

# Site C Clean Energy Project

## Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

---

*Meeting Summary*  
*June 19, 2019, 12:00 pm to 2:30 pm*  
*Northern Grand Hotel, Fort St. John*

<p><b>ATTENDEES</b>  <i>Regional  Community  Liaison  Committee  Members</i></p>	<p>MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North  Tamara Wilkinson, MLA Assistant, for MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North  Mayor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope  Arlene Solonas, L &amp; R Consultation Coordinator, McLeod Lake Indian Band  Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District  Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District  Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor  Tony Zabinsky, 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  Steve Abbey, BC Hydro  Morgan Robinson, BC Hydro  Krista Drost, 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  Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District  Mayor Keith Bertrand, Tumbler Ridge  Jane Calvert, Blueberry River First Nation  Mayor Allen Courtoreille, Chetwynd  Carol Newsom, CAO, Chetwynd  Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek  Duncan Redfearn, CAO, Dawson Creek  Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District</p>

	<p>Cec Heron, Doig River First Nation  Andrew Young, CAO Taylor  Chris Cvik, CAO Acting Hudson's Hope  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</p>
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>	<p>Jim Morgan, ATCO  Jamie Bodnarchuk, Peace River Hydro Partners  Marelda Brydon, Peace River Hydro Partners  Maximillen Bisson, Voith Hydro  Ann Danilevich, AFDE  Troy Van Bostelen, AFDE  Adriana daCosta, MoTI</p>

**Documents Distributed (via email on June 18, 2019)**

Meeting Final Agenda  
Site C Project Update Presentation  
BC Hydro Site C Public Enquiries Report for May 2019  
April 2019 Workforce Report  
Site C BC Hydro 2019 Business Summary (Q1)  
Hudson's Hope Shoreline Protection Brochure  
RCLC Action Log - Updated June 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) Dave Conway identified muster locations and exits for safety.
- d) A round of introductions occurred.
- e) The agenda was reviewed and a request made for any additional items by Dave Conway.
  - a. Dave Conway proposed to play the dam video during the on- site construction presentation and the change was made to the agenda.
  - b. 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.
- b) Taylor commented on BC Hydro's Paleontology letter, and requested a list of the fossils being moved out of the region.
- c) Shanna Mason responded that BC Hydro could provide an inventory list but that there would also have to be future updates as the work of collecting fossils is still underway and the Royal BC Museum is just starting the conservation process. Shanna explained

that some fossils are still in the rock, and it may take time to expose the fossils. Over time, some descriptions may be updated as more is known.

- d) PRRD stated that they would also like a list provided.

**Action:** BC Hydro will provide an inventory list of the paleontology artifacts obtained from the Site C project and transferred to the Royal BC Museum.

### 3. BC Hydro Project Update

#### On-Site Construction Update

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.

This Site C Construction Video was played for the Committee: <https://youtu.be/hfbJ2yVJ2vY>

Construction activities discussed included:

- a) Left bank works including coffer dams to protect the workers working on the diversion tunnels below river elevation.
- b) Completed first breakthrough yesterday in diversion tunnel 1 which is the shorter tunnel. Breakthrough on tunnel 2 is anticipated in July. The top half of the tunnels is excavated first and then the bottom half.
- c) Fort St. John asked about the grade of the diversion tunnels relative to the river bed and how far below the river bed is the inlet? Ross stated he did not have this answer, but that it would be actioned and a response provided.
- d) Blueberry River First Nations asked if the diversion tunnels will be able to handle the high flow of the river, and if there will be some restricting of flow?
- e) Ross and Shanna responded that there will be some restriction which will result in a head pond but the diversion tunnels can pass the anticipated normal flows.
- f) The MLA's assistant inquired if BC Hydro was still on target to meet deadlines with the tunnels.
- g) Ross responded that the tunneling will be done but there is still work on the supporting structures like the gates before diversion next fall. Commissioning and testing of the gates will also be done before diversion.
- h) Ross described the piles that are seen at the 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue Industrial Lands near the conveyor route. The piles are for slope protection and stability and will be cut off close to the ground.
- i) Fort St. John asked how deep the piles go down. Ross did not have this answer but stated a response would be provided to the city.
- j) Fort St. John asked who was responsible for the conveyor.
- k) Ross stated that PRHP is in charge of the installation.
- l) Steve Abbey discussed the Worker Accommodation Lodge and the camp expansion. Ninety beds will open in the first two weeks of July, and the total 150 by the end of July.
- m) Steve explained that BC Hydro has been using hotels in town to help alleviate some of the overload at the camp and that they are working with contractors to determine capacity requirements over the next year to determine if new expansion is required.
- n) Ross discussed the right bank, including the powerhouse, spillway, and the railway being used to bring in riprap for the dam from West Pine Quarry.

