

**BC HYDRO
PEACE RIVER
SITE C HYDRO PROJECT**

**PRE-CONSULTATION
SUMMARY REPORT
MARCH 15, 2008**



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About Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and Synovate Ltd.

Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. is recognised as an industry leader in designing and implementing comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation programs. Utilizing generally accepted best practices in consultation, the firm designs consultation programs to maximize opportunities for input. Kirk & Co. works with polling firms to professionally manage, analyse and report on large volumes of public and stakeholder input.

Synovate Ltd. is an internationally recognised market research firm. All consultation input received by feedback form and written submission was independently verified and analysed by Synovate.

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Executive Summary

Background

Site C is a potential third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in the province's northeast region, and is one of many resource options that can help meet British Columbia's energy needs.

The provincial government's *BC Energy Plan*, released in February 2007, says that BC Hydro will begin consulting about the Site C hydroelectric project as a potential option to meet growing demand in British Columbia.

BC Hydro has developed a five-stage decision-making process for evaluating Site C. There will be opportunities to re-evaluate and decide at key points in the five-stage process whether Site C should proceed to environmental regulatory review. BC Hydro has completed the Stage 1 evaluation of Site C, and is currently in Stage 2 of project review. This stage involves comprehensive consultation with communities, stakeholders and First Nations. It also involves updating and analysing engineering, design, financial, social and environmental elements of the project. At the end of Stage 2, BC Hydro will provide recommendations to the provincial government, and the government will make a decision about whether to proceed to the next stage of project planning and development, which would be Stage 3 – regulatory review.

BC Hydro's Pre-Consultation process was designed to seek input from local, regional and provincial communities and stakeholders about **how** people want to be consulted, and about **what topics**. The input summarized in this report will be considered in designing the next phase of consultation, *Project Definition* consultation, which will begin in the spring of 2008.

A parallel pre-consultation process sought advice from First Nations on how they wish to be consulted. In addition, First Nations will be asked to identify issues and concerns that may need to be addressed through the five-stage process.

Pre-Consultation Program – December 4, 2007 – February 15, 2008

Input from the Pre-Consultation phase was collected from a variety of sources, as follows:

- Pre-Consultation Discussion Guide and Feedback Form
- Stakeholder meetings/Open House
- Online Feedback Form
- Submissions, e-mail and faxed correspondence
- Toll-free Site C information line
- Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

Stakeholder meetings were held in 12 communities around the province with stakeholder groups representing local, regional and provincial interests. A broad range of stakeholder groups were invited by e-mail and telephone to attend the stakeholder meetings.

Ten newspaper advertisements were placed in regional and community papers to advise residents of their opportunity to participate through the project's website (www.bchydro.com/sitec).

Total participation in the consultation was **686** people.

- Approximately 400 people attended 48 stakeholder meetings
- 56 people attended a public meeting and Open House in Hudson's Hope
- There were 31 submissions¹
- More than 200 people visited the Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John between January 7 and February 15, 2008

A total of 305 people returned feedback forms at stakeholder meetings, the Open House, through the Community Consultation Office, and by web, e-mail, mail and fax.

Synovate, a professional market research firm, was commissioned by Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and BC Hydro to help develop the consultation feedback form, host the online feedback form, and tabulate and analyse all feedback forms and written submissions received from the Pre-Consultation phase.

Specific topics covered in the feedback form include:

- Topic areas that stakeholders would like included in Site C *Project Definition* consultation
- Importance of specific factors in evaluating Site C, such as providing dependable energy, and managing local and social infrastructure impacts
- Community benefits desired from the project
- Likelihood of participating through various methods in Site C *Project Definition* consultation
- Likelihood of reading information about the Site C *Project Definition* consultation in specific media
- Additional comments

Methodology

A total of 305 completed feedback forms were received and tabulated; 67 were received online and 238 in hard copy. In addition, 31 submissions were received and those responses were coded and analysed in conjunction with the tabulated feedback forms. A detailed summary of feedback is provided in the body of this report.

Approximately 400 people attended the 48 stakeholder meetings. Meetings were held in 12 communities around the province: Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Greater Vancouver, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Nanaimo, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Taylor, and Tumbler Ridge.

The online feedback form went "live" on December 4, 2007 and all feedback forms received up to and including the closing date of February 15, 2008 have been included in this report.²

The views represented in this report reflect the priorities and concerns of the consultation participants. They may not be representative of the view of British Columbians because participants self-selected into the Pre-Consultation process. Although results are presented in the form of percentages, there are no margins of error for this data because there is no probability sample. The sample in question is based on self-selection, for which sampling error cannot be measured.

1. Submissions include input received by fax, e-mail, phone and mail.

2. The public meeting and Open House in Hudson's Hope on February 19, 2008, was held outside of the consultation period due to scheduling difficulties. Accordingly, feedback forms and meeting notes arising from the Open House were included in this report.

Key Results

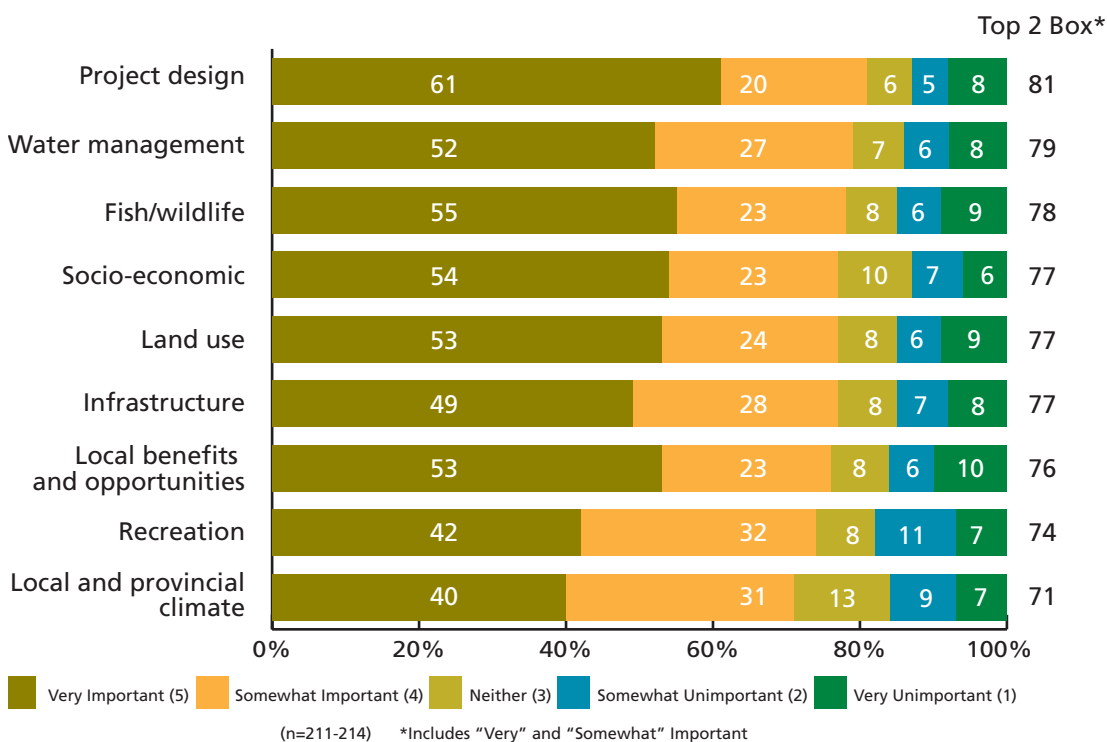
Key Results from Feedback Forms

Topic Importance

The feedback form listed the following potential topics of discussion for the next phase of the Site C consultation and asked how important each was for inclusion in *Project Definition* consultation:

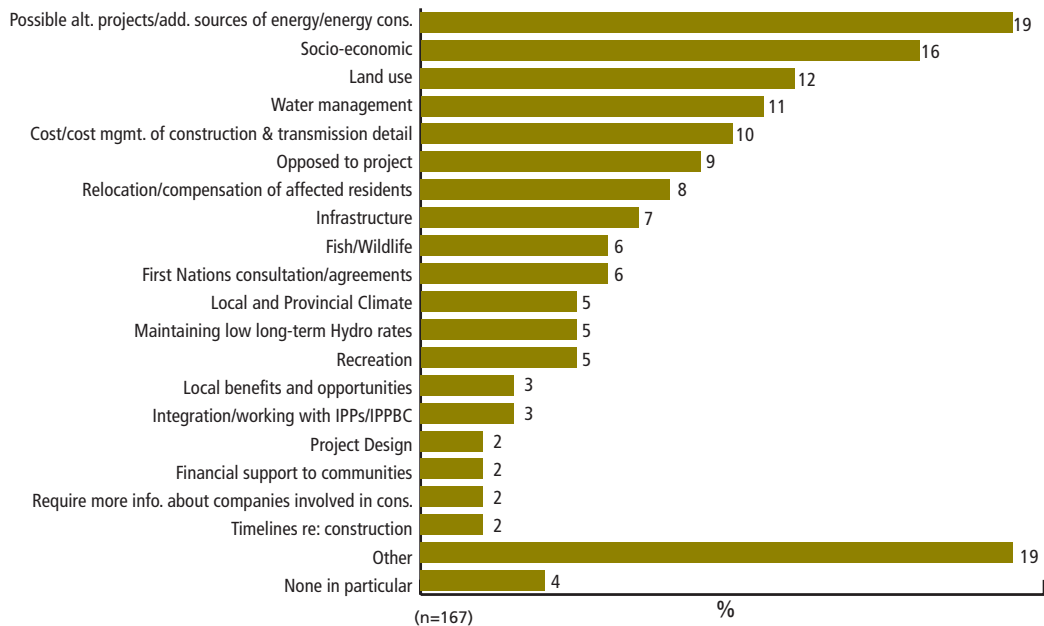
- Local benefits and opportunities
- Project design
- Socio-economic
- Recreation
- Land use
- Fish/wildlife
- Infrastructure
- Water management
- Local and provincial climate

1. Please indicate how important the following topics are for inclusion in *Project Definition* consultation in 2008.



- Participants regard all nine topics presented in the feedback form as important topics of discussion in *Project Definition* consultation (between 71%-81% regard the topics as "somewhat" or "very" important). Some topics, **project design** (81%) in particular, are considered more important than others.
- Relative to participants elsewhere, those in the Peace River region tend to place greater importance on topics related to **infrastructure** (83%), **socio-economic** (79%), **recreation** (77%), and **local and provincial climate** (75%).

2. Are there any additional topics that you would like to be consulted about during the Site C *Project Definition* consultation?



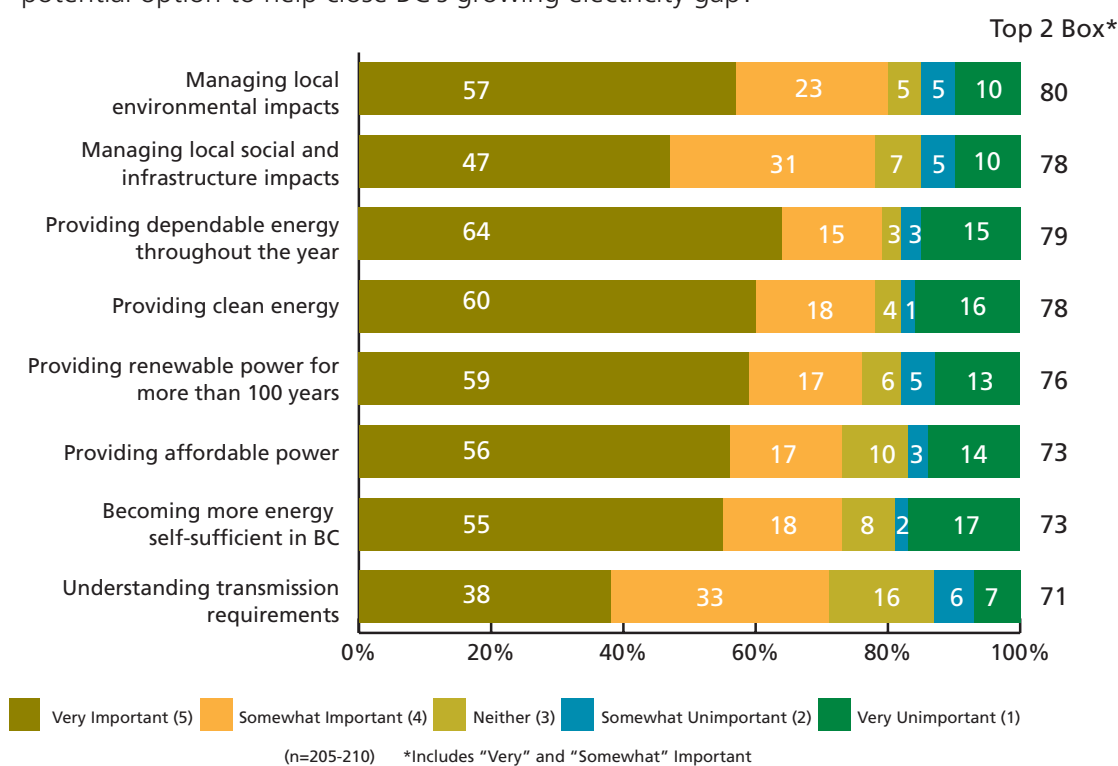
- In an open-ended question asking respondents what additional topics they would like to be consulted about during the *Project Definition* consultation phase, several additional topics were volunteered. These include possible **alternative projects, energy sources or conservation** (19%), **detailed management of construction and transmission costs** (10%), and **relocation of or compensation for affected residents** (8%).

Factors Important In Evaluating Site C

Participants were asked about the following factors:

- Managing local environmental impacts
- Managing local social and infrastructure impacts
- Providing dependable energy throughout the year
- Providing clean electricity
- Providing renewable power for more than 100 years
- Providing affordable power
- Becoming energy self-sufficient in BC
- Understanding transmission requirements

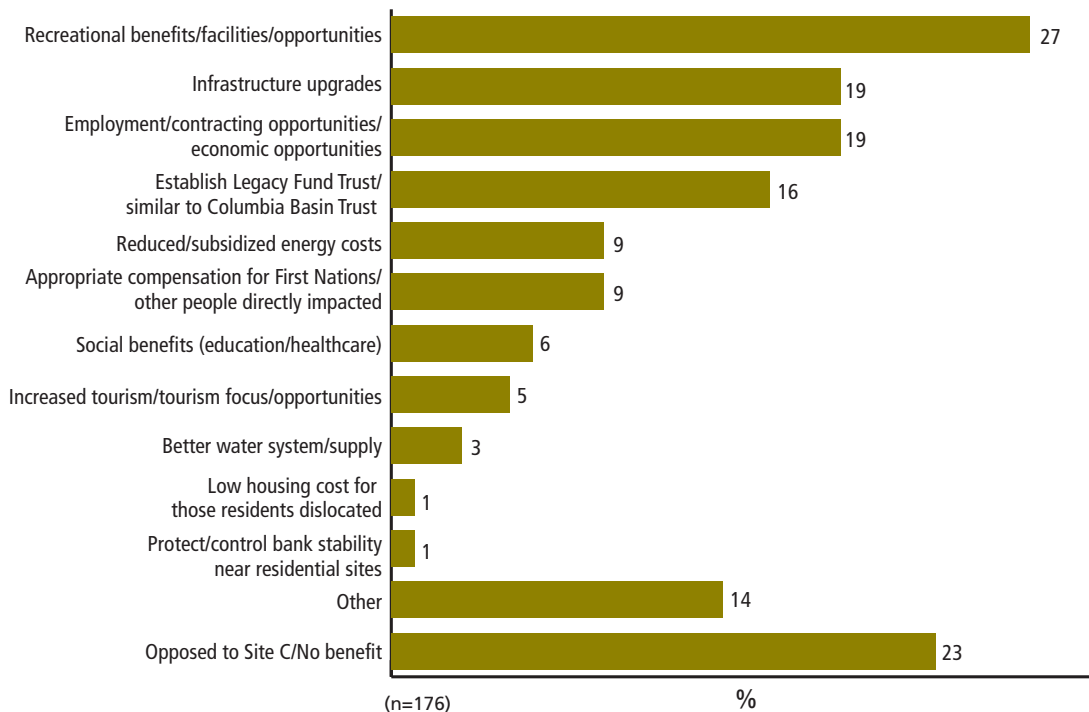
3. How important are each of the following factors to you when evaluating Site C as a potential option to help close BC's growing electricity gap?



- All eight factors specified in the feedback form are considered important to participants when evaluating Site C as a potential option for helping to close BC's growing energy gap. Between 71% and 80% rate each evaluation factor as "somewhat" or "very" important.
- Understandably, participants from the Peace region are more likely to rate managing **local environmental** (64%), and **social and infrastructure impacts** (55%) as "very" important compared to those from outside the region.

