

# Site C Clean Energy Project

## Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

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*Meeting Summary*  
*March 13, 2019, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm*  
*Northern Grand Hotel, Fort St. John*

<p><b>ATTENDEES</b></p> <p><i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i></p>	<p>Dan Davies, MLA Peace River North            Tamara Wilkinson, MLA Assistant, Peace River North            Mayor Allen Courtoreille, Chetwynd            Mayor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope            Arlene Solonas, L &amp; R Consultation Coordinator, McLeod Lake Indian Band            Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District            Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District            Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District            Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District            Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor            Lilia Hansen, Fort St John (Mayor Delegate)            Moira Green, Fort St. John (City Manager Delegate)            Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nation            Bella Gravel, Blueberry River First Nation            Courtney Acko, Blueberry River First Nation            Louise Cardinal, Blueberry River First Nation</p> <p>Dave Conway, BC Hydro            Shanna Mason, BC Hydro            Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro            Ben Rauscher, BC Hydro            Lindsay Routledge, BC Hydro            Ross Turner, BC Hydro            Chris Waite, BC Hydro            Adelle Yott, BC Hydro</p>
<p><b>ABSENT WITH REGRET</b></p>	<p>Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South            Mayor Keith Bertrand, Tumbler Ridge            Jane Calvert, Blueberry River First Nation            Carol Newsom, CAO, Chetwynd            Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek            Duncan Redfearn, CAO, Dawson Creek            Cec Heron, Doig River First Nation            Andrew Young, CAO Taylor            Chris Cvik, CAO Acting Hudson's Hope</p>

	Fay Masear, McLeod Lake Indian Band Christopher Leggett, CAO, Pouce Coupe Shawn Dahlen, CAO, Peace River Regional District Jordan Wall, CAO, Tumbler Ridge Councillor Nathan Parenteau, Sauleau
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>	Brian Hussain, ATCO Jamie Bodnarchuk, Peace River Hydro Partners Mike Dumancic, Voith Hydro Ann Danilevich, AFDE Troy Van Bostelen, AFDE Katherine Styba, MoTI Nicola Hogg, MoTI

**Documents Distributed (via email on March 12, 2019)**

Meeting Final Agenda  
 Site C Project Update Presentation  
 BC Hydro Site C Public Enquiries Report for January-February 2019  
 January 2019 Workforce Report  
 Site C BC Hydro 2018 Business Summary (Q4)  
 Site C Heritage Program Brochure  
 Site C Pre-Carpentry Skills Trade Pilot Program Brochure  
 RCLC Action Log- Updated March 6, 2019

**1. Opening / Welcome / Agenda**

- a) Dave Conway welcomed the Committee members to the meeting.
- b) Dave acknowledged the Treaty 8 people and the territory within which the meeting was held and thanked the Treaty 8 members present for attending.
- c) A round of introductions occurred.
- d) The agenda was reviewed and a request for any additional items was made by Dave Conway.
  - a. No additional agenda items were added.

**2. Review of Action Items**

- a) Dave Conway reviewed the action item log and asked if the Committee had any questions.
  - a. The Committee did not have any questions on the action item log.

**3. BC Hydro Project Update**

**On-Site Construction Update**

The following Site C Video was played for the Committee: [Site C: Moving 11 million cubic metres of soil and rock](#)

Ross Turner introduced himself as the Director of On-Site Construction for Site C and outlined the construction activities for the year and the anticipated schedule, noting that construction will be completed in 2024.

Construction activities included:

- a) The diversion tunnels.
- b) The six penstocks, encased in concrete, which will be used to carry water to the turbines once the dam is constructed.
- c) The conveyor belt that will transport till to the construction site from the 85th Avenue Industrial Lands.
- d) The camp expansion, including the addition of 150 beds, which will begin this spring, with a targeted completion of this summer to early fall.
- e) Chetwynd inquired about the picture of the penstocks and whether they will be reinforced. Ross Turner answered yes they are set in reinforced concrete.

Shanna Mason presented on behalf of Steve Abbey, who was unable to attend. Shanna discussed care of water on-site and preparation for spring freshet. Shanna explained there are three sources of water that BC Hydro manages:

- i. Water that originates outside the dam site that travels through the site to the river
  - ii. Water which originates on the dam site
  - iii. Water used for project purposes such as dust suppression or aggregate washing
- a) Shanna described some of the work that has been completed in the last year to manage these three sources of water. Additional treatment and storage capacity has been added to improve water management.
  - b) Spring freshet and extreme rainfall events during the summer are the most challenging times for water management on the dam site.
  - c) Shanna spoke about a discharge event of high pH water which occurred last fall due to a heavy rain event. BC Hydro posted a public bulletin about this in September 2018, and notified downstream communities. This year BC Hydro has increased the storage capacity in the ponds to manage the challenges from significant rain events.
  - d) The PRRD asked where BC Hydro gets the water it uses on-site for the project. Shanna explained BC Hydro was drawing from the river, but received approval to use water from holding ponds on-site provided the pH was within acceptable range.
  - e) The PRRD asked if BC Hydro would consider using reclaimed water from the reclamation facility in Fort St. John or Charlie Lake and requested to have further discussion with BC Hydro regarding the use of reclaimed water for the project.