- o) The complexities of the spillway were discussed including the three moving gates.
- p) Fort St. John asked what does roller compacted concrete (RCC) mean.
- q) Ross explained that there are two types of concrete, conventional versus roller. RCC does not have any rebar in it and is not built using forms so it allows for fast bulk placement in lifts that are rolled in place similar to asphalt. The RCC provides the base allowing for cost and schedule savings.
- r) Fort St. John asked how thick the RCC was.
- s) Ross explained that they are set at 8-10 inches at a time until the desired elevation is achieved.
- t) Steve explained that RCC is very temperature dependant and that there are challenges placing the RCC if the temperature is not correct.
- u) The shipment and assembly of the penstocks was discussed along with on-site assembly after delivery.
- v) Fort St. John asked why BC Hydro was going from the top to the bottom to assemble the penstocks and not the other way around where the pieces below would support the pieces above.
- w) Ross explained this was because of the sequencing of other work in the area and that each piece is individually supported so working from the bottom up isn't required.
- x) Steve discussed care of water including spring thaw and implemented best management practices from last year, noting that this year the on-site mitigation and general environmental conditions resulted in few spring run-off concerns.
- y) Steve noted that vegetation is a good soil stabilizer and that there is a strong vegetation plan on the site which has improved over the years. Revegetation of areas that are now complete is a priority.
- z) Fish habitat enhancement is under construction on a right bank island to offset impacts on fish; the enhancement includes areas for fish spawning and to create a flow regime that is favourable to fish. Side channel enhancement, including using logs and root masses within the channel to create habitat for fish, and also a flow regime suitable for fish present in the system.
- aa) The planned north side fish enhancement project is on hold due to the recent landslide at Old Fort and BC Hydro is reassessing next steps as BC Hydro does not want to carry out work which might impact the landslide.
- bb) Shanna responded that in the EIS, the north bank location was proposed as a fisheries requirement, however after the landslide and due to the instability around the area, BC Hydro is consulting with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO), and this area may be left for a few years.
- cc) PRRD asked to discuss the plan for the north bank fish enhancement with BC Hydro as they have concerns about slope stability. BC Hydro will arrange a follow-up discussion.
- dd) Shanna discussed the Peace River navigational closure prior to diversion. Shanna explained that BC Hydro will advertise publically and early next spring there will be closures on the river with warning signs and debris booms installed. BC Hydro will have more information to share at the September RCLC meeting. A portage program will be put in place when the navigational closure happens.

**Action:** BC Hydro to provide the grade between the inlet/outlet and the river bottom.

**Action:** BC Hydro to provide to Fort St. John the depth of the piles along 85<sup>th</sup> Ave Industrial Lands.

**Action:** BC Hydro will arrange a follow-up discussion with the PRRD regarding the status and plans for north bank fish enhancement near Old Fort.