Community Benefits Desired

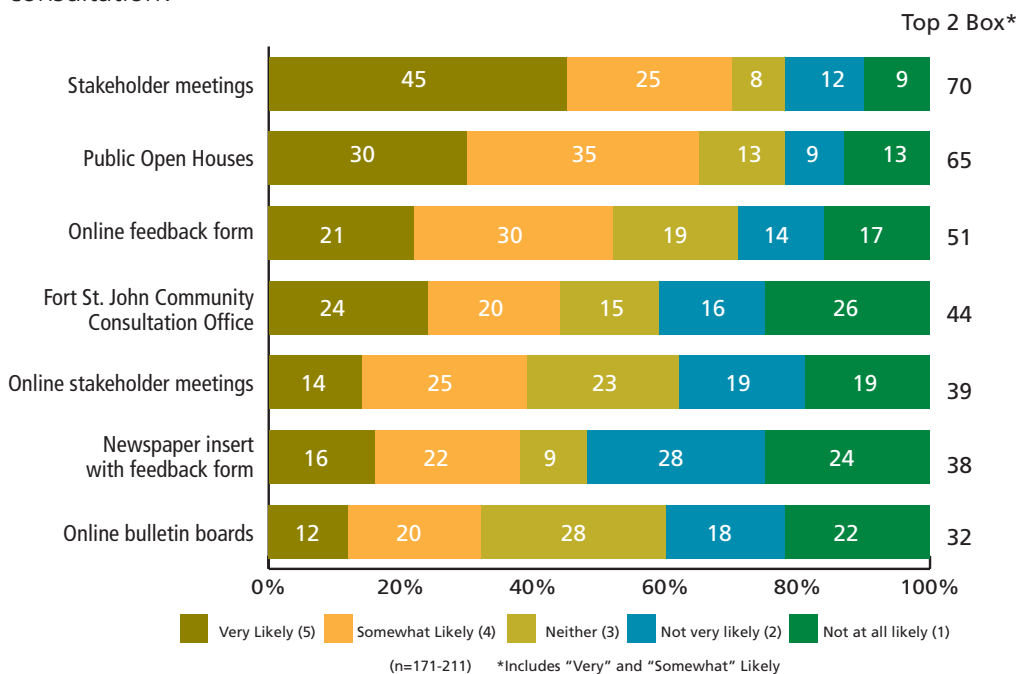
4. What community benefits would you like to see if the project proceeds?



- In an open-ended question, participants mentioned opportunities for **recreation** (27%), **employment** (19%), **upgrades to infrastructure** (19%), and a **lasting legacy similar to the Columbia Basin Trust** (16%) as community benefits they would most like to see from the development of Site C. Employment opportunities are of particular importance to participants from the Peace region.

Methods of Participation in Consultation

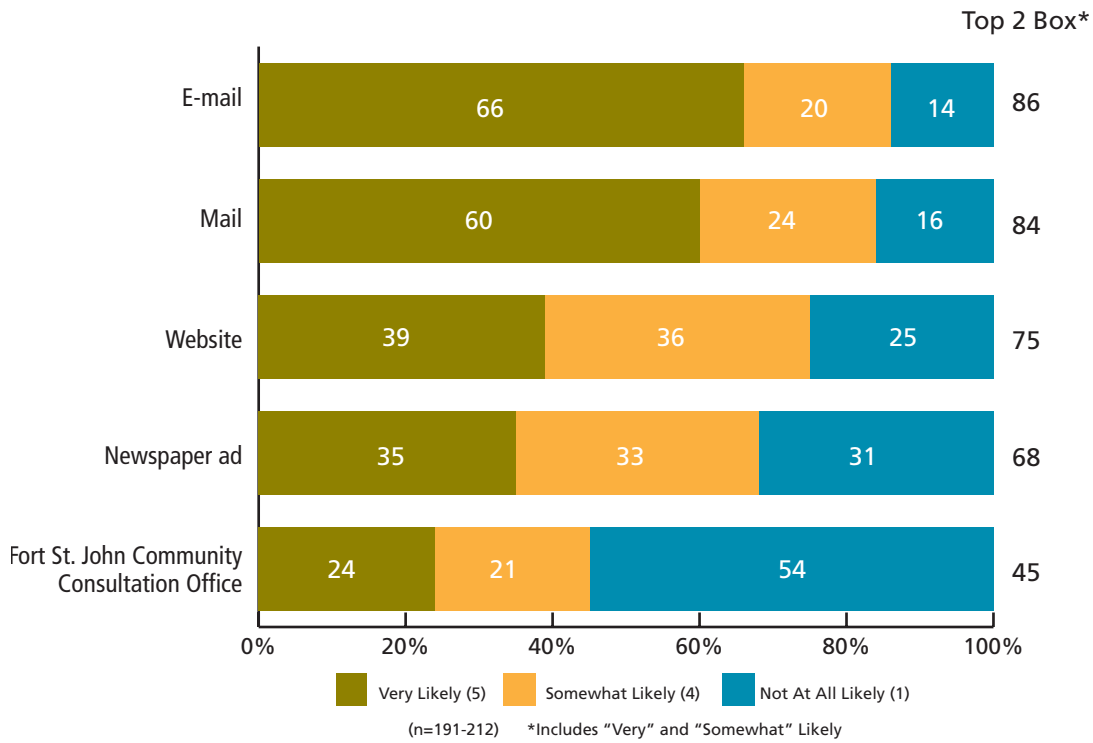
5. How likely are you to participate in the following methods of Site C *Project Definition* consultation?



- Participants are most likely to take part in the *Project Definition* consultation phase via **stakeholder meetings** (70% "somewhat" and "very likely") and **public Open Houses** (65%). **Online feedback forms** (51%) would also be likely to attract significant participation. Online bulletin boards and online stakeholder meetings, as well as feedback forms provided in newspapers, would be less likely to attract participation.
- In-person forms of participation, such as **public Open Houses** (82% "somewhat" and "very likely"), **stakeholder meetings** (79%), and the **Fort St. John Community Consultation Office** (59%) are far more likely to attract participation from residents of the Peace region than they are residents from other areas.

Likelihood of Reading Further Information

6. How likely are you to read further information about the Site C *Project Definition* consultation program if you receive it in the following way?



- Interest is highest in receiving information about the Site C *Project Definition* consultation program that is provided by **e-mail** (86% "somewhat" or "very likely") or **mail** (84%), followed by **website** (75%) or **newspaper ads** (68%). Information provided by the **Fort St. John Consultation Office** is also likely to be read by a significant number of participants in the Peace region (65%).

Additional Comments

7. Additional Comments

Base	Total ¹ (146)	Peace River Stakeholders (86)	Provincial Stakeholders (49 ²)
	%	%	%
Don't build it/use alternative energy sources/ conserve current energy supplies	32	35	19
Have honest consultation/ ensure full disclosure/keep promises	15	19	13
Build it (gen)	9	7	15
Ensure environmental concerns are addressed (land, climate, wildlife)	9	5	19
The project will bring many benefits (financial/power production)	8	9	4
Good workshop/thanks for the information	7	7	8
Continue with consultation process	6	6	8
Ensure full disclosure regarding project costs	4	3	6
Ensure integration of wind/hydrogen generation/ small hydro projects into Site C planning	3	1	8
Ensure that First Nations is involved/has issues addressed	3	1	6
Concerned about preferential treatment for First Nations	3	1	4
Create/implement a Legacy Fund	2	3	-
Ensure that the local community benefits	2	2	-
Have an independent/neutral committee or group doing the consultation/have a neutral location	1	2	-
Other	21	19	23

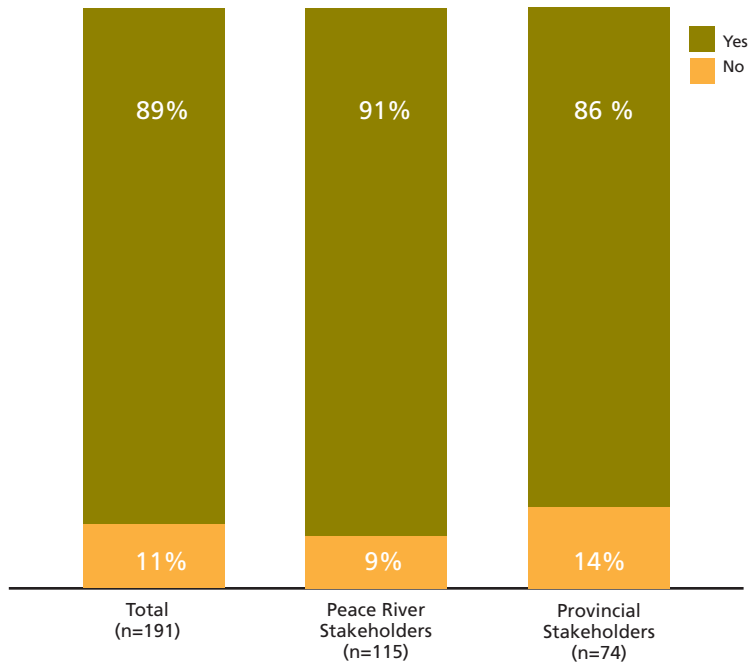
1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and provincial stakeholders as not all participants could be identified by region.

2. Caution: small base size

- Among participants who provided open-ended feedback under an “Additional Comments” section of the feedback form, 32% stated their opposition to the Site C project or a desire to use alternative energy sources or energy conservation instead. A higher percentage of participants from the Peace region expressed this sentiment than do those from outside the Peace (35% versus 19%, respectively). Relatively fewer participants expressed support for the project, citing the financial benefits it will bring.
- Having an honest consultation process with full disclosure and ensuring environmental concerns are addressed are issues raised by 15% of those who provided additional comments.

Interest in Receiving Project Updates

Would you like to receive updates on the project, including the Pre-Consultation Summary Report?



- A large majority of participants (89%) expressed interest in receiving updates on the project, including the *Pre-Consultation Summary Report*. Interest is equally high among participants from both the Peace region and elsewhere.

Submissions

In addition to feedback form input, the project received 31 submissions by fax, e-mail, phone and mail.

- Of 31 submissions received, approximately one-third (32%) tended to be in opposition to Site C and expressed a desire for pursuing other energy alternatives. Opposition to Site C was often related to concerns about the negative social and environmental impacts of the project.
- Some of the submissions supported consultation on **water management** (23%), **socio-economic impacts** (17%), and **land uses** (17%). A desire for an **honest consultation process** (37%) and an **extension of the Pre-Consultation phase** (17%) were also raised in several submissions.

Key-Theme Summary of Comments from the Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to Synovate's analysis of the feedback form results and submissions, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd., a professional consultation firm, has analysed the key themes from 48 stakeholder meetings and one public meeting and Open House in Hudson's Hope.

This summary represents a review of the key themes from all of the stakeholder meetings to determine the most frequently mentioned topics in the meetings. It is important to note that the key theme summary represents a qualitative analysis of stakeholder meeting notes³, as opposed to the quantitative analysis of feedback forms noted above.

1. Local Impacts – Stakeholders raised questions and concerns regarding local impacts from the potential Site C project (a key theme at 36 meetings)

A majority of stakeholder groups asked about potential local impacts of the Site C project, noting particular concerns regarding loss of agricultural land, impacts on recreational opportunities, impacts on fish and wildlife, water management issues, and slope and stability issues, among others. Many asked about potential mitigation measures and about future environmental studies, and some had specific questions about project design, noting that it will affect the local issues mentioned above.

A number of stakeholder groups raised the possibility that a bridge downstream from the proposed dam, which is currently conceived as a construction-access bridge, might become a public bridge in the future. Participants were divided about the possibility of upgrading the construction-access bridge to a public bridge, highlighting pros and cons of a public bridge and upgraded road to Chetwynd.

While many of the groups that raised local impact issues were local and regional stakeholder groups, a number of provincial stakeholder groups were interested in local impacts as well. Some environmental groups indicated interest in participating in studies and mitigation opportunities going forward.

2. Energy Alternatives – Stakeholders expressed an interest in how and when Site C will be compared to energy alternatives (a key theme at 34 meetings)

Almost all of the stakeholder groups raised the question of how and when Site C would be compared to energy alternatives. Many were interested in other specific energy options being considered by BC Hydro, while others proposed alternatives

3. A complete set of meeting notes is available in Appendix 1.

that BC Hydro should consider, including wind, nuclear, Burrard Thermal, IPPs, conservation/net metering, other large hydro, solar and biomass, among others. Some stakeholder groups would prefer a consultation process about energy alternatives, rather than consultation focusing on Site C.

3. Consultation Process – Stakeholders indicated an interest in the consultation process and in participating in the future Project Definition phase (a key theme at 25 meetings)

When asked about **how** they wanted to be consulted, most stakeholders were interested in learning about next steps so that they could plan to participate. Others identified a need for “capacity funding”, to ensure that various stakeholder groups had the resources to participate in the future consultation. Two local stakeholder groups raised concerns that the decision-makers (ie. the provincial government) were not directly involved in the consultation process, and that the feedback form was biased in favour of Site C. Finally, three groups expressed a desire to have the consultation process conducted independently; that is, not managed by BC Hydro.

4. Local Community Benefits – Stakeholders were interested in what local community benefits might be offered to the region (a key theme at 10 meetings)

A number of local, regional and provincial stakeholder groups raised the issue of how BC Hydro could provide a legacy of benefits to the region. Some offered suggestions for what those benefits might look like, including regional skills training, legacy investments, lower electricity rates for those in the North, remote community power extensions, and enhanced recreational opportunities, among others.

5. First Nations – Stakeholders wanted to know more about how the project will address First Nations issues (a key theme at 10 meetings)

A number of stakeholder groups asked about the consultation process for First Nations, and where BC Hydro is in the process. Some noted that the project will impact First Nations land, and others questioned what mitigation might be offered to First Nations, and at what cost.

6. Cost/Economic Climate – Stakeholders wanted to know more about cost projections, and the project in relation to various economic factors (a key theme at 8 meetings)

Some stakeholder groups, particularly provincial groups, wanted more information about the project in relation to various economic factors, including interest rates, construction costs, the labour market, transmission requirements, energy costs, and how BC Hydro imports/exports power. Others wanted detailed cost projections, while some commented on the escalation of costs from the last time the project was tabled. Others were interested in how Site C compares against other energy alternatives from a cost perspective.

7. Northern Impacts vs. Southern Benefits – *A number of stakeholder groups noted that project impacts are felt in the North, while benefits flow to the South* (a key theme at 7 meetings)

The perception that the impacts of the project are felt in the North, while all of the benefits flow to the South was particularly noted by some local stakeholder groups. There is a strong feeling that those in the North need to be compensated.

8. Conservation – *Stakeholders noted the importance of conservation programs* (a key theme at 7 meetings)

While conservation was raised as part of the frequent discussions regarding alternatives to Site C (noted previously), it was also mentioned as a stand-alone topic. A number of stakeholder groups noted that promoting conservation is an important part of BC Hydro's mandate. However, some participants questioned whether BC Hydro's aggressive conservation targets are realistic.

9. Climate Change/Greenhouse Gas Emissions – *Stakeholders were interested in more information on the project's impact on climate change and GHG emissions* (a key theme at 5 meetings)

While local environmental issues were most frequently mentioned in the stakeholder meetings, a number of groups were interested in more information on the project as it relates to the macro perspective of climate change, and how the project's greenhouse gas emissions would be measured/modeled.

10. Procurement/Employment – *Stakeholders were interested in the procurement process and local employment opportunities resulting from the Site C project* (a key theme at 5 meetings)

Some stakeholder groups were interested in the procurement method planned for Site C. They wanted more information about local employment opportunities, and how they might participate in the project either from a procurement or employment point of view.

11. Historical Grievances – *Historical grievances resulting from the creation of other dams and reservoirs in the Peace region were mentioned by some stakeholders* (a key theme at 4 meetings)

Some local stakeholder groups noted historical grievances that resulted from the creation of the W.A.C. Bennett Dam and Williston Reservoir.

Pre-Consultation Summary Report

1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Site C is a potential third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in the province's northeast region, and is one of many resource options that can help meet British Columbia's electricity needs.

Since June 2004, BC Hydro has conducted a high-level review of existing information about Site C. The purpose of this undertaking was to review project feasibility within BC Hydro's current operating context and to better understand the potential benefits and impacts of Site C compared with other resource options. As part of this review, BC Hydro looked at existing studies, reports and stakeholder engagement, as well as initiating some new environmental studies. This review is summarized in a report entitled Site C Feasibility Review, Stage 1 Completion Report, available at www.bchydro.com/sitec.

In evaluating Site C as a potential resource option, BC Hydro has adopted a five-stage process to help inform the provincial government's decision about whether to proceed to the next stage of project development at the end of each stage. BC Hydro is now in Stage 2, which is expected to take about two years. This stage involves comprehensive consultation with communities, stakeholders, and First Nations, as well as further updating and analysis of design, financial, social and environmental elements of the project. At the end of Stage 2, BC Hydro will provide recommendations to the provincial government, and the government will make a decision about whether to proceed to a regulatory stage for Site C, including environmental reviews.

Site C would provide a reliable, clean and renewable source of electricity for more than 100 years. It would provide in the range of 900 MW of reliable, dependable electricity, or about eight per cent of B.C.'s existing electricity demands. The project would produce approximately 4,600 GWh a year, enough to power about 460,000 homes.