**Action:** BC Hydro will follow-up with the PRRD and the City of Fort St. John regarding the use of reclaimed water for activities at the dam site.

The following Site C Video was played for the Committee: [Site C: How do you move a river?](#)

- a) Chetwynd asked what will be done with the diversion tunnels once they are no longer needed. Ross Turner explained that BC Hydro will go into the center of the tunnel and put a concrete plug in it to block each tunnel to seal them up.
- b) Chetwynd asked a follow-up question about the safety of the tunnels and earthquake impact concerns. Ross explained the walls are reinforced to help withstand an earthquake.

### **Off-Site Construction Update**

Chris Waite, the Director for Off-Site Construction, provided an update on the timeline and areas of construction located outside of the dam site, including the Highway 29 realignment, reservoir clearing, transmission line, and the substation, including:

- a) Transmission work is on track for completion in 2020.
- b) One hundred twenty tower foundations will be completed by the end of this winter construction season.
- c) Crews are completing assembly and erection of approximately 3 towers per day.
- d) The first 500 kilovolt line is expected to be in service in the fall of 2020.
- e) In 2020 and 2021, transmission construction will ramp up again.
- f) The procurement schedule for the highway realignment project in the presentation was reviewed. Providing this schedule was an action item from the November 2018 RCLC meeting.
- g) Around the end of March, BC Hydro is planning to submit an EAC certificate amendment for Cache Creek East. This is usually about a six month process.
- h) Reservoir clearing and transmission line clearing are occurring. BC Hydro has been actively working with contractors to minimize traffic and noise impacts.
- i) Clearing along the Moberly and Old Hope Road will conclude for the season in the next couple of weeks depending on the weather.
- j) Question from the MLA regarding what percentage of wood being cleared is being used. Chris Waite responded that if the wood is merchantable timber then BC Hydro actively tries to sell it to local mills.

### **EAC Amendments and Program Update**

Shanna Mason, the Director of Regulatory, Environment, Social, Properties and Communications, provided an update on EAC amendments and environmental programs including:

- a) The new BC Hydro Site C heritage program brochure, which outlines one of the largest heritage projects in Canada. This program collects information on how this area was used in the past.
- b) A mostly intact bison was discovered. The bison will likely be sent down to the Royal BC Museum. The video of the excavation of the bison can be found at: <https://vimeo.com/315953373/6b16ef500a>.
- c) There are three EAC amendments that will be submitted soon for:
  - a. Highway 29 realignment for Cache Creek East,
  - b. Agriculture groundwater monitoring program and
  - c. Worker accommodation camp.
- d) For the highway realignment, notice was sent to First Nations and affected property owners.

- e) PRRD asked for clarification regarding the ground water monitoring versus compensation for potential groundwater impacts. Nancy Pepper responded that during the environmental assessment, the professional agrologists identified that there was a narrow elevation range around the reservoir where there might be a negative or positive impact on crop productivity due to the rise in the groundwater. BC Hydro has determined that the farm operators in that area are already being compensated for the change in groundwater so monitoring would be duplicative and would not result in any additional compensation for the farm operators if monitoring identified a negative impact. Due to this duplication, BC Hydro is seeking an amendment to compensate farm operators instead of monitoring.
- f) PRRD asked whether BC Hydro was required to send artifacts to the museum.
- g) Shanna Mason shared that under the terms of Site C's Heritage Conservation Act permit, the archaeological artifacts must be provided to the Fort St. John Museum [please note that this is a correction, in the meeting it was misstated that the artifacts are going to the Hudson's Hope Museum] after BC Hydro's consultants prepare the artifacts.
- h) PRRD responded they are concerned about artifacts leaving the area. Recently local artifacts were returned to the area and are stored and displayed at the Dawson Creek museum.
- i) Shanna explained that it would be the role of the local First Nation groups to determine where the archived and stored artifacts go along with the regulator.
- j) McLeod Lake Indian Band stated that they would like to keep the more valued pieces in their area and that they would like to be consulted on this.
- k) PRRD stated they would like to see even the small pieces remain and that they do not want artifacts leaving the area until they have been consulted first.
- l) Chetwynd stated that if the piece has anything to do with ceremonies, even if it is not large, they would like to look at the item, and asked what the process will be for doing that.