### **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) Acknowledging contractor's focus on completing work safely.
- b) Site C Substation which will be BC Hydro's biggest substation is nearing completion. The largest remaining piece of equipment is to arrive at the end of July.
- c) Fifty one transmission towers were up by March out of 405 towers in total. All towers for the first 500 kilovolt line will be up by next year, and energized for 2020.
- d) Cache Creek West highway alignment will likely continue into 2020.
- e) Halfway River alignment is a public tender that MoTI will put out in the next couple weeks.
- f) BC Hydro is actively constructing the haul road at Portage Mountain Quarry during this summer and early fall.
- g) Hudson's Hope asked if BC Hydro was still anticipating rip rap from the quarry and how much rip rap and associated traffic will come down Canyon Drive?
- h) Chris stated that the preference was Portage Mountain for the Hudson's Hope berm.
- i) Hudson's Hope inquired about access issues to the quarry because of bats.
- j) Chris stated BC Hydro is building the haul road with appropriate mitigation. BC Hydro plans to have the permit application submitted in August for the quarry. This will allow BC Hydro to proceed with extraction of rock.
- k) Chris stated he would get back to Hudson's Hope with information about how much material will be taken out of Portage Mountain Quarry and how many trucks are estimated.

BC Hydro played a video showing what the Halfway River Bridge will look like available at [https://youtu.be/XuTHHt\\_BTAM](https://youtu.be/XuTHHt_BTAM).

- l) Fort St. John inquired about the length of the bridge and if there are any pull-outs for people to take pictures.
- m) Chris stated he would get back to the Committee with that information once the functional design of the bridge was complete.
- n) Reservoir clearing in advance of diversion will reduce potential debris entering into the system that could impact the diversion tunnels.
- o) Hudson's Hope shoreline protection will consist of a berm which will mitigate the creation of the reservoir on the slopes.
- p) Fort St. John asked how the Peace River Islands logging will be done.
- q) Chris responded that there are causeways or bridge structures put in to access merchantable timber. Helicopters are also used in some locations.

**Action:** BC Hydro will follow-up with Hudson's Hope regarding how much rip-rap is planned to be taken out of Portage Mountain quarry and how much traffic is anticipated on Canyon Drive for this work.

**Action:** BC Hydro will provide the link to the Halfway River Bridge video once posted.

**Action:** BC Hydro will provide the Committee details about the length of the Halfway River Bridge and any pullouts at either end once the functional design is complete.

### **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) Amendments in progress include the Halfway River bridge and worker accommodation expansion.
- b) Potential additional EAC amendments may be requested in many cases, BC Hydro's project description described bridges and causeways very specifically so BC Hydro anticipates applying for amendments for most of the final designs.

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

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

- a) The rendering of the new Lynx Creek Boat Launch with a double ramp and a boarding float.
- b) Fort St. John asked if the lot was paved.
- c) Nancy responded that it was a gravel lot similar to the other facilities in the region.
- d) Nancy stated that the Cache Creek area boat launch will have a similar rendering created.
- e) The BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund Board will be hosting its first public annual meeting on the afternoon of July 5, 2019.

## **4. Jobs and Businesses**

Lindsay Routledge, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor for Site C, provided a job and business update.

- a) April 2019 Site C Workforce statistics were discussed, April was BC Hydro's peak employment month since the project started.
- b) The 2019 Q1 Businesses Report was discussed, which listed 314 businesses.
- c) PRRD asked why there was a reduction in numbers.
- d) Krista Drost stated that the PRRD numbers usually dip slightly after the clearing season before summer work begins since many of the clearing contractors are local and they can't work during spring conditions.
- e) The recent forestry mills shutdowns or curtailments were discussed and BC Hydro described what it and its contractors are doing to try to match workers up with jobs on Site C that match their skills.
- f) PRRD wants to see PRRD employment as high as possible and BC Hydro and their contractors should think about other ways to attract local workers.
- g) Fort St. John stated they would like to be kept informed about what BC Hydro and their contractors are doing to reach out to forestry industry workers at the mills.
- h) Jobs and businesses enquiries were discussed, in May, BC Hydro reached 10,000 enquires since the project start.

**Action:** BC Hydro will inform Fort St. John about discussions with the Ministry regarding the potential for hiring workers impacted by the OSB mill closure.