As the third dam on the Peace River, Site C would gain significant efficiencies by taking advantage of water already stored in the Williston Reservoir and used to generate electricity upstream at the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams. Site C is similar to a run-of-river project in that its daily water inflows would be approximately equal to its daily water outflows. Current plans assume a stable reservoir with a fluctuation of approximately three feet in normal operating conditions.

If built, Site C would be a publicly-owned asset. Large hydro projects require a long lead time. No decision has been made to build Site C; a decision to proceed would only be made by the provincial government following extensive consultation and project evaluation.

2. PRE-CONSULTATION ON THE PEACE RIVER SITE C HYDRO PROJECT

2.1 Stages of Consultation

As BC Hydro proceeds through its Stage 2 analysis of the Peace River Site C Hydro Project, it is consulting with communities, First Nations and stakeholders. Consultation in Stage 2 includes:

1. *Pre-Consultation* (CURRENT STAGE)
2. *Project Definition* Consultation – Spring 2008
3. *Project Definition* Consultation – Fall 2008

2.2 Pre-Consultation Goals

The *BC Energy Plan* called for BC Hydro to “enter into initial discussions with First Nations, the Province of Alberta and communities to discuss Site C to ensure that communications regarding the potential project and the processes being followed are well known.” In Pre-Consultation, BC Hydro asked participants **how they wanted to be consulted** and about the **topics they wished to discuss** in the next phase of consultation, *Project Definition* consultation.

2.3 Pre-Consultation Participation

Total participation in the consultation was **686** people.

- Approximately 400 people attended 48 stakeholder meetings¹
- 56 people attended a public meeting and Open House in Hudson’s Hope
- There were 31 submissions²
- More than 200 people visited the Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John between January 7 and February 15, 2008

A total of 305 feedback forms were returned at stakeholder meetings, the Open House, through the Community Consultation Office, and by web, e-mail, fax and mail.

2.4 Pre-Consultation Topics

The following are the consultation topics discussed in the Pre-Consultation Discussion Guide and feedback form for the Peace River Site C Project:

2.4.1 Topics areas that stakeholders would like included in Site C *Project Definition* consultation, including:

- Local benefits and opportunities
- Project design
- Socio-economic
- Recreation
- Land use
- Fish/wildlife
- Infrastructure
- Water management
- Local and provincial climate

1. The public meeting and Open House in Hudson’s Hope on February 19, 2008, was held outside of the consultation period due to scheduling difficulties. Accordingly, feedback forms and meeting notes arising from the open house were included in this report.

2. Submissions include input received by fax, e-mail, phone and mail.

2.4.2 Importance of specific factors in evaluating Site C, such as:

- Providing dependable energy throughout the year
- Becoming energy self-sufficient in B.C.
- Providing clean electricity
- Providing renewable power for more than 100 years
- Providing affordable power
- Managing local environmental impacts
- Managing local social and infrastructure impacts
- Understanding transmission requirements

2.4.3 Community Benefits desired from the project

2.4.4 Likelihood of participation through various methods in Site C *Project Definition* consultation, including:

- Newspaper insert with feedback form
- Stakeholder meetings
- Public Open Houses
- Fort St. John Community Consultation Office
- Online feedback form
- Online stakeholder meetings
- Online bulletin boards

2.4.5 Likelihood of reading information about the Site C *Project Definition* consultation in specific media, including:

- Mail
- E-mail
- Newspaper ad
- Website
- Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

2.4.6 Additional comments

2.5 Pre-Consultation Methods

2.5.1 Discussion Guide and Feedback Form

A consultation discussion guide explained the purpose and scope of Pre-Consultation and included a feedback form to assist in gathering input.

The discussion guide also included:

- Background on the potential Site C project
- Information on how BC Hydro is addressing B.C.'s growing electricity gap
- Information on the Site C decision-making process
- Information on the Site C consultation process, and how input will be used
- Maps and charts showing the location of BC Hydro's major generating facilities and their energy/capacity; a map of the potential Site C project; and charts showing the reservoir area of Peace River dams

- Potential benefits and impacts of Site C
- Information on potential consultation topics for *Project Definition* consultation

A feedback form was included with the Discussion Guide and additional feedback was gathered at stakeholder meetings, a public meeting and Open House, by web, e-mail, fax, mail, and through the Fort St. John Community Consultation Office.

2.5.2 Web-based Consultation

All consultation materials were available on the web (www.bchydro.com/sitec), including the feedback form that could be submitted directly from the Site C website or faxed back to the project. Of the 305 feedback forms received, 67 were received online through the web-based feedback form.

2.5.3 Stakeholder Meetings

A facilitator and Site C project staff attended the stakeholder meetings. At each meeting, Site C project staff gave a short presentation on the project and consultation options. A discussion guide was available which included a feedback form.

Participants provided their comments on the project and other matters and were able to ask questions of project staff. Key themes from each meeting are summarized below.

Approximately 400 people attended the stakeholder meetings. Meetings were held in 12 communities around the province: Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, Fort St. John, Greater Vancouver, Hudson's Hope, Mackenzie, Nanaimo, Pouce Coupe, Prince George, Taylor, and Tumbler Ridge.

48 stakeholder meetings were held with stakeholder groups on the following dates. Meetings with Peace River stakeholders are highlighted below; all others were held with provincial stakeholders.

1. December 13, 2007	Hudson's Hope Council
2. December 13, 2007	Fort St. John Council
3. January 7, 2008	BC Chamber of Commerce
4. January 8, 2008	Joint Industry Electricity Steering Committee
5. January 10, 2008	Dawson Creek Council
6. January 10, 2008	Peace Valley Environmental Association
7. January 10, 2008	Rick Hopkins (individual stakeholder)
8. January 11, 2008	District of Taylor
9. January 11, 2008	North Peace Economic Development Commission
10. January 14, 2008	North Peace Rod and Gun Club
11. January 17, 2008	Independent Power Producers of British Columbia
12. January 21, 2008	BC & Yukon Hotel Association
13. January 22, 2008	Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce

14.	January 23, 2008	District of Chetwynd
15.	January 23, 2008	Peace River Regional District
16.	January 24, 2008	Northern BC Guides Association
17.	January 24, 2008	Village of Pouce Coupe
18.	January 25, 2008	Hudson's Hope Historical Society
19.	January 29, 2008	District of Mackenzie
20.	January 31, 2008	Electricity Conservation and Efficiency Advisory Committee
21.	January 31, 2008	District of Tumbler Ridge
22.	January 31, 2008	Westcoast Environmental Law Society
23.	February 1, 2008	World Wildlife Fund
24.	February 1, 2008	Pembina Institute
25.	February 1, 2008	North Central Municipal Association
26.	February 4, 2008	Peace Energy Cooperative
27.	February 4, 2008	Don Bourassa (individual stakeholder)
28.	February 5, 2008	Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce
29.	February 5, 2008	Chetwynd Environmental Society
30.	February 5, 2008	Independent Power Producers of British Columbia
31.	February 5, 2008	West Fraser Mills
32.	February 5, 2008	Independent Contractors and Business Association of BC
33.	February 7, 2008	Vancouver Island Economic Alliance
34.	February 7, 2008	Nature Trust of British Columbia
35.	February 7, 2008	Council of Forest Industries
36.	February 11, 2008	Spectra Energy
37.	February 12, 2008	Northern BC Guides and Outfitters
38.	February 12, 2008	St. Peter's Congregation, Hudson's Hope
39.	February 12, 2008	Vancouver Board of Trade Sustainability Committee
40.	February 12, 2008	Union of British Columbia Municipalities
41.	February 13, 2008	Fort Nelson/Northern Rockies Regional District
42.	February 13, 2008	Fraser Basin Council
43.	February 14, 2008	Fort St. John Residents/Landowners
44.	February 14, 2008	Canadian Taxpayers Federation
45.	February 14, 2008	Ducks Unlimited
46.	February 14, 2008	Community Futures Development
47.	February 15, 2008	Peace Valley OSB: Canfor/LP
48.	February 15, 2008	Northern BC Construction Association

2.5.4 Public Open House

At the request of the District of Hudson's Hope, the Site C project team held a public meeting and Open House for community members on February 19, 2008. The public meeting and Open House in Hudson's Hope was held outside of the consultation period due to scheduling difficulties. Accordingly, feedback forms and meeting notes arising from the Open House were included in this report.

The meeting was advertised by poster, provided by BC Hydro to the District of Hudson's Hope, placed in the post office and at the town hall. In addition, the District issued a Public Service Announcement by e-mail to the Peace River Internet Services (PRIS) list. Display boards provided background on the Site C project and the project team answered questions in a question and answer session. 56 people attended the Open House, a number of whom had attended previous stakeholder meetings in Hudson's Hope.

2.5.5 Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

BC Hydro opened a Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John on January 7, 2008, with the Honourable Richard Neufeld, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources officially opening the office at an event on January 22, 2008.

The purpose of the office is to provide a place where people can get information about the Site C project, ask questions, and provide feedback. The office is open Monday through Friday from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm, and on Saturday from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

The public and stakeholders were notified about the Community Consultation Office through the Site C website, in the Pre-Consultation Discussion Guide, at stakeholder meetings, and through local newspaper advertisements. The project also issued a media advisory on January 21, 2008 to local Fort St. John media, and invited local community governments and the Peace River Regional District to the official opening on January 22.

More than 200 people visited the office between January 7 and February 15, 2008. Visitors provided their comments and asked questions of project staff. A majority was supportive of the project and was interested in the information available at the office. Some were opposed. Generally, people were interested in the following:

- Seeing detailed maps that are available in the office
- More information about recreational opportunities
- More information about potential local job opportunities
- Whether a public bridge across the dam and/or river would be built
- More information on local impacts, including property, road, fish/wildlife, among others
- The First Nations consultation process

All visitors were encouraged to submit a feedback form.

2.5.6 Notice About Opportunities to Participate in Pre-Consultation

Stakeholder Meetings: Approximately 75 local, regional and provincial stakeholder organizations were notified of stakeholder meetings by letter, e-mail and by telephone. Stakeholder groups were sent an e-mail after the meeting to remind members to send in their feedback forms.

News Release: BC Hydro issued an information bulletin to the provincial media, advising that the Pre-Consultation process was beginning, and that all Pre-Consultation materials were posted to www.bchydro.com/sitec.

Consultation Office Advertisements: Ten advertisements advising that the Community Consultation Office was open and reminding people of the opportunity to participate in the pre-consultation process were placed in the following papers:

Alaska Highway News

Mackenzie Times

Chetwynd Echo

North Peace Express

Dawson Creek Daily News

Northeast Weekly News

Dawson Creek Mirror

Peace River Block News

Fort Nelson Times

The Northerner

3. DETAILED FINDINGS: CONSULTATION INPUT

The following provides a summary of input provided through the consultation feedback form.

The 10-page discussion guide provided consultation participants with information about the Site C project, and asked for feedback on how participants want to be consulted about the project, and about the topics they wished to discuss.

Synovate, a professional market research firm, was commissioned by Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and BC Hydro to help develop the pre-consultation feedback form, host the online feedback form, and tabulate and analyse all feedback forms and submissions received from the Pre-Consultation phase.

A total of 305 feedback forms were received and tabulated between December 4, 2007 and February 22, 2008; 67 were received online and 238 in hard copy. In addition, 31 submissions were received and those responses were coded and analysed in conjunction with the tabulated feedback forms. In the following summary, results from the feedback forms are shown in graphical format for total residents and for residents of the Peace River region and outside the Peace region separately. Results from the submissions have been summarized separately.

The following table shows the number of completed Feedback Forms and submissions received as part of the Pre-Consultation phase.

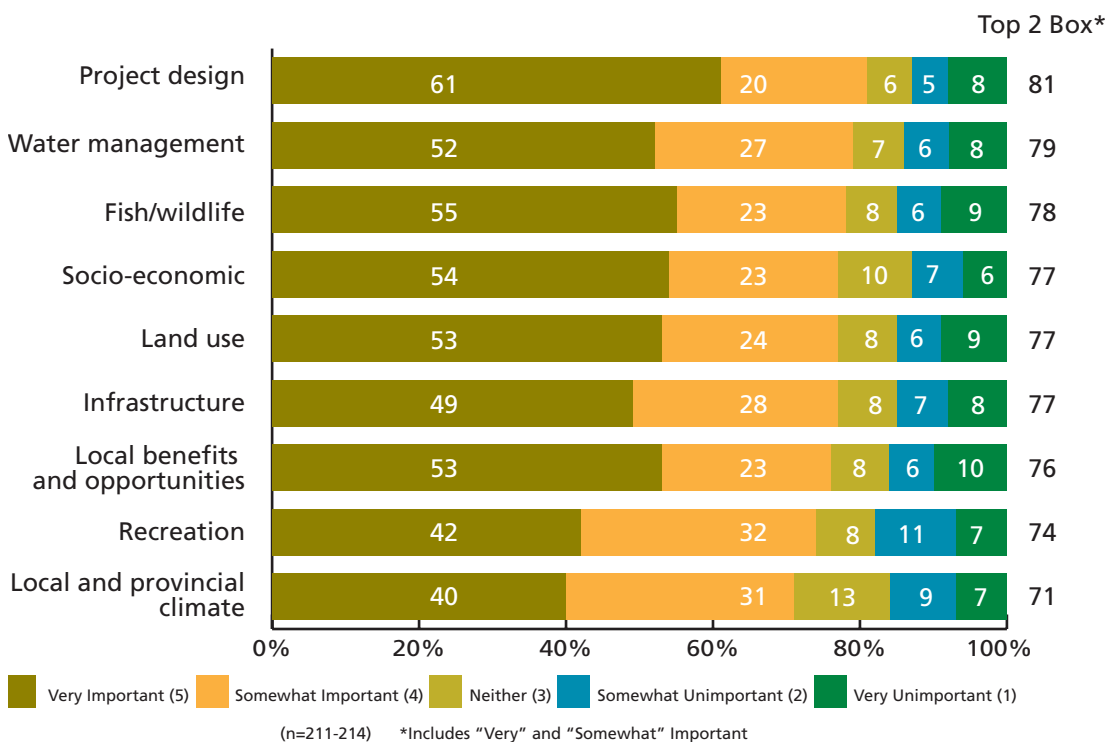
Feedback Forms	Number Received
Small Group Meetings	154
Hudson's Hope Open House	14
Consultation Office	52
Fax	7
Online	67
Miscellaneous	6
Mail	5
Total	305
Submissions	31
Total	336

3.1 Feedback Forms

IMPORTANCE OF TOPICS FOR INCLUSION IN PROJECT DEFINITION CONSULTATION

TOTAL

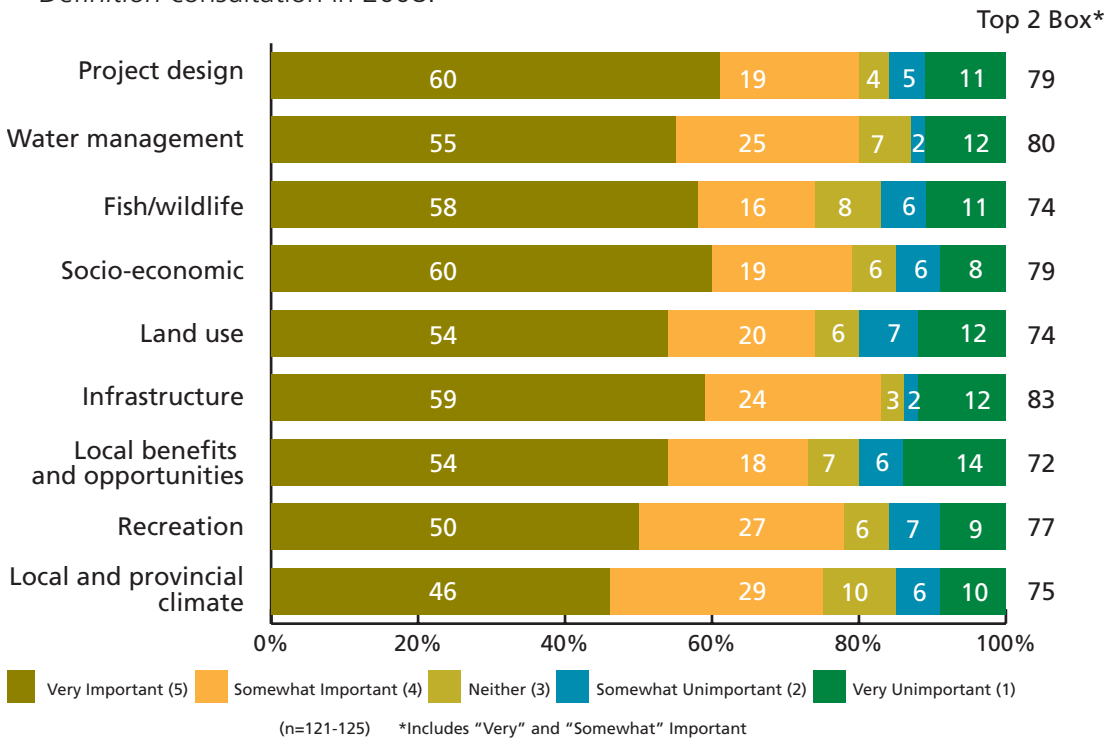
1. Please indicate how important the following topics are for inclusion in *Project Definition* consultation in 2008.