**Action:** BC Hydro will follow-up with the RCLC members regarding their interest in archaeological and paleontological artifacts.

### **Community and Social Mitigation Update**

Nancy Pepper introduced herself as the Manager of Community and Social Mitigation and provided an update on community and social mitigation including:

- a) BC Hydro provided 1 million dollars to Northern Lights College in 2012 for the BC Hydro Trades and Skilled Training Award Bursary to support the development of skilled workers in the north, targeting those students who may not otherwise have access to post-secondary education. This funding was distributed over a 5 year period ending in fall 2018. Half of the funding was dedicated for aboriginal students. The Bursary funded 241 students total, 100 of which were aboriginal students. There was a small amount of funding left over, so this funding was used by Northern Lights College to set up the pilot carpentry program described in the brochure.
- b) Nancy encouraged the Committee to share the brochure with potentially interested community members to help recruit participants.
- c) AFDE stated they have been working with PRHP and BC Hydro on this pilot project program and that it provides five days of job shadowing and supervision by a site foreman, which is a big training opportunity.
- d) Nancy thanked AFDE and PRHP for the collaborative effort to run this program.

- e) The BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund (Fund) was established last year. The \$20 million dollars from BC Hydro was transferred in December 2018 to the Fund Administrator (Northern Development Initiative Trust) so they can start managing the funds to provide investment income which can be distributed as grants while maintaining the \$20 million in capital. The Fund Board and NDIT will review the investment returns in mid- 2019 to determine the timing and amount of the 2019 grant intake.
- f) Chetwynd asked if the compensation for this is ongoing, and if it is good for the agricultural community.
- g) Nancy responded that BC Hydro consulted extensively with local agricultural producers to develop the approach for the Fund. There will be a review of the Fund in five years to determine how the Fund will be administered in the long-term. Now that the Fund is established, BC Hydro is now playing a more limited role and the Board and Fund Administrator lead most of the work.

#### **4. Jobs and Businesses**

Lindsay Routledge introduced herself as the Stakeholder Engagement Advisor for Site C and provided a job and business update.

- a) Dave Conway requested feedback from the Committee as to whether the RCLC Business Summary could be changed from quarterly to annual frequency or if the quarterly report was still being used by communities.
- b) McLeod Lake Indian Band wanted to know if the report changes much throughout the year. Dave stated that the number goes up and down slightly per report but the businesses usually stay the same.
- c) Fort St. John stated that they use the information frequently to respond to inquiries. Dave stated that if the quarterly report is of on-going value then BC Hydro will keep providing it.

#### **5. Contractor Updates**

BC Hydro's prime contractors provided an update including:

- a) AFDE:
  - i. They are placing concrete in the powerhouse, and 20% of the concrete for the entire powerhouse structure has been placed.
  - ii. The intake and penstock team are starting up over the next couple of months, with the biggest tower crane (64 metric tonnes) also being installed. The crane is used to install the penstocks.
  - iii. The penstocks are 10 m in diameter and 80 m in length. They are fabricated in pieces locally, and are assembled using cranes.
  - iv. They will be hiring 400 craft workers between now and October, 95% will be carpenters and labours, about 5% equipment operators.
  - v. Fort St. John asked AFDE if they are holding job fairs. AFDE stated they are attending the job fair tomorrow in Fort St. John.
  - vi. PRRD asked AFDE when they are attending a job show in Chetwynd, and AFDE responded that they were only doing one at this time, and that they were also in Mackenzie, and yesterday at Saulteau.
  - vii. Fort St. John asked AFDE if workers have to be a union member to apply. AFDE responded that workers need to be a union member to work there and if the

worker is not a current union member they must become one but that has not been an issue.

- b) Voith
  - i. They are building generators and the scroll case, and they have about 20 people on site.
  - ii. Voith stated they are planning to go up to 100-150 people at their peak, in about a year to a year and a half when they start installing the generators.
- c) ATCO
  - i. Explained that their workforce is for the camp, and that they are working on the camp expansion and a few additional small projects.
  - ii. They are recruiting for entry level kitchen and housekeeping, and ATCO is running a kitchen skills program and a housekeeping skills program to support people to learn skills they can retain and use in their own personal life as well as for potential employment with ATCO.
- d) PRHP
  - i. Winter work has included completion of 1 km of the right bank tunnel. Now PRHP is switching to the left bank tunnel, care of water work and spring water concerns.
  - ii. PRHP will be at the Fort St. John job fair tomorrow, and were also at the Saulteau job fair.
  - iii. PRHP is working with Spark Women's leadership conference and is encouraging women to work on the project. PRHP's construction manager was nominated for an award and she will be speaking at the conference.
  - iv. PRHP also stated they donated \$10,000 which was matched with another \$10,000 to provide interest for an annual bursary by Northern Lights College for students from the Peace region.
  - v. PRHP has also recently been involved with Charlie Lake Elementary School, introducing kids to equipment on site by naming the road headers (Penelope and Betsy).

