

Regional Community Liaison Committee Annual Report – 2024

Site C Clean Energy Project March 31, 2025

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1 Background

The Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project) is a hydroelectric dam and generating station under construction in northeast B.C. Construction started in July 2015 and will be in service in 2025. The Project will help meet future electricity needs by providing 1,100 megawatts of dependable capacity and producing about 5,100 gigawatt hours of energy each year — enough to power the equivalent of 450,000 homes per year. Once built, the Project will be a source of clean, reliable and cost-effective electricity in B.C. for more than 100 years.

The key components of the Project are:

- Access roads and a temporary construction bridge across the river, at the dam site.
- Worker accommodation at the dam site.
- Upgrades to 240, 269, 271 and Old Fort roads.
- The realignment of six segments of Highway 29.
- Two temporary cofferdams across the river to allow for construction of the earthfill dam.
- Two new 500 kilovolt transmission lines connecting Site C to the Peace Canyon Substation, within an existing right-of-way.
- Shoreline protection at Hudson's Hope, including upgrades to DA Thomas Road.
- An 800-metre roller-compacted-concrete buttress to enhance seismic protection.
- An earthfill dam, approximately 1,050 metres long and 60 metres high above the riverbed.
- A generating station with six 183 MW generating units.
- An 83-kilometre-long reservoir that will be, on average, two to three times the width of the current river.

1.1 Environmental Assessment Certificate Conditions

The Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLC) is a key information and notification tool that is identified in the Site C Construction Communication Plan (see <u>Construction Environmental</u> <u>Management Plan, Appendix C – Construction Communication Plan, Section 3.2 Information and Notification Tools</u>). The Site C Construction Communication Plan was developed in accordance with Conditions 39, 43 and 72 of the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC), and guides construction communications and community relations during the construction phase of the Project (see Table 1). The RCLC has been implemented in order to meet the objectives set out in the Site C Construction Plan.

Construction began on the Project on July 27, 2015 and the RCLC held its first meeting on March 11, 2016. The 2024 Regional Community Liaison Committee Annual Report (the Report) provides a review of the Committee meetings held between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024, which covers the eighth calendar year following the Committee's establishment.

Condition Number	Condition	Plan Reference
EAC Condition 72	 The EAC Holder must manage effective communications for the Project by implementing measures in communication plans and a business participation plan. The following communication and participation plans are to be developed and implemented: Business Participation Plan; Construction Communication Plan; and First Nations Communication Plan. Each plan in addition to plan specific conditions identified in this document will include: Clear Statement of Objectives; Audiences; Key activities and tools; and Annual summary reporting. 	 BC Hydro is meeting this condition. The following plans have been developed (dated June 5, 2015) and are actively being implemented. Business Participation Plan; Construction Communication Plan; and First Nations (Aboriginal) Group Communication Plan (CEMP Appendix D).

Table 1. Overview of EAC Condition 72

1.2 Community Agreements

To date, BC Hydro has reached a regional legacy benefits agreement with the Peace River Regional District and its member communities and community agreements with the District of Chetwynd, City of Fort St. John, District of Hudson's Hope and the District of Taylor.

A Regional Community Liaison Committee was proposed in the following agreements between BC Hydro and communities in the Peace region:

- District of Chetwynd Community Agreement
- <u>City of Fort St. John Community Measures Agreement</u>
- District of Taylor Community Agreement
- Peace River Regional District Community Agreement

BC Hydro is meeting its commitment under these agreements by establishing the RCLC and implementing the Committee for the duration of Project construction.

2 Regional Community Liaison Committee

BC Hydro is engaging key municipal, regional and provincial government stakeholders to ensure they are kept up to date on the status of the Project. The Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLC) replaces the Regional and Local Government Liaison Committee (RLGC) that was established in 2010. The RLGC met for the last time on July 16, 2014.

BC Hydro established the RCLC during Project construction to foster dialogue between BC Hydro, Peace region municipal and regional government officials, Peace region provincial government officials and Indigenous groups. The RCLC is an advisory forum for members to receive information about project construction, mitigation and compliance reporting, and to bring forward community interests, issues and concerns about the Project.

Two RCLC meetings were held in 2024, the first via videoconference call and the second was inperson and included a tour of the main construction site. A list of the meetings can be found in Section 2.2. The Terms of Reference (Appendix A) for the RCLC specify a minimum of four meetings a year. However, due to declining attendance and with the agreement of Committee members, an email to the RCLC was sent on February 13, 2024 announcing that only two meetings would be held in 2024.