- Participants regard all nine topics presented in the feedback form as important topics of discussion in *Project Definition* consultation (between 71% and 81% regard the topics as "somewhat" or "very" important).
- Certain topics, however, rank higher in importance. A higher proportion of participants consider **project design** to be "very" important (61%), while relatively fewer rate **recreation** (42%) and **local and provincial climate** (40%) as such.

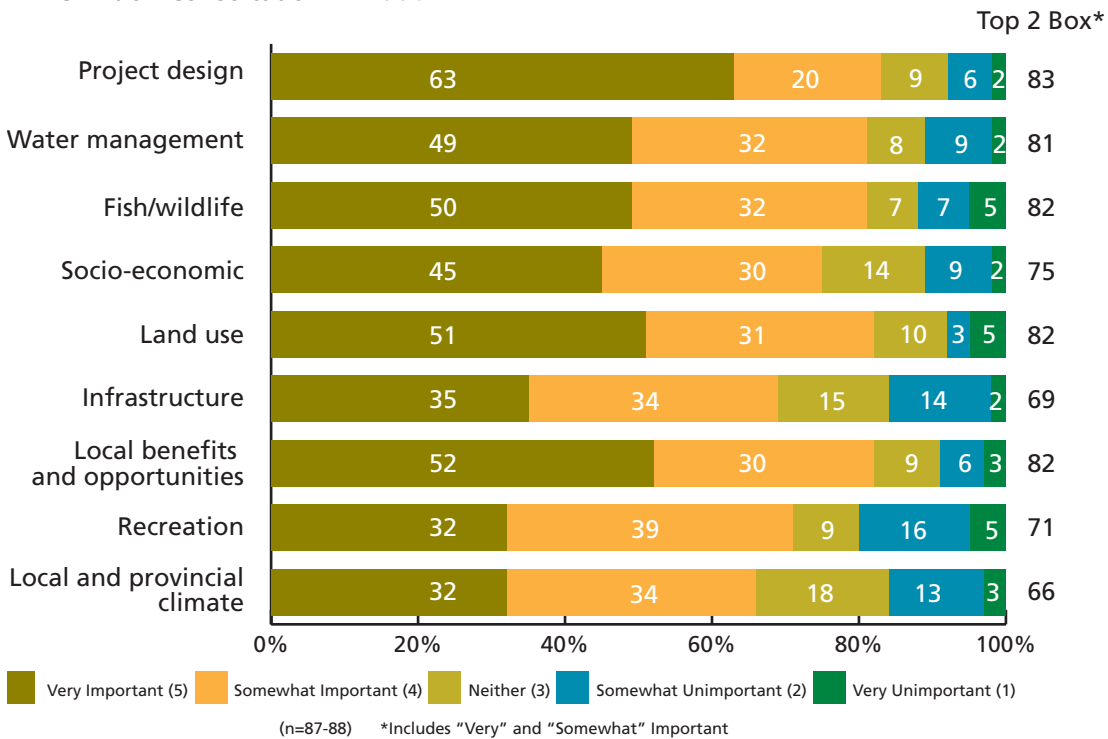
PEACE RIVER STAKEHOLDERS

1. Please indicate how important the following topics are for inclusion in *Project Definition* consultation in 2008.



PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS

1. Please indicate how important the following topics are for inclusion in *Project Definition* consultation in 2008.

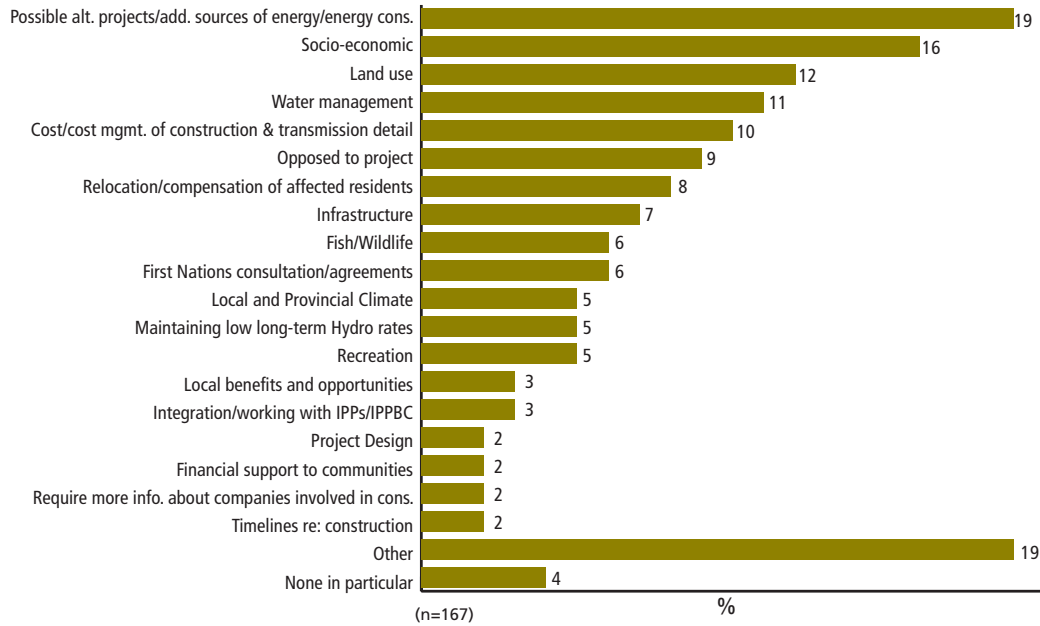


- Participants from the Peace River region and those from elsewhere have similar views on the importance of topics for inclusion in *Project Definition* consultation, with the following notable exceptions.
- Participants from the Peace River region tend to place greater importance on topics related to **infrastructure** (83%), **socio-economic** (79%), **recreation** (77%), and **local and provincial climate** (75%) than do participants elsewhere.
- By contrast, Peace River participants are more likely to regard **local benefits and opportunities** and **land use** as less important than provincial stakeholders.

VOLUNTEERED TOPICS FOR INCLUSION IN PROJECT DEFINITION CONSULTATION

TOTAL

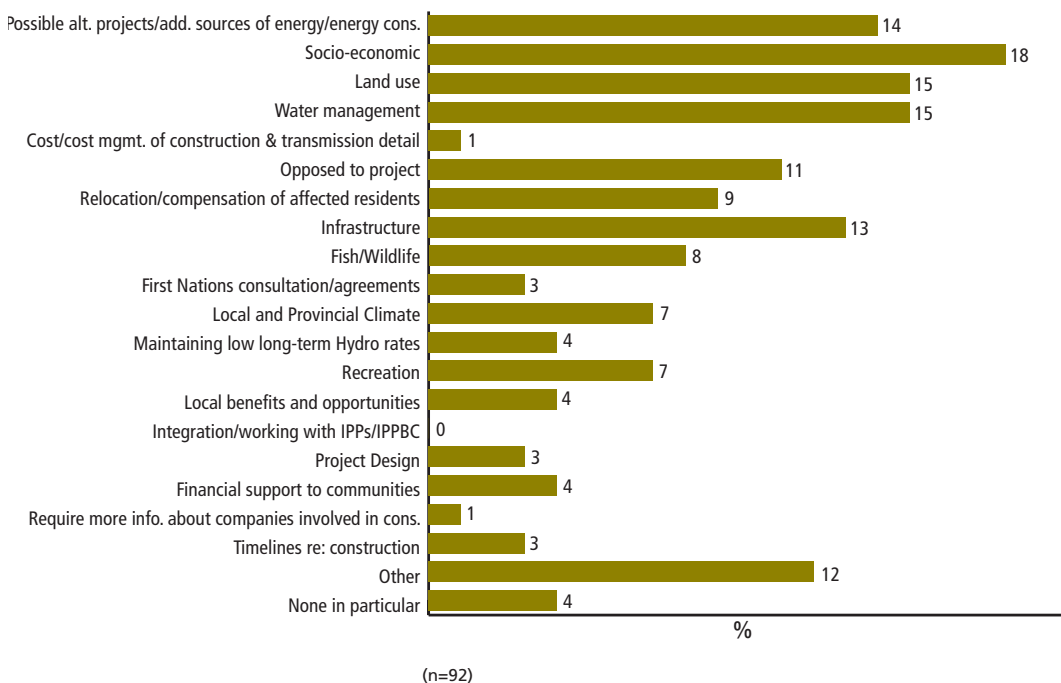
2. Are there any additional topics that you would like to be consulted about during the Site C *Project Definition* consultation?



- In an open-ended question asking respondents what additional topics they would like to be consulted about during the *Project Definition* consultation phase, several additional topics were volunteered. These include possible **alternative projects, energy sources or conservation** (19%), **detailed management of construction and transmission costs** (10%), and **relocation of or compensation for affected residents** (8%).
- Many of the topics volunteered by participants as important to include in the next consultation phase are the same as or similar to the topics already specified in the feedback form, such as **socio-economic, land use, and water management**.

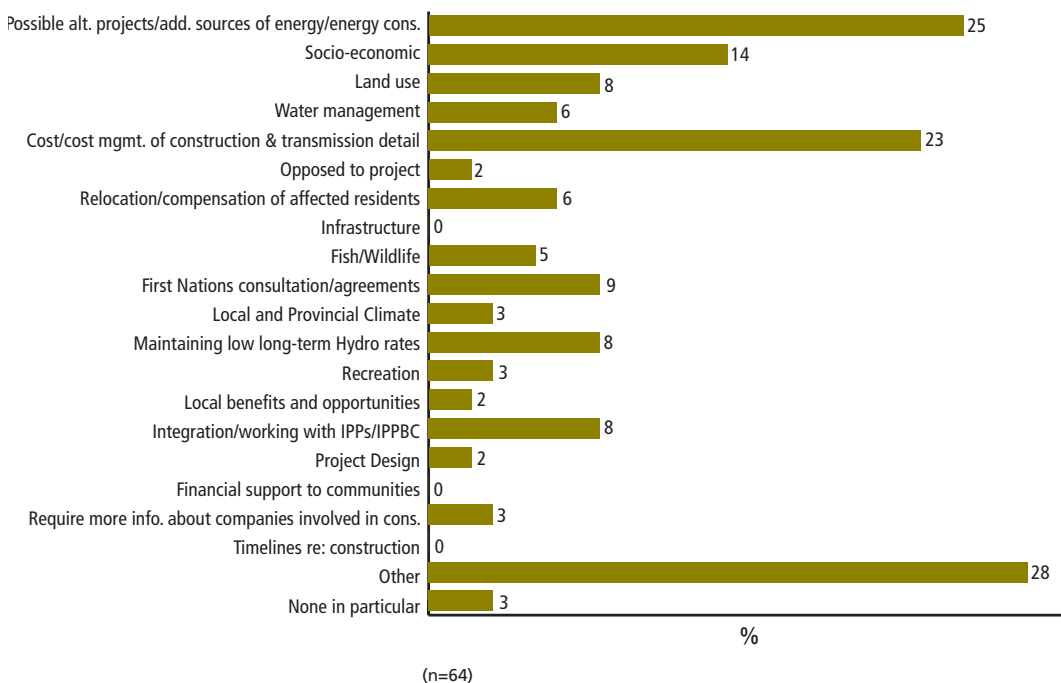
PEACE RIVER STAKEHOLDERS

2. Are there any additional topics that you would like to be consulted about during the Site C *Project Definition* consultation?



PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS

2. Are there any additional topics that you would like to be consulted about during the Site C *Project Definition* consultation?

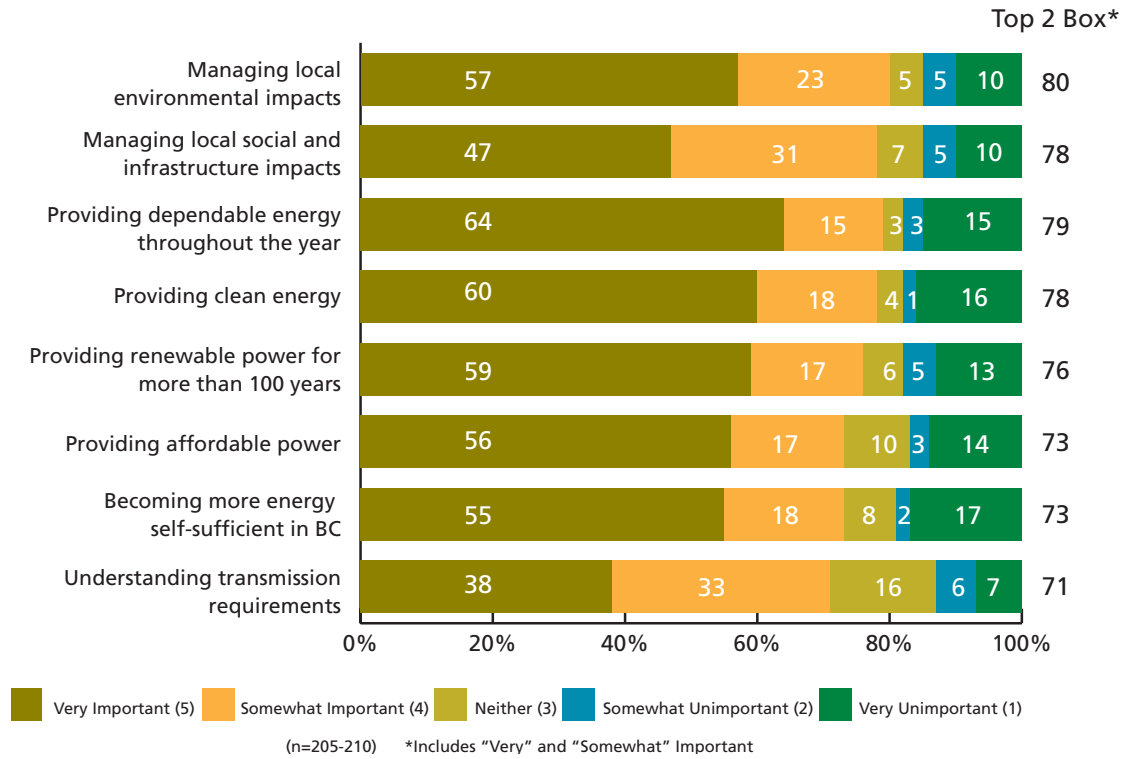


- Compared to participants elsewhere, those from the Peace region were more likely to reaffirm their interest in being consulted about **socio-economic, land use and water management**.

IMPORTANCE OF FACTORS IN EVALUATING SITE C

TOTAL

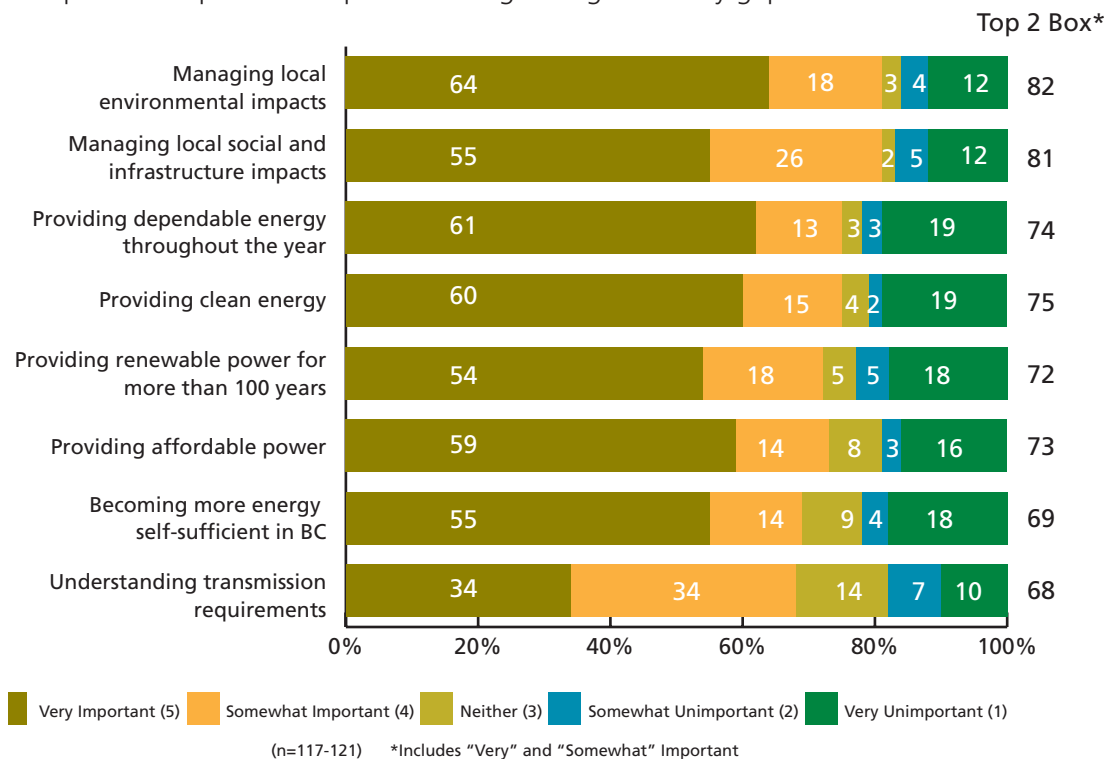
3. How important are each of the following factors to you when evaluating Site C as a potential option to help close BC’s growing electricity gap?