## 6. Roundtable

A roundtable update occurred from the local community representatives:

- a) Taylor thanked BC Hydro for carrying out a good burning program. Taylor was concerned about smoke in the valley but they have not seen any smoke. They also are notified when the burning is occurring. They agreed with PRRD and others that they would like artifacts to stay in the region, they are always trying to repatriate artifacts back to the region, and if they can prevent artifacts from leaving, then they will not have to repatriate. Taylor wants the bison to remain in region. They also shared that Taylor's golf course is open in mid-April, and that the Peace Island Park, with the 22 new RV sites will also be open in mid-April, weather dependant.
- b) Fort St. John stated they appreciate the regular updates BC Hydro provides, that they regularly use the data and that the statistics are very useful. They are looking forward to the grand opening of the BC Housing-BC Hydro housing project, and thanked BC Hydro for the work in helping this to occur. They shared that they were getting national attention for the Passivhaus project and how important it is to community. The City also expressed concern with local culture being kept local, and not being sent away.
- c) Chetwynd stated that it is important for local governments to hold companies accountable or the communities will suffer. Stated they would like to hold jobs in the community, and that like the artifacts, they don't want them leaving the area. Chetwynd

also shared that their chainsaw carving contest is in June for four days, with carvers from around the world taking part. They asked BC Hydro to come to Chetwynd to present to the council.

- d) PRRD stated they had a few issues over the winter, including big trucks stopping on the side of Old Fort Road to chain up on their way to Gate B. BC Hydro has done what they can by putting up signage to direct trucks to Gate A during poor road conditions. PRRD stated they would like to have a conversation with BC Hydro regarding the artifacts, and that years ago over 1,000 artifacts were sent to the BC museum and that it was not easy to get them back. PRRD stated it is regional knowledge, and that they do not want artifacts to leave the area without consultation.
- e) Hudson's Hope stated that the session was useful, and that they have a lot going on with BC Hydro, but that they cannot currently update the Committee on some of these matters. They shared that there are 27 lots fully serviced which have been redeveloped, 10 are BC Hydro owned lots, and that the demonstration house is coming along nicely. Hudson's Hope also stated they have light industrial property ready to go and would like to have a conversation with the Site C contractors about if any of them are interested in the property.
- f) McLeod Lake Indian Band stated they find the updates very helpful, and mentioned the Joint Working Group meeting last month, and that they were working on a training and employment program to get members employed with Site C, including driver's training. They are also working with BC Hydro to hire an archivist. The member mentioned that her family member is slated for the pilot carpentry program that is coming up.
- g) PRRD stated that they would like to keep artifacts in the PRRD; it is their history and would like to protect it.
- h) PRRD stated he has not heard a lot of public comments so that was good. He noticed that the percentage of local workers in the BC Hydro Monthly Workforce Report was in the 30s, now it is in the 20s, and that he is not sure why there is not more interest, but hopes that there will be more local hire.
- i) Blueberry River First Nation thanked BC Hydro and the contractors for the job fair, and stated they would like to see how many Indigenous workers applied and how many were hired in the RCLC monthly workforce report.
- j) Shanna stated that BC Hydro produced a video of the excavation of the bison. Dave stated that BC Hydro will send out this video link.

**Action:** BC Hydro will contact Chetwynd to set up a time to present to council.

**Action:** BC Hydro to send out video link of the bison excavation (included in these meeting notes).

**Action:** BC Hydro will look into if any information is available regarding the number of Indigenous job applicants.

## 7. Next Steps

- a) The Committee discussed possible dates for the next meeting. Two options were discussed for review:
  - i) Wednesday, June 12 or June 19
  - ii) Wednesday, September 11 or September 18

- b) Fort St. John stated that the 19<sup>th</sup> would be better as the 12<sup>th</sup> is in conflict with a local event. Another individual mentioned that graduation is around this time and we should consider this to avoid potential scheduling conflicts. No other conflicts were noted by members.
- c) September 11 or 18 was proposed for a site tour but the members determined that it was too far in the future, and that this date will be determined later.