Further consultation with the RCLC in the fall of 2024 confirmed that the Committee members did not object to concluding their work as the project had advanced into the early operations stage when generating Unit 1 went into service on October 28. This was communicated to the RCLC in a letter/email dated November 1, 2024, consistent with Section 4.4 of the Terms of Reference, indicating that the RCLC will meet and conduct business during project construction. With the agreement of the Committee, the final RCLC meeting was held on November 27, 2024. The Committee was agreeable that BC Hydro would continue to communicate with the former members. BC Hydro wrote to each Mayor of the member communities on January 9, 2025 to thank them for the service that their delegates provided and to assure them that the Site C and Northern Community Relations teams remain available to address any questions, or concerns, brought forward.

In addition to the scheduled meetings, BC Hydro held calls as needed with RCLC members to provide updates on the Project.

In addition to the RCLC, BC Hydro continued to meet with municipalities to implement individual community agreements and engage with key municipal staff to discuss specific issues of interest.

2.1 RCLC Purpose, Funding and Composition

The complete Terms of Reference for the Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLC) can be found in Appendix A.

2.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Regional Community Liaison Committee is:

- To bring representatives from the Peace River region including regional government, local government, MLAs and First Nations together with BC Hydro project officials in a regular forum to discuss the Project.
- To facilitate timely information exchange to ensure accurate information regarding the Project, in particular construction activities and schedules, mitigation measures, procurement and employment, is available to communities during Project construction.
- To provide a forum for BC Hydro and community representatives to discuss and address local interests, enquiries and concerns in a timely and cooperative manner, subject to financial, technical and schedule constraints.

2.1.2 Funding

BC Hydro pays for meeting venue costs and refreshments. BC Hydro provides a Coordinator to manage meeting logistics and committee records.

2.1.3 Composition

The RCLC includes the representatives listed below. Members of the committee are those representatives who respond to the invitation to participate in the RCLC and regularly attend meetings, or send a delegate.

BC Hydro representatives (or delegate):

- Chair, Director, Environment, Regulation, Community Impacts & Properties Site C
- On and Off-Site Construction Management Representatives
- Site C Community Relations Manager
- Site C Community and Social Mitigation Manager
- RCLC Coordinator
- Technical experts, as needed

Community representatives (Mayor, CAO, Chief, or other elected delegate)¹:

- MLA, Peace River North
- MLA, Peace River South
- Blueberry River First Nations
- District of Chetwynd
- City of Dawson Creek
- Doig River First Nation
- City of Fort St. John
- Halfway River First Nation
- District of Hudson's Hope
- McLeod Lake Indian Band
- Peace River Regional District
 - o Electoral Area 'B'
 - o Electoral Area 'C'
 - o Electoral Area 'D'

¹ To date, the following Indigenous groups have participated in the Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLC): Blueberry River First Nations, Doig River First Nation, Saulteau First Nations and McLeod Lake Indian Band. Invitations to participate in the RCLC continue to be extended to: Halfway River First Nation, and West Moberly First Nations.

- o Electoral Area 'E'
- Village of Pouce Coupe
- Saulteau First Nations
- District of Taylor
- District of Tumbler Ridge
- West Moberly First Nations

2.2 RCLC Meetings in 2024

Two RCLC meetings were held in 2024 on:

- June 5, 2024 (in-person)
- November 27, 2024 (virtually)

Meeting agendas are included in Appendix B, and material content to support RCLC meetings is listed in Appendix C. Action Items from the 2023 RCLC meetings are listed in Appendix D.

Appendix A: Terms of Reference

BC Hydro Site C Clean Energy Project

Terms of Reference: Regional Community Liaison Committee

FINAL June 2016 (AMENDED September 2017)

1. Introduction

In 2010, BC Hydro established the Regional and Local Government Liaison Committee (RLGC). This Regional Community Liaison Committee (RCLC) replaces the RLGC for the Site C Clean Energy Project (Project) to provide a forum for BC Hydro and elected officials to share information and discuss community interests, enquiries and potential benefits related to the Project. The RLGC met for the last time on July 16, 2014.

BC Hydro has established the RCLC during Project construction to foster dialogue between BC Hydro, Peace region local governments and First Nations. The RCLC will provide awareness of construction activities, construction schedules, local interests, enquiries and concerns, and encourage participation and input from RCLC representatives. The RCLC will be an advisory committee to BC Hydro.

2. Purpose

- **2.1.** To bring representatives from the Peace River region including regional government, local government, MLAs, and First Nations together with BC Hydro project officials in a regular forum to discuss the Project.
- **2.2.** To facilitate timely information exchange to ensure accurate information regarding the Project, in particular construction activities and schedules, mitigation measures, procurement and employment, is available to communities during Project construction.
- **2.3.** To provide a forum for BC Hydro and community representatives