- All eight factors specified in the feedback form are considered important to participants when evaluating Site C as a potential option for helping to close BC’s growing energy gap. Between 71% and 80% rate each evaluation factor as “somewhat” or “very” important.

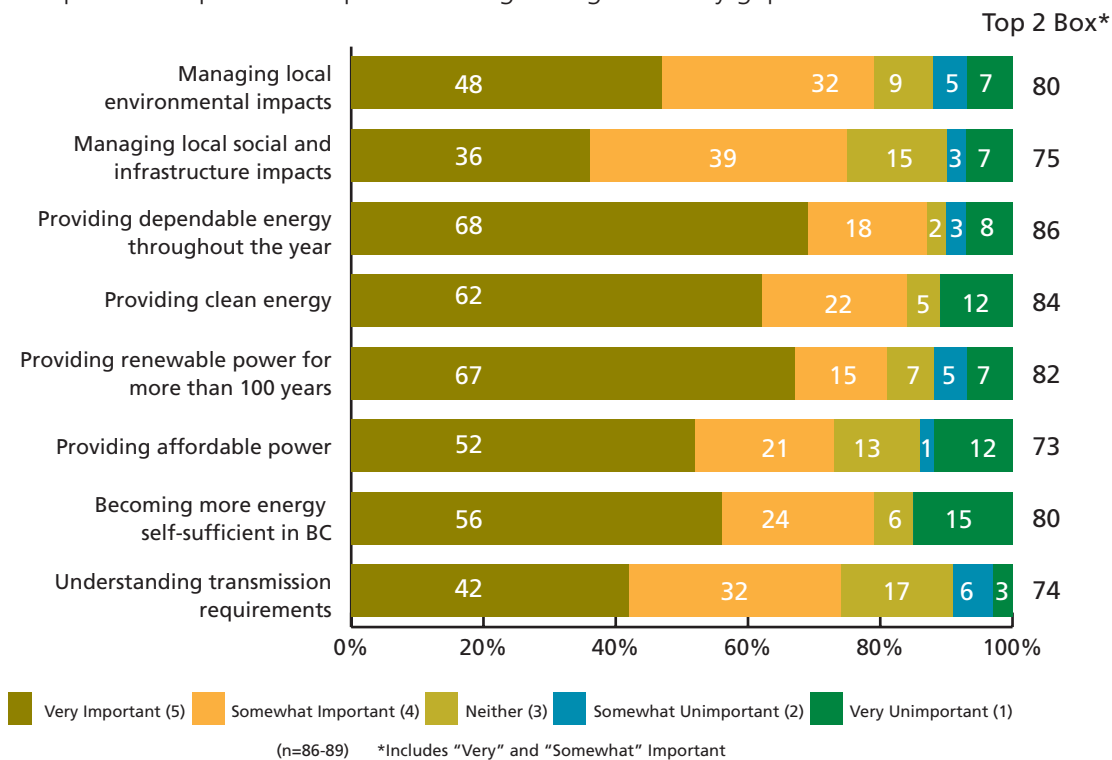
PEACE RIVER STAKEHOLDERS

3. How important are each of the following factors to you when evaluating Site C as a potential option to help close BC’s growing electricity gap?



PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS

3. How important are each of the following factors to you when evaluating Site C as a potential option to help close BC’s growing electricity gap?

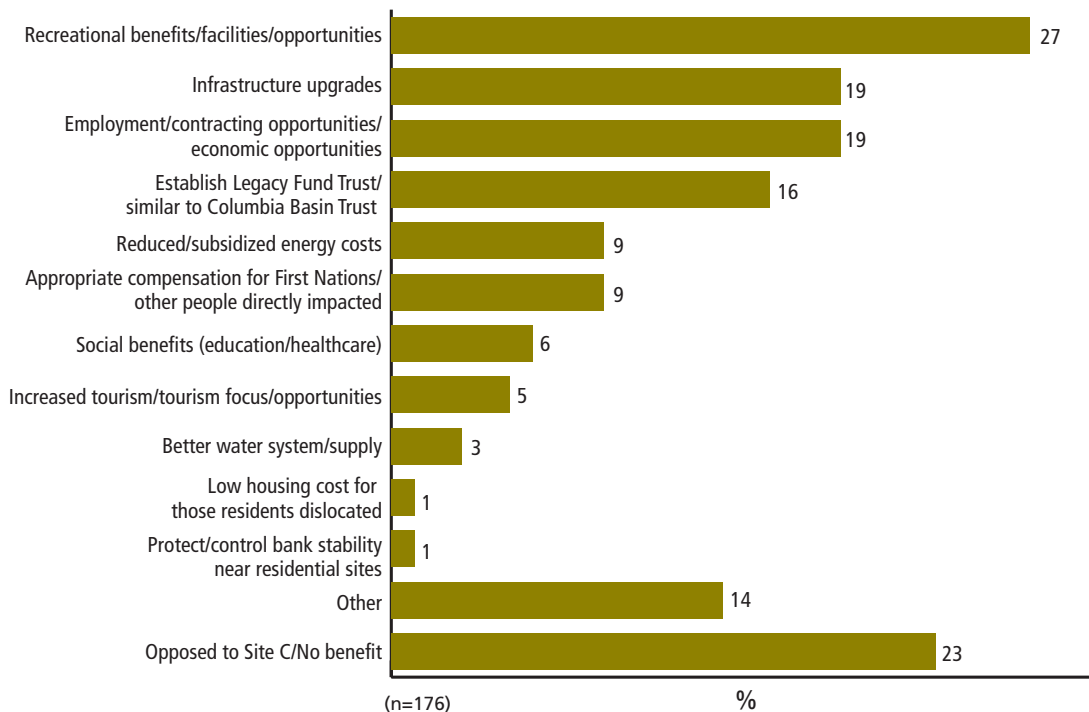


- Understandably, participants from the Peace region are more likely to rate managing **local environmental** (64%), and **social and infrastructure impacts** (55%) as “very” important compared those from outside the region.
- Participants from outside the Peace region, on the other hand, are more likely to consider **providing dependable energy throughout the year** (86% versus 74%) as an important evaluation factor.
- Conversely, participants from the Peace region are comparatively more likely to regard **renewable power for more than 100 years** (72% versus 82%) as less important than provincial stakeholders.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS DESIRED FROM SITE C

TOTAL

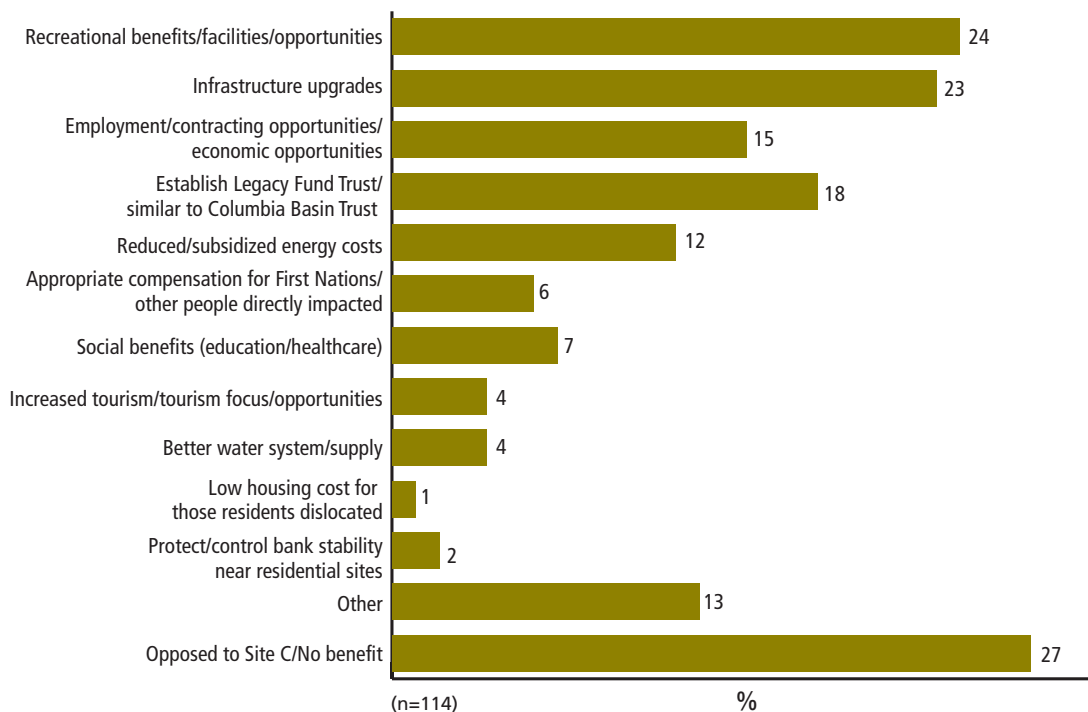
4. What community benefits would you like to see if the project proceeds?



- In an open-ended question, participants mentioned opportunities for **recreation** (27%), **employment** (19%), **upgrades to infrastructure** (19%), and a **lasting legacy similar to the Columbia Basin Trust** (16%) as community benefits they would most like to see from the development of Site C. Employment opportunities are of particular importance to participants from the Peace region.
- Close to one-quarter (23%) of participants who responded to the question mention their opposition to Site C rather than specifying any community benefits they would like to see from the project.

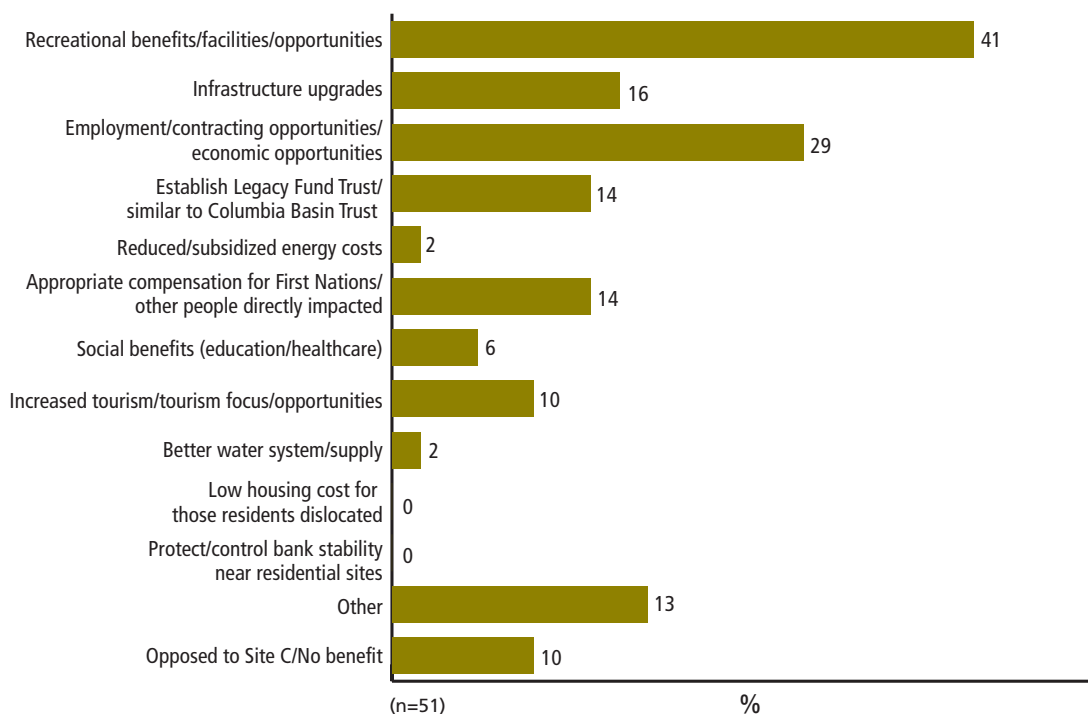
PEACE RIVER STAKEHOLDERS

4. What community benefits would you like to see if the project proceeds?



PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS

4. What community benefits would you like to see if the project proceeds?

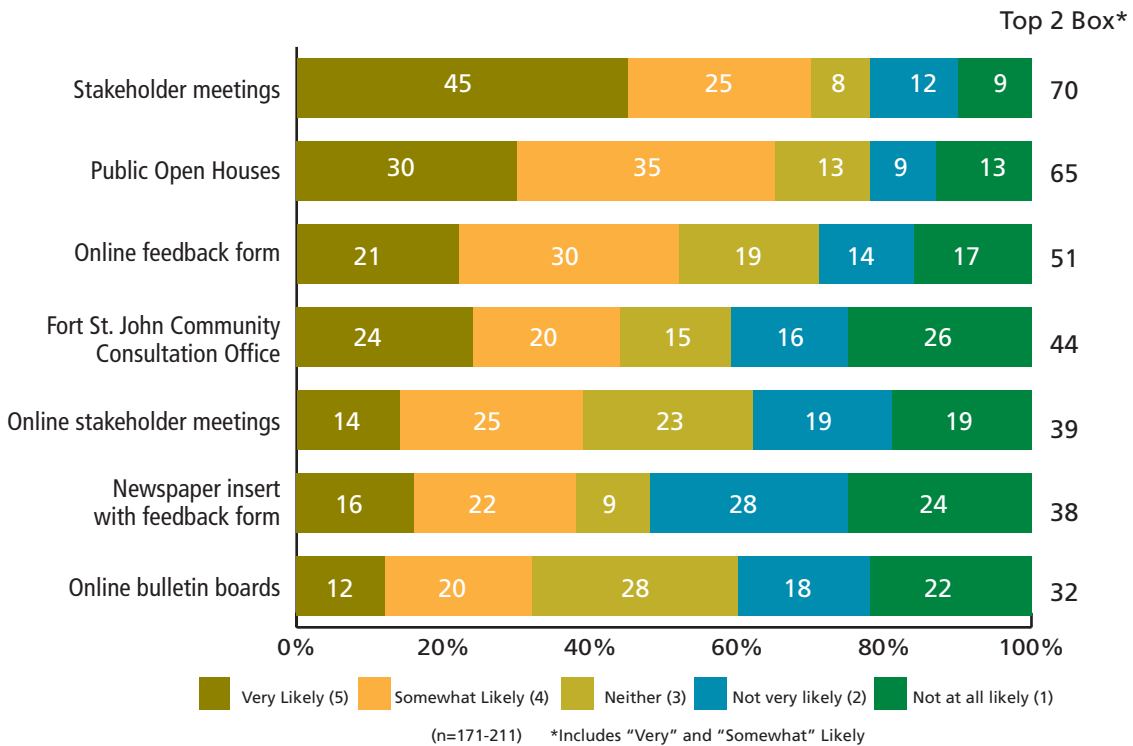


- While participants tend to want the same community benefits from the Site C project regardless of where they reside, those from the Peace region are more likely to mention **infrastructure upgrades** (23%), while those from outside the Peace more frequently mention **recreational benefits** (41%) and **employment or economic opportunities** (29%).
- More participants from the Peace region stated their opposition to Site C rather than suggesting community benefits they would like to see from the project compared to those from outside the region (27% versus 10%, respectively).

LIKELIHOOD OF PARTICIPATING IN SPECIFIC METHODS OF PROJECT DEFINITION CONSULTATION

TOTAL

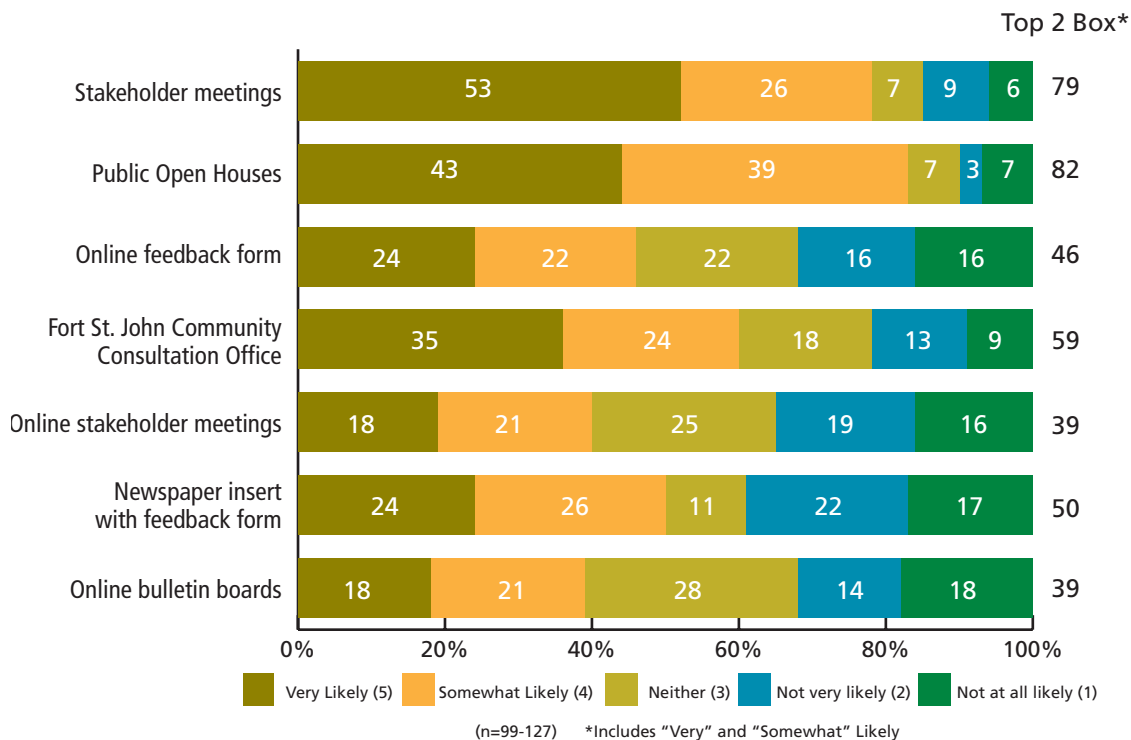
5. How likely are you to participate in the following methods of Site C *Project Definition* consultation?