## 5. Contractor Updates

BC Hydro's prime contractors provided an update including:

- a) AFDE:
  - i. Penstocks are being manufactured off-site and put together on-site.
  - ii. Rebar and the concrete in the powerhouse and intakes will continue.
  - iii. Labour hiring opportunities for carpenters, labours and operators but not expecting additional influx until later this year.
  - iv. Working with BC Hydro to identify skills alignment with OSB mill workers.
  - v. Involvement with the Junior Dragons Den; Spark Leadership Conference; Grizzly's basketball team; and the Fort St. John rodeo dinner.
  
- b) Voith
  - i. Stated they had a small team of about 15 boiler makers and supervisors.
  - ii. They are building the spiral case on-site with installation scheduled in over a year.
  
- c) ATCO
  - i. Involved in community activities including the MS walk, the auction and Indigenous events.
  - ii. They are also looking for resumes from qualified local candidates.
  - iii. They are working on local skills training with indigenous groups. After the most recent training program 11 out of 15 participants hired.
  - iv. McLeod Lake Indian Band asked if this was in reference to the Carpentry Program.
  - v. ATCO stated it was the ATCO Culinary and Housekeeping Program.
  - vi. Krista stated 7 out of 8 participants in the Carpentry Pilot Program were hired.
  - vii. Of the 314 Site C business partners listed within the PRRD, ATCO uses 60%.
  - viii. Upcoming events including the Fireman's Ball and the on-site aboriginal awareness day.
  
- d) PRHP
  - i. Two major focuses of work, the till conveyor and the diversion tunnels.
  - ii. Till Conveyor is the visible work, and they are working to get the till conveyor installed under the 240 Road and the Old Fort Road. Targeting mid-July for completion. The till conveyor will usually run between 7 am-7 pm.
  - iii. Second work focus is the diversion tunnels. On the morning of the meeting, PRHP was about 20 meters away from break through on the first tunnel, which should occur over the weekend.
  - iv. Tunnel two is about a month away from break through since it is the longer tunnel.
  - v. PRHP is looking for heavy duty mechanics.

## 6. Roundtable

A roundtable update occurred from the local community representatives:

- a) Fort St. John stated they were working on the construction and redevelopment of 100 Street North to enhance the community.

- b) McLeod Lake Indian Band stated they had nothing to share but thanked BC Hydro for the presentation and keeping them up to date.
- c) Blueberry River First Nation thanked BC Hydro for the information.
- d) PRRD stated they hope employment gaps will be filled and that they are happy that BC Hydro is working with Fort St. John to make that happen.
- e) PRRD stated they would like further conversations around artifacts being found and for these discussions to occur soon, as well as more discussion on what is occurring in the Old Fort Slide area with the proposed fish enhancement habitat.
- f) Fort St. John stated there is concern with the OSB shutdown, and stated that hiring locals would help mitigate this impact on the local workforce.
- g) Taylor stated they had no concerns.
- h) Hudson's Hope stated that approximately 1/3 of the road realigned is through their east valley and that the berm is a big impact at about 2.6 km long. They would like to thank BC Hydro for the public open house and felt it was well received by the community.

## **7. Next Steps**

- a) Next meeting dates were proposed: Wednesday, September 11 or September 18.
- b) A Committee member stated that the 11th is the Coal Form so it is a conflict, but that the 18th is open. September 18, 2019 was selected as the next meeting/tour date.
- c) Shanna stated that BC Hydro is looking into a tour on the river but it may not be logistically possible due to the size of the Committee. The disadvantage of the river tour is you cannot see most of the works at the dam site over the banks from the river.
- d) If it isn't feasible then BC Hydro will arrange a dam site tour and meeting.
- e) BC Hydro asked the Committee if the Peace Williston Advisory Committee (PWAC) could join them on the tour in September. The Committee expressed no concerns with this.
- f) Wednesday December 4 or December 11 were presented as potential dates. A Committee member stated that December 4th was a conflict due a local airport meeting.
- g) December 11th was selected as the winter meeting date.