of your residence please contact us directly at 1 877 217 0777 or sitec@bchydro.com so we can move forward with arrangements.

## Road Safety and Emergency Services

We've heard your concerns about local roads in emergency situations and appreciate the ideas and suggestions we've heard from you. We're always looking at ways to improve access in these situations.

We work closely with the local fire department, ambulance service and other first responders and have established communications. In an emergency situation, if the Old Fort Road is blocked between Gate B and Road 240, we would permit emergency response vehicles to travel through the Site C site to access the Old Fort community. Residents of the community may also travel from Gate B to Gate A in emergency situations if Old Fort Road is blocked. We would like to engage with residents of the community to schedule a practice exercise of escorting vehicles through the site. BC Hydro are also exploring the possibility of escorting Old Fort residents through site when Old Fort Road is blocked or closed in non-emergency situations.

We're also working to improve compliance on the use of chains during winter. We have undertaken a number of awareness initiatives in past years, and, at our request, commercial vehicle safety officers have committed to working with us on a campaign this winter targeted at commercial trucks. This will include additional advertising, an electronic signboard for chain-up requirements and increased enforcement of snow chain usage on Old Fort Road.

## **Compensation**

We were also asked by some residents to provide financial compensation.

BC Hydro has made a number of financial commitments to the region which provide long-term regional support, including an annual payment of \$2.4 million to the Peace River Regional District and member communities under the Regional Legacy Benefits Agreement, upgrading Old Fort Road, support for local Non-profit organizations, recreational enhancements, Housing and Daycare investments and establishing the \$20 million Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund.

The circumstances under which BC Hydro provides financial compensation for impacts to property do not arise within Old Fort. These offers are only provided when BC Hydro facilities will have a direct physical and permanent impact on property, such as the flooding of the reservoir. Compensation principles for property impacts are well established in British Columbia and are not unique to BC Hydro or the Site C Project. The impacts related to dust, noise, light and sharing of public roads are related to construction activities and are not permanent, thus not compensable.

We are currently at the peak of construction on the Site C project, and we have appreciated your patience with the project over the past seven years. At this time next year, we expect the earthfill dam to be substantially complete. By then, most of the earth moving activities will be finished, which will result in less dust, noise, and project related traffic on Old Fort Road.

We again acknowledge that the presence of our project is being felt by you and others in the area. We are committed to work to reduce construction impacts and we hope that we can continue to work with you in the community until Site C is complete.

Please reach out to us if you're interested in any of the mitigations that we can offer you. As we stated to you in a previous letter last month, you told us that more frequent and proactive communication about the project is needed with Old Fort residents. You'll be hearing more from us more in the weeks and months ahead on a number of topics such as work on P5 and P6, road safety planning heading into the winter and more general updates about work on Site C and how it relates to the community.

Kind regards,

Shanna Mason Director of Environment, Regulation, Community Impacts & Properties, Site C

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