- A significant majority of participants say they are “somewhat” or “very” likely to participate in **stakeholder meetings** (70%) or **public Open Houses** (65%). **Online feedback forms** would also generate significant participation (51%). However, **online stakeholder meetings, online bulletin boards, and feedback forms in newspapers** are least likely to generate participation (<40% each).

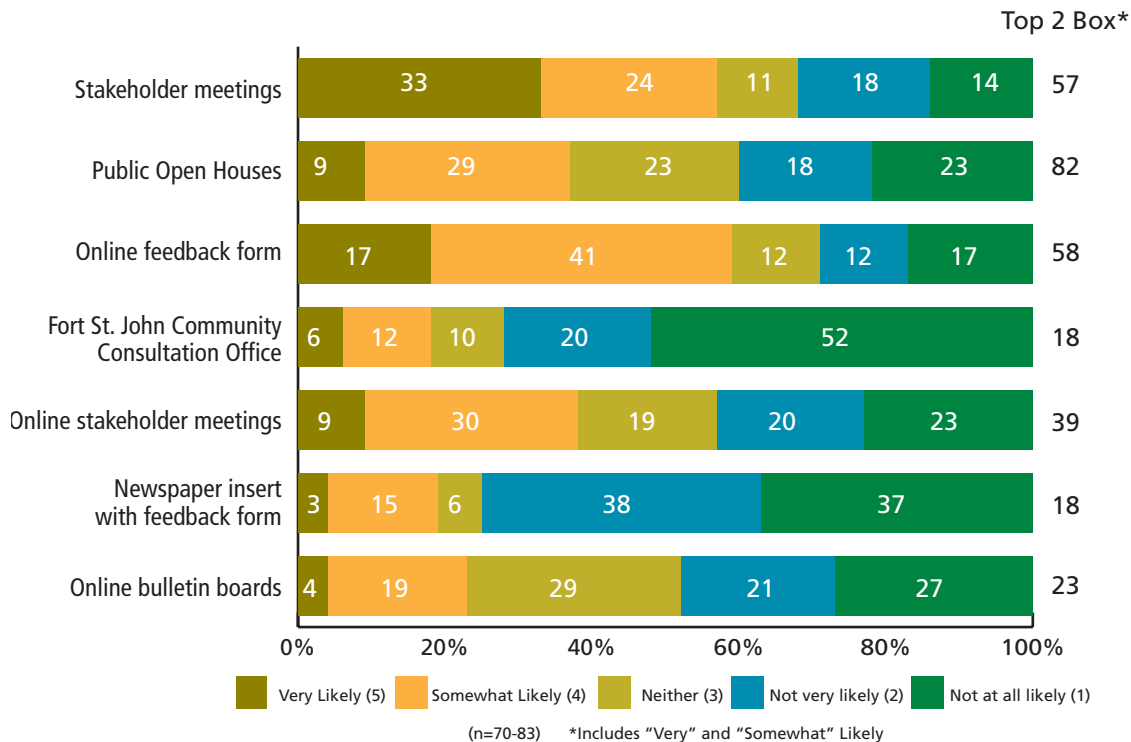
PEACE RIVER STAKEHOLDERS

5. How likely are you to participate in the following methods of Site C *Project Definition* consultation?



PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS

5. How likely are you to participate in the following methods of Site C *Project Definition* consultation?

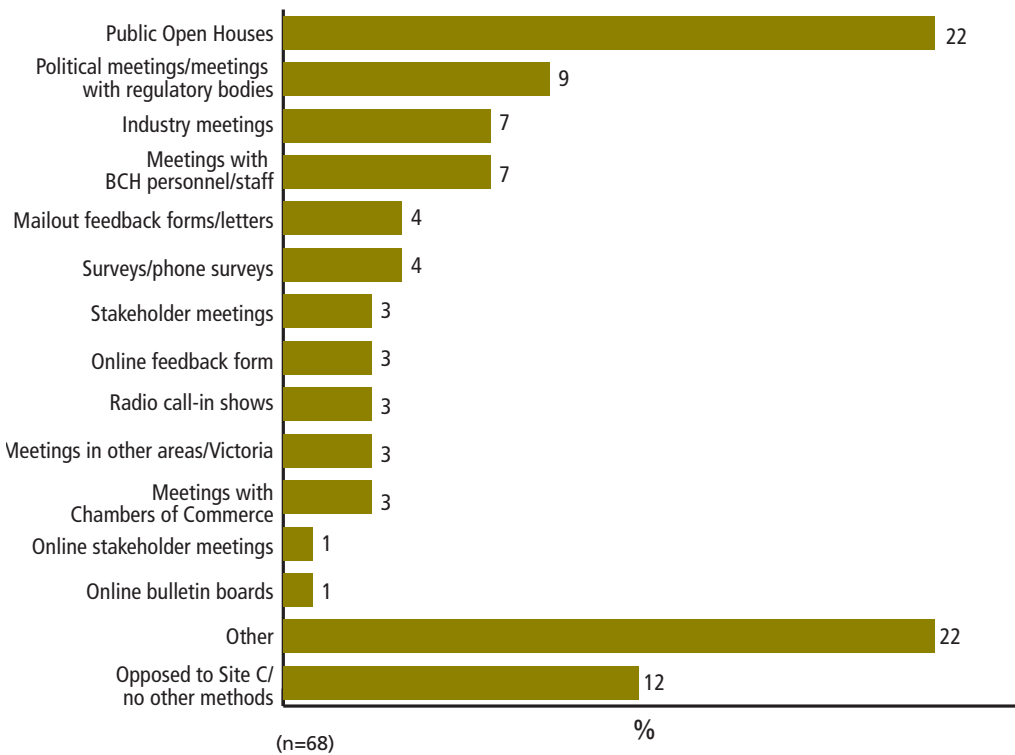


- In-person forums, such as **public Open Houses** (82% “very” and “somewhat” likely), **stakeholder meetings** (79%), and the **Fort St. John Community Consultation Office** (59%), are far more attractive options to participants from the Peace region than to those from elsewhere. Peace region participants also show greater interest in **newspaper inserts** (50%) and **online bulletin boards** (39%) as forms of participation.
- Participants from outside the Peace region, on the other hand, show greater interest in participating via an **online feedback form** (58%).

OTHER PREFERRED METHODS OF PARTICIPATION

TOTAL

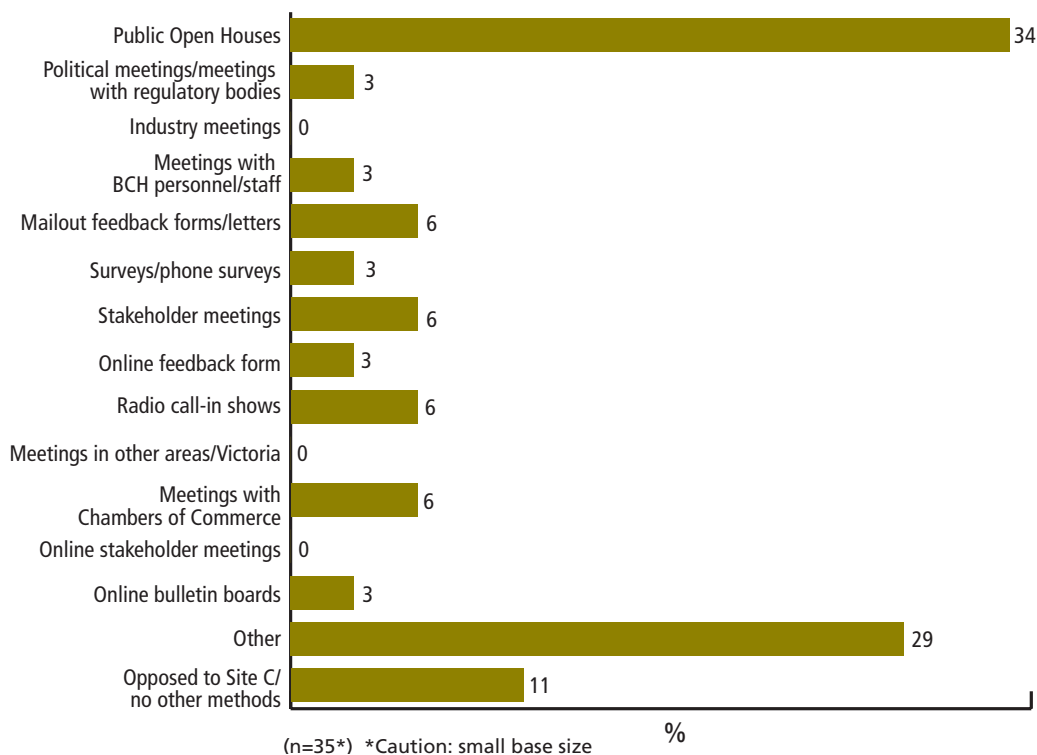
5b. What other methods are you likely to participate in?



- An open-ended question asked participants to volunteer other methods they would be likely to participate in. Apart from methods already specified in the feedback form, a small number of participants also express interest in other avenues of participation, such as **meetings with politicians** (9%), **industry** (7%), and **BC Hydro** (7%).
- A number of participants (12%) who responded to the question stated their opposition to Site C rather than suggesting other methods they would be likely to participate in.

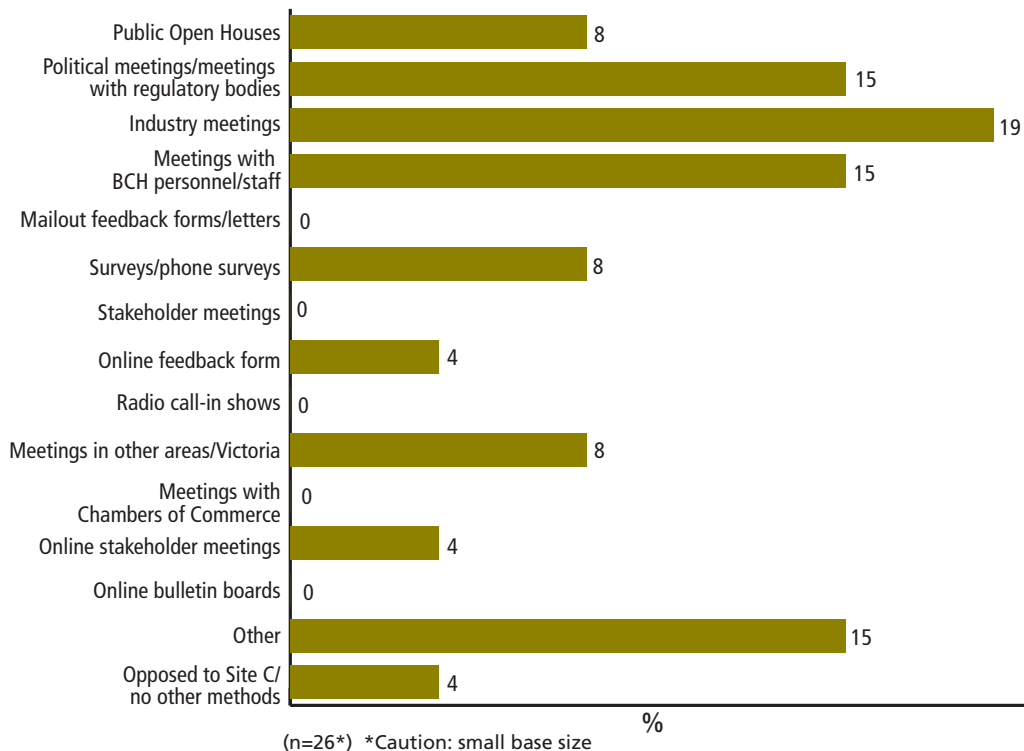
PEACE RIVER STAKEHOLDERS

5b. What other methods are you likely to participate in?



PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS

5b. What other methods are you likely to participate in?

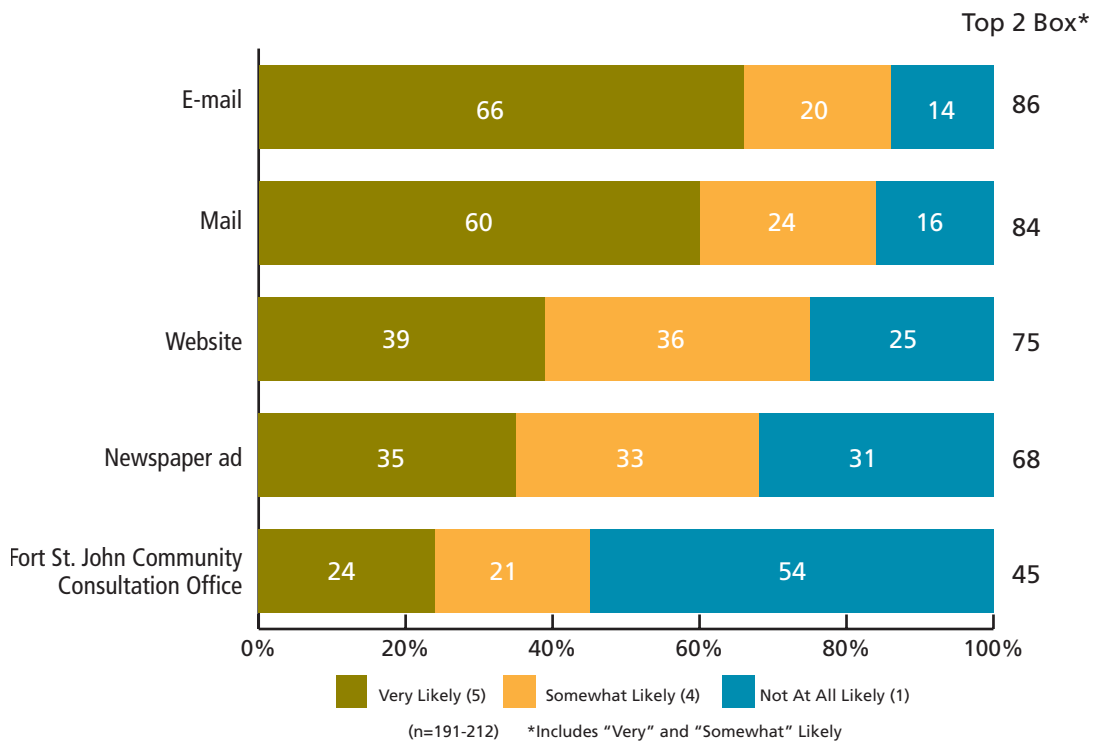


- Although the number of participants responding to this question by region is very small, those from the Peace region appear more likely to want to participate in **public Open Houses** (34%), whereas those from outside the region show greater interest in attending **meetings with representatives of industry** (19%), **government** (15%), and **BC Hydro** (15%).

LIKELIHOOD OF READING FURTHER INFORMATION RECEIVED BY VARIOUS MEDIA

TOTAL

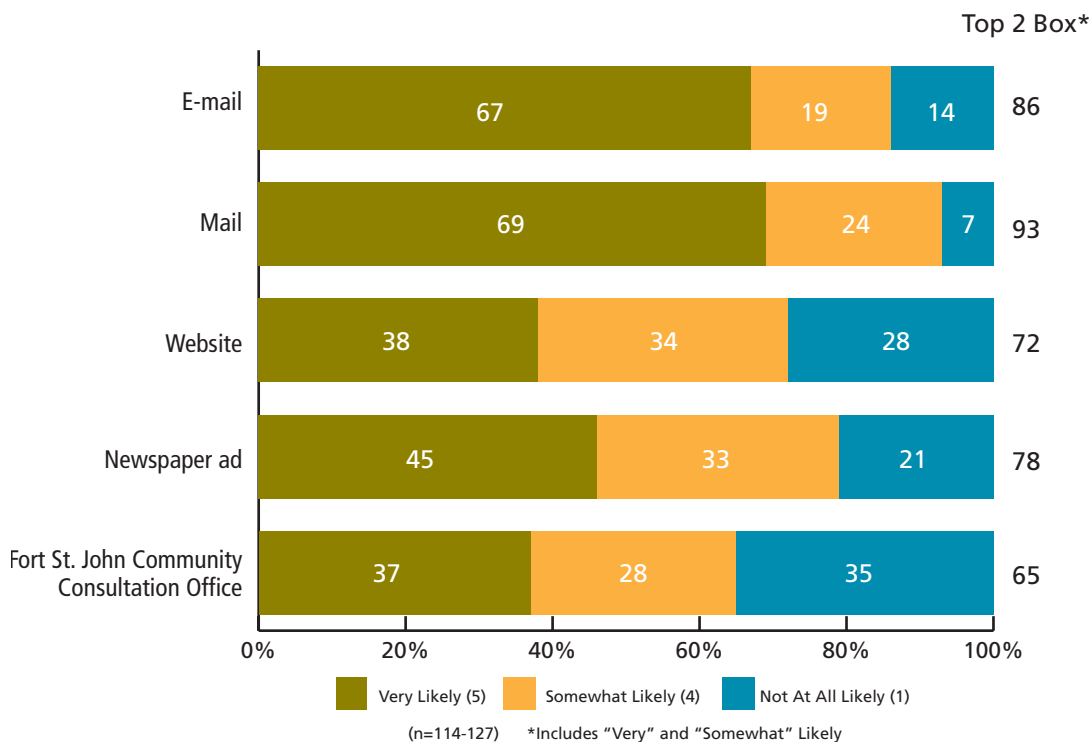
6. How likely are you to read further information about the Site C Project Definition consultation program if you receive it in the following way?



- Participants are most likely to read information about the Site C Project Definition consultation program that is received by **e-mail** (86% "very" or "somewhat" likely) or **mail** (84%). Information provided in **newspaper ads** or by **website** also have significant appeal (68% and 75%, respectively), while the **Fort St. John Community Consultation Office** would likely be used almost exclusively by participants from the Peace region.

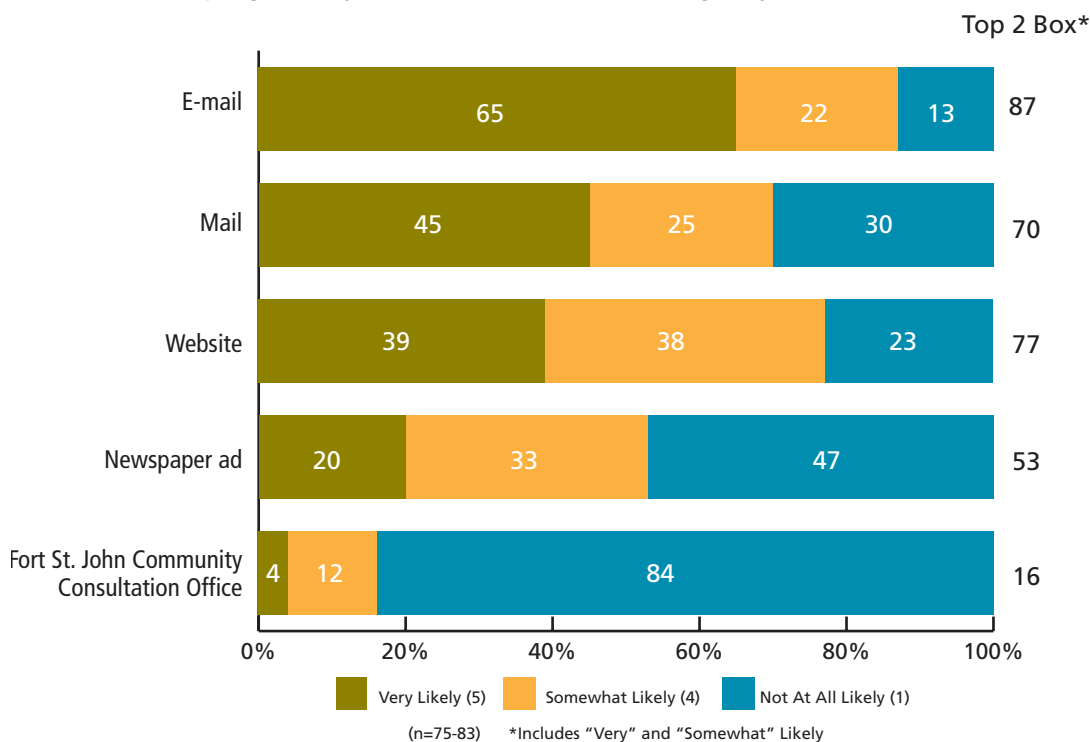
PEACE RIVER STAKEHOLDERS

6. How likely are you to read further information about the Site C Project Definition consultation program if you receive it in the following way?



PROVINCIAL STAKEHOLDERS

6. How likely are you to read further information about the Site C Project Definition consultation program if you receive it in the following way?



- While **e-mail** and **website** channels appeal equally to participants from inside and outside the Peace region, participants from the Peace show much greater interest in receiving information by **mail** (70%) or **newspaper ads** (53%).
- Not surprisingly, the **Fort St. John Community Consultation Office** is a source of information that will appeal primarily to participants from the Peace Region.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

TOTAL

7. Additional comments

Base	Total ¹ (146)	Peace River Stakeholders (86)	Provincial Stakeholders (49 ²)
	%	%	%
Don't build it/use alternative energy sources/ conserve current energy supplies	32	35	19
Have honest consultation/ ensure full disclosure/keep promises	15	19	13
Build it (gen)	9	7	15
Ensure environmental concerns are addressed (land, climate, wildlife)	9	5	19
The project will bring many benefits (financial/power production)	8	9	4
Good workshop/thanks for the information	7	7	8
Continue with consultation process	6	6	8
Ensure full disclosure regarding project costs	4	3	6
Ensure integration of wind/hydrogen generation/ small hydro projects into Site C planning	3	1	8
Ensure that First Nations is involved/has issues addressed	3	1	6
Concerned about preferential treatment for First Nations	3	1	4
Create/implement a Legacy Fund	2	3	-
Ensure that the local community benefits	2	2	-
Have an independent/neutral committee or group doing the consultation/have a neutral location	1	2	-
Other	21	19	23

1. Total is greater than sum of Peace River and provincial stakeholders as not all participants could be identified by region.

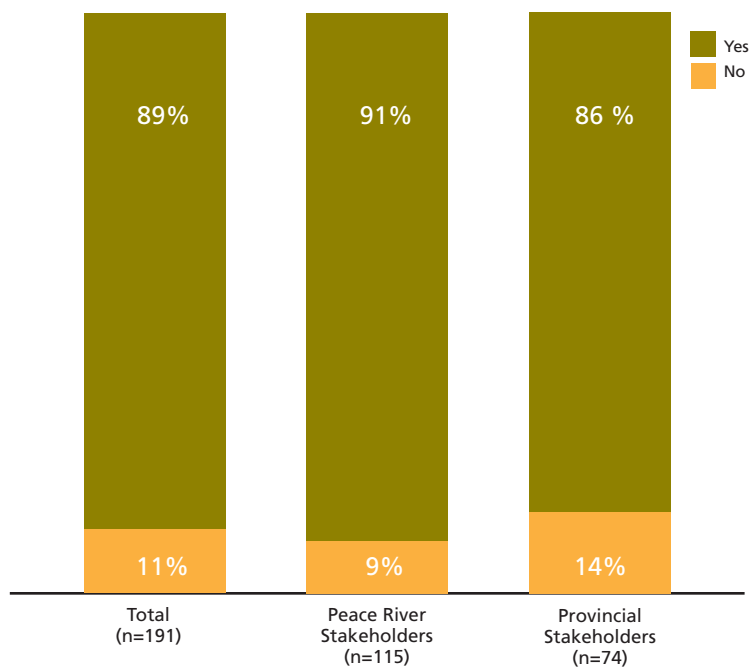
2. Caution: small base size

- Among participants who provided open-ended feedback under an "Additional Comments" section of the feedback form, 32% stated their **opposition to the Site C project** or a desire to use **alternative energy sources** or **energy conservation** instead. A higher percentage of participants from the Peace region express this sentiment than do those from outside the Peace (35% versus 19%, respectively). Relatively fewer participants express support for the project, citing the financial benefits it will bring.
- Having an **honest consultation process** with full disclosure is volunteered by 15% of participants who provided additional comments in the feedback form.

INTEREST IN RECEIVING UPDATES ON THE PROJECT

OVERALL

Would you like to receive updates on the project, including the Pre-Consultation Summary Report?



- A large majority of participants expressed interest in receiving updates on the project, including the *Pre-Consultation Summary Report*. Interest is equally high among participants from both the Peace region and elsewhere.

3.2 Submissions

- Open-ended feedback to the Site C project was also received in the form of submissions. In total, 31 submissions were received in the Pre-Consultation phase, of which 20 were from the Peace region and 8 were from outside the region. The remaining 3 could not be identified by region.
- Of the 31 submissions, approximately one-third (32%) tended to be in **opposition to Site C** and expressed a desire for pursuing **other energy alternatives**. Opposition to Site C was often related to concerns about the negative social and environmental impacts of the project.

Topics of Interest

- Participants who submitted submissions expressed an interest in being consulted on the following topics:
 - Water management (23%)
 - Socio-economic impacts (17%)
 - Land uses (17%)
 - Local benefits and opportunities (10%)
 - Project design features (10%)
- **Managing costs of construction, possible alternative sources of energy, local and provincial climate impacts, fish and wildlife impacts** and **financial support** to communities were also mentioned as relevant topics for consultation (each 7%).

Community Benefits

- Community benefits desired from the Site C project include **recreational opportunities, infrastructure upgrades, a legacy fund, subsidized energy costs**, and **social benefits** (each 3%).

Methods of Participation

- Desired methods of participation included attending **public Open Houses** (each 10%), and **mail-out or online feedback forms, stakeholder meetings**, and **radio call-in shows** (each 3%).

Additional Comments

- Some of the submissions expressed a desire for an **honest consultation process** (37%), while several others voiced outright **opposition to the Site C project** or support for pursuing **other energy alternatives** (32%).
- Other issues raised include a desire for the **pre-consultation process to be extended** (17%), an assurance that **environmental concerns** be addressed (13%), a **neutral or independent group** be responsible for the consultation process (13%), and a requirement for **full disclosure of all project costs** (7%).

3.3 Key Theme Summary of Stakeholder Meetings

In addition to Synovate's analysis of the feedback form results and submissions, Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd., a professional consultation firm, has analysed the key themes from 48 stakeholder meetings and one public meeting and Open House in Hudson's Hope.

The following represents a review of the key themes from each of the stakeholder meetings to determine the most frequently mentioned topics in the meetings. It is important to note that the key theme summary represents a qualitative analysis of stakeholder meeting notes, as opposed to the quantitative analysis of feedback forms noted above.

Meetings with Peace River stakeholders are highlighted; all others were held with provincial stakeholders.

1. December 13, 2007 – Hudson's Hope Council

- Participants were concerned that a public bridge over the river would cut off the community of Hudson's Hope (this bridge is currently conceived as a construction-access bridge over the river).
- Some participants commented that Site C could draw tourists away from the recreation areas available near Hudson's Hope. This could negatively impact tourism in the area.
- Participants were concerned about the re-location of Highway 29 and the highway bypassing Hudson's Hope.
- Participants wanted to know about other energy alternatives relative to closing the energy gap.
- Participants requested that consultation take place with the actual decision-makers (provincial government).

2. December 13, 2007 – Fort St. John Council

- Participants commented on the need for conservation and other alternatives for producing power.
- Participants commented on the environmental impacts of the reservoir and possible ways of mitigating or compensating for these impacts.
- Participants expressed interest in providing significant input into legacy benefit ideas to help with growth and development in Fort St. John.

3. January 7, 2008 – BC Chamber of Commerce

- Several participants expressed support for the Site C project proceeding.
- Participants generally sought information on various aspects of the project such as the role of Independent Power Producers (IPPs) in meeting future power demand, the future role of the Burrard Thermal plant, environmental impacts and First Nation consultations.
- Several participants asked what the 'deal breakers' were for the project.

4. January 8, 2008 – Joint Industry Electricity Steering Committee

- Participants raised the importance and sensitivity of timing of this project in terms of various economic factors at play (interest rates, construction costs, labour market).
- Participants asked a number of questions relating to capacity and revenue if and when the dam is operational.
- Participants raised technical issues related to the shoreline and the reservoir.

5. January 10, 2008 – Dawson Creek Council

- Participants commented on the continued importance of promoting and advocating energy conservation initiatives.
- Participants suggested establishing a process for net metering that would allow small local energy suppliers to sell to the grid.
- Participants noted that a legacy investment should be regionally-based.
- Participants observed, on several occasions, misconceptions regarding project impacts.
- Participants noted the construction impacts and benefits from the workforce on Dawson Creek.

6. January 10, 2008 – Peace Valley Environmental Association

- Participants identified a capacity issue with reference to time, resources and funding and their ability to effectively participate in BC Hydro's consultation process.
- Participants expressed concern regarding their ability to get their message out to the larger community.
- Participants expressed mistrust at the process, requesting an independent committee that could participate with all stakeholders and report out their views to the decision-maker (the government).
- Participants expressed historical grievances regarding the process, outcomes and existing BC Hydro facilities.
- Participants expressed a lack of confidence in the accuracy of BC Hydro load forecasting and its effect on electricity planning.
- Participants questioned the content of the latest Energy Plan believing it narrowed the alternatives to Site C.

7. January 10, 2008 – Rick Hopkins (Individual Stakeholder)

- Participant was very interested in local opportunities for contracting in Stage 2 and wants these opportunities to be well communicated.
- Expressed concern regarding the amount of potential sediment in the reservoir and its effect on the quality of fish.
- The project needs to understand the past and build the right relationships today. There is a community perception that there were a lot of broken promises when the W.A.C. Bennett Dam was built.

8. January 11, 2008 – District of Taylor

- Participants raised various water management issues, identifying areas of concern such as municipal infrastructure impacts (including Pine River effects), water temperature and ice/flooding effects, and public use concerns.
- Participants identified safety concerns regarding the proximity of Taylor to the proposed location of Site C.
- Participants noted the potential impact on future recreational opportunities and the economic implications as affected by both the dam itself and water flows downstream.

9. January 11, 2008 – North Peace Economic Development Commission

- Participants requested the establishment of an independent body to oversee the process.
- Participants requested resources and access to information as well as adequate time to prepare for a consultation.
- Participants noted the importance of quantifying the economic loss of agricultural lands.

10. January 14, 2008 – North Peace Rod and Gun Club

- Participants raised concerns about fish and wildlife – the loss of habitat causing loss of animals, determining baseline numbers for the various species.
- Participants inquired about alternatives to Site C, such as several smaller run-of-river projects instead of one large one, wind projects, and Burrard Thermal.
- Participants voiced concerns about the discrepancy between rates in the North when compared to the rest of the province, especially the South Coast, and how once again, this region is bearing the impacts for everyone else.
- Participants expressed apprehension about the consultation process and whether they were getting all the “real” answers.

11. January 17, 2008 – Independent Power Producers of British Columbia

- Participants noted that the arrangements that BC Hydro makes regarding Site C may act as precedents for IPPs.
- Participants asked how Site C will be integrated within the electrical system, including IPPs. How will the portfolio of supply alternatives (that include IPPs and Site C) be assessed in the IEP and LTAP processes?
- Several participants expressed a desire to have detailed, transparent financial information available throughout the process.
- Participants were interested in understanding the details of the transmission upgrades required as it may affect the costs and risks of Site C and it may affect IPP interconnections.
- Participants requested regular meetings between BC Hydro and IPPBC through the consultation phase that include IEP/LTAP staff and wanted these to be able to answer very detailed questions.
- One participant noted that Site C will have a large impact on First Nations lands and requested information detailing what will be done about this.

12. January 21, 2008 – BC & Yukon Hotel Association

- The participants were interested in the project development and construction timelines and how the project would communicate with suppliers and contractors. Participants were particularly interested in what notice would be provided before the project proceeded.
- The participants had questions regarding how greenhouse gas emissions from the project would be measured.
- Impacts on community infrastructure in the region were noted by the participants.

13. January 22, 2008 – Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce

- Participants noted the importance of local benefits.
- Participants noted land impacts relative to sloughing and loss of agricultural Class 1 lands.
- Participants questioned the operation of run-of-river versus reservoir and whether there were other options and alternatives.
- Participants noted the impact of construction materials and how they will be transported to the site.

14. January 23, 2008 – District of Chetwynd

- Participants noted the importance of the bridge over the river and the perceived negative economic impact to Chetwynd if public access is granted after dam construction is finished. As well participants noted that if public access does occur then the road should be properly finished and built to good highway standards to facilitate easy access between the communities of Chetwynd and Fort St. John. In addition, this issue is related to worker housing during construction in the Chetwynd area because this road could provide the mechanism for workers to live in Chetwynd and work on the dam site.
- Participants noted the value of holding open houses during consultation in the local communities. These consultations should include information relative to future energy planning and the integration of IPPs.
- Participants raised issues of slope stability, siltation and metal contamination.

15. January 23, 2008 – Peace River Regional District

- Participants questioned why BC Hydro was going ahead with the evaluation of Site C when they did not have any other large hydro alternatives under consideration, leading many people to believe that the decision to go ahead with Site C had already been made. BC Hydro is not exploring any other large electricity project other than buying from IPPs.
- Participants identified environmental concerns such as gravel extraction, fish habitat, recreational river opportunities and safety with respect to bank stabilization and reservoir operations.
- Participants discussed potential legacy benefits to the region.

- Participants suggested that if this project ends, that the flood reserve should be removed.
- Participants requested how capacity funding could be provided to prepare stakeholders with the ability to respond.

16. January 24, 2008 – Northern BC Guides Association

- Participants expressed worry regarding their tenure and maintaining their guiding license and business.
- Participants wanted an opportunity to provide input of local knowledge into the environmental studies, design and study implementation.
- Participants commented on their ability to provide equipment and sought opportunities for work if the project went ahead.
- Participants expressed concern regarding the redistribution of elk, moose and deer in the Valley with the loss of low elevation winter habitat.

17. January 24, 2008 – Village of Pouce Coupe

- Participants asked about alternatives to Site C, particularly Burrard Thermal, nuclear and wind power.
- Participants noted that the impacts of power were regional while the benefits were province-wide, particularly the Lower Mainland.
- Participants asked about First Nations consultation, and one participant noted that they would like the same deal as First Nations.

18. January 25, 2008 – Hudson's Hope Historical Society

- Participants commented on the historical impacts of energy generation on the Peace River and the perceived lack of sufficient mitigation for those impacts.
- Participants questioned the lack of alternatives to Site C, leading to the perception that this project would go ahead.
- Participants requested a written commitment from BC Hydro regarding the protection of the Hudson Hope Historical Society Museum and associated lands, and requested ongoing funding for the Hudson's Hope Historical Society and Peace Canyon Visitor's Center.
- Participants questioned the consultation process and raised the concern that the feedback form is biased.
- Participants noted that the uncertainty around Site C is creating a negative impact on the Valley suggesting that if the benefits of Site C are to be evaluated, so should the benefits of not building Site C.
- Participants noted that a public bridge over the river and upgraded road between Fort St. John and Chetwynd would negatively impact Hudson's Hope.

19. January 29, 2008 – District of Mackenzie

- Participants were interested in potential impacts to the Williston Reservoir from the filling or operation of Site C.
- Participants questioned whether bioenergy – production of electricity from fibre – is a viable option when there are challenges getting the fibre and with mills closing.
- Participants had questions about the size of the reservoir, impact on agricultural land, and whether the Treaty 8 First Nations would be consulted.
- One participant noted that in the Stage 1 Report, BC Hydro references the Net Property Tax and Grant Payments to Municipalities and Districts; there should be reference to Mackenzie as well, because BC Hydro paid a big portion to Mackenzie, and it is substantial to the community.

20. January 31, 2008 – Electricity Conservation and Efficiency Advisory Committee

- Participants raised questions regarding the potential environmental and social impacts of the project on land owners, agriculture, First Nations and greenhouse gas emissions.
- General discussion regarding project economics, costing, and ultimately the process for comparing the updated Site C Project against other electricity conservation or supply options.
- General discussion about the public consultation process for Site C and how it integrates with future consultation for the LTAP and IEP, and the separate consultation with First Nations.

21. January 31, 2008 – District of Tumbler Ridge

- Participants raised concerns about the consultation process and integrity of the feedback form.
- Participants asked about alternatives to Site C, including how realistic conservation goals are, and the potential for nuclear power.
- Participants discussed impacts to the land base, including agricultural land, re-location of Highway 29, and potential public access downstream from the dam.

22. January 31, 2008 – Westcoast Environmental Law Society

- Participants were interested in the consultation process being considered for the Site C project.
- Participants questioned how options/alternatives to Site C are being considered.
- Participants questioned impacts on landowners, land, river, and BC Hydro's experience with earth-filled dams.
- Participants indicated that capacity funding may be needed for involvement in consultation.

23. February 1, 2008 – World Wildlife Fund

- The participant was interested in environmental studies being conducted around the project; he indicated his group would like to receive studies.
- The participant indicated interest in being kept informed about the consultation process.
- The participant noted that the environmental community refers to the World Commission on Dams when evaluating the stakeholder process.
- The participant indicated interest in GHG modeling around the project.
- The participant indicated his group could refer scientific experts to review studies or participate in committees.

24. February 1, 2008 – Pembina Institute

- Participants were interested in the consultation model being considered for the Site C project and suggested Hydro should consider the Clear Air Strategic Alliance Model that was used in Alberta.
- Participants were interested in the natural value/environmental footprint of the site of the potential dam and reservoir as it is now, how the natural value would be measured and modeled, and what the environmental footprint would be.
- Participants questioned how options/alternatives to Site C are being considered, such as wind power and other emerging technologies.
- Participants recommended a link between the government (as the decision maker) and the multi-stakeholder process because advice that arises from the process is sometimes ignored by decision makers.

25. February 1, 2008 – North Central Municipal Association

- Participants suggested that carbon off-sets could be used to benefit the north, and asked if the project was being viewed in this way.
- Participants asked about remote community power extensions as a potential northern community benefit.
- Participants commented on the energy gap observing that Site C may be 'too little too late' and questioned what other significant resources were being considered such as Kemano II, other large hydro sites, IPPs and coal-fired generation.

26. February 4, 2008 – Peace Energy Cooperative

- Participants want alternatives to Site C included in consultation; an alternative could be to conserve more and structure market factors (i.e. sliding scale for base rates).
- Participants commented that conservation must be encouraged and rewarded.
- Participants questioned why options further downstream on the Peace River (Site E) are not being evaluated.
- Participants noted there is a huge potential in IPP energy that could go a long way to close the energy gap. Make sure to do a full accounting of environmental impacts including carbon model and mercury.

27. February 4, 2008 – Don Bourassa (Individual Stakeholder)

- While the participant “thinks we need Site C”, he noted that BC Hydro needs to investigate as many options as possible to close the energy gap, including nuclear power and Site C; if we want “green” power, BC Hydro should not purchase power from Alberta and the United States.
- Participant noted that a project like Site C has many environmental impacts such as loss of islands for calving grounds for moose and deer, colder water impacts to fish, bank instability, and mercury levels.
- Participant was interested in what BC Hydro has identified as issues, what studies will be done and how impacts could be eliminated or resolved.

28. February 5, 2008 – Chetwynd Chamber of Commerce

- Participants expressed interest in potential legacy benefits such as regional trades/skills training programs to prepare local workers for the project; considering Chetwynd as a project construction hub; and the need for road upgrading or a short route from Chetwynd to dam site.
- Participants were interested in the impacts to the local communities and residents, including Chetwynd, and ways in which BC Hydro could provide benefits to these communities.
- Participants were interested in alternatives to Site C, including other hydro projects and alternate forms of energy.

29. February 5, 2008 – Chetwynd Environmental Society

- Participants noted that alternatives to Site C should be adequately explored and that conservation efforts/changes should be made, specifically for industrial users.
- Participants stated that it should be mandatory to monitor energy use and place more emphasis on conserving energy.
- Participants supported public power generation (by BC Hydro) rather than private IPPs.
- Participants requested that when determining if Site C would proceed, BC Hydro should consider non-dollar values based on such things as pristine land and resources in the area.
- Participants expressed concerns about contamination levels (i.e. mercury).

30. February 5, 2008 – Independent Power Producers of British Columbia

- Participants requested to be consulted on the use of reservoir storage for intermittent sources such as wind resources.
- Participants suggested they be consulted through the Wind Committee of the IPPBC.
- Participants expressed interest in transmission costs and whether First Nations mitigation had been considered in the overall cost estimate for the project.
- Participants noted that First Nations consultation was important.

31. February 5, 2008 – West Fraser Mills

- Stakeholders were interested in the potential environmental impacts of the project particularly related to logging of the potential areas to be flooded, including the islands. The loss of critical habitat and old growth forest could negatively impact their Land Management Plan and certification to operate.
- Stakeholders were interested in the potential access across the Peace River at or near the proposed dam site since improved access could have positive and negative impacts to their operation.
- Stakeholders were interested in the consultation process with First Nations, and mentioned that West Fraser has a process in place that utilizes consultants and local First Nations.

32. February 7, 2008 – Independent Contractors and Business Association of BC

- The participant was interested in the capital cost of the project, the construction timeline, construction jobs that would be created and the potential start date for construction.
- The timing of a potential 2012 start date for construction was seen as positive in relation to when other large projects in British Columbia may be concluding their construction cycle.
- The participant was interested in the procurement method and strategy for Site C, and indicated that this would be a topic on which his members would like to be consulted going forward.
- The participant further recommended consulting with the Northern BC Construction Association about Site C.
- With timing of potential construction four to five years away, the participant recommended further consultation should the project proceed to the next stages of development.

33. February 7, 2008 – Vancouver Island Economic Alliance

- Participants asked about BC Hydro's importing and exporting of power and the sources of power, and conservation.
- Participants asked about potential benefits to the local community in terms of jobs and benefits to First Nations.
- Participants commented on ensuring that Vancouver Island would benefit from the Site C project, if it were to go ahead.
- Participants asked if BC Hydro had considered options other than Site C.

34. February 7, 2008 – Nature Trust of British Columbia

- Participants expressed a willingness to participate and partner on ecosystem risk protection and restoration opportunities.
- Participants expressed interest in climate change long-term mitigation opportunities.
- Participants expressed interest in energy alternatives such as geothermal, nuclear, solar and tidal power.
- Participants expressed interest in local environment mitigation plans.

35. February 7, 2008 – Council of Forest Industries

- Participants asked questions regarding costs of energy, cost to construct, etc.
- Participants asked what the major risks to the project were.
- Participants asked how broad the consultations were and where the First Nations consultations stood.
- Participants were knowledgeable and supportive of large hydro projects and commented on the quality of the due diligence shown to date.
- Participants questioned whether the growth will be as forecasted, recognizing that while conservation was important, the target reduction was very aggressive.

36. February 11, 2008 – Spectra Energy

- Participants discussed and asked many questions regarding alternative energy sources, including Burrard Thermal, nuclear and smart-metering options.
- Participants noted that two key impacts to Spectra Energy will be any change to the “delta T” and water fluctuations.
- Participants commented on the turbidity of the water flows past their intake noting that changes in the turbidity could negatively impact their operations as well as Fiber Co. Participants further noted that warmer water temperatures could negatively impact their operation advising they use the water for cooling purposes.

37. February 12, 2008 – Northern BC Guides and Outfitters

- Participants did not support the project.
- Participants requested that the debris be cleaned up on the Williston Reservoir observing that BC Hydro will be judged on the new reservoir by what they did (or did not do) at the Williston Reservoir. Participants commented that debris on the Williston Reservoir is a problem.
- Participants expressed concern regarding delays that could take place during road construction and the resultant financial impact to their business.
- Participants suggested that if the Site C project continues, a community liaison officer be appointed to meet and address local concerns as they arise.
- Participants commented that they should be notified when helicopters will be used to track animals as the helicopter flights are disruptive to their business.
- Participants noted that there is a process (matting made from concrete) used to keep the Mississippi River from flooding and this should be considered for use if Site C project continues.

38. February 12, 2008 – St. Peter’s Congregation, Hudson’s Hope

- Participants did not support the project.
- Participants requested that solid information be ready before the next consultation period and that information include exact details on the safeline, how high the new water levels will be, bank stability mitigation measures and disposition of the historic landing site, etc.

- Participants questioned the process, believing that the feedback form was biased in favor of the project and that the actual consultation process should be undertaken by a neutral third party.
- Participants discussed, at length, alternatives to Site C including maintaining the Burrard Thermal facility, wind and solar energy, bio-energy initiatives and more stringent conservation initiatives.
- Participants believe that the Peace Valley has paid the price for the consumption of energy in the Lower Mainland.

39. February 12, 2008 – Vancouver Board of Trade Sustainability Committee

- Participants noted that the Vancouver Board of Trade is supportive of the project.
- Participants asked about BC Hydro's conservation methods and ways to lower consumption.
- Participants asked about the alternatives to Site C and opportunities for private sector involvement.
- Participants discussed Site C as a clean option for power.

40. February 12, 2008 – Union of British Columbia Municipalities

- Participants raised concerns about tax implications related to the changing use of the lands and the potential loss of tax revenue through the loss of land.
- Participants raised concerns over safety design and future jurisdiction of roads.
- Participants stressed the importance of ensuring a broad consultation process for the next phase of the project, to ensure that all communities are included.
- Participants requested that UBCM approved directions relating to energy use be included in the material.

41. February 13, 2008 – Fort Nelson/Northern Rockies Regional District

- Participants discussed alternate power sources, including biomass and nuclear, and conservation measures.
- Participants suggested that if a cancer clinic was established in Fort St. John, it would create a benefit to the region as a whole.
- Participants supported the project even suggesting that it could have been built sooner.

42. February 13, 2008 Fraser Basin Council

- Participants expressed interest in how the project will address the impacts, regionally and provincially, on agriculture.
- Participants expressed interest in how the project will address the impacts on the community, and what reinvestment back into the community would take place.

43. February 14, 2008 – Fort St. John Residents/Landowners

- Participants questioned the pre-consultation process, requested a copy of the Terms of Reference and believed that the Discussion Guide was biased in favor of the project.
- Participants requested that in the next round of consultation, particular emphasis be given to open public forums with questions and answers and a broader public and media presence. As well, representatives from the Vancouver Sun and Province should be invited. These public forums should be focused in Hudson's Hope because it is more central.
- Participants requested that consultation, for example, on the road re-alignment be undertaken rather than presented as a done deal.
- Participants commented that the process, or the "how" of the consultation, was what they wanted to provide input on at this stage and that the "what" or topics they would prefer to comment on at another time in another forum.

44. February 14, 2008 – Canadian Taxpayers Federation

- Participant expressed interest in whether the project was really needed – worth the investment of taxpayer money.
- Participant expressed interest in the energy that the province imports and exports, as well as the ability to store power, and how this project would affect these issues.
- Participant expressed interest in whether or not the government would be able to step away from this project with money already invested.

45. February 14, 2008 – Ducks Unlimited

- Participant suggested, where applicable, that multi-stakeholder tables could be an effective consultation tool in the next phase of the consultation.
- Participant suggested that alternative energy sources need to continue to be encouraged; for example there would be value in developing a program whereby people were encouraged to put solar panels on their roof. As well, BC Hydro should be encouraged to continue investigating other large hydro options.
- Participant observed that it would be valuable to clear the reservoir before it is flooded.
- Participant suggested that BC Hydro be more proactive in getting its message out because it is important that the public understands the value of the project in relationship to the whole energy system.

46. February 14, 2008 – Community Futures Development

- Participants observed that the Peace Valley endures the impacts from the dams while the benefits are realized by the residents of the Lower Mainland including power, medical services and financial benefits.

- Participants encouraged the continued investigation into alternative energy sources particularly financial initiatives for those IPPs with marginal or developing technology, for example wood waste.
- Participants supported doing a thorough environmental assessment with appropriate mitigation and this would include shore line protection, sedimentation processes and ensuring that agricultural land is not alienated either through flooding or highway relocation.

47. February 15, 2008 – Peace Valley OSB: Canfor/LP

- Participants requested that the nuclear option be at least assessed in terms of alternative power sources.
- Participants noted the potential for socio-economic impacts in terms of the construction work force and the potential competition for human resources.
- Participants noted the value of building and developing good relationships with the First Nations and offered to facilitate in relationship to their 6-Nations Venture with the Doig River, West Moberly, Saulteau, Blueberry River, Halfway River, and Prophet River First Nations.
- Participants noted that the impact from the dams happens here and the benefit goes to the Lower Mainland suggesting that the Peace Region should receive, as a benefit, lower electricity rates.
- Participants noted the potential impact on their timber resource base stating they must know in advance if the timber needs to be harvested, before flooding of the reservoir, so that they can work this into their management plan.

48. February 15, 2008 – Northern BC Construction Association

- Participants expressed interest in the procurement strategy as well as what they described as a “lengthy timeline” for the project.
- Participants expressed interest in the concerns of “naysayers” and how support for the project varies throughout the province.
- Participants expressed interest in both project funding and ownership.

3.4 Public Meeting and Open House

1. February 19, 2008 Public Meeting and Open House, Hudson's Hope

- Participants commented that they did not want to see Site C built, at the expense of Peace River communities, to benefit the Lower Mainland.
- Participants noted the importance of preserving heritage sites in the Peace Valley.
- Participants stated that they were skeptical that a decision to build Site C has not been made.
- Participants expressed concerns about the Pre-Consultation process, stating that they felt the consultation should be about energy alternatives and the energy plan, rather than Site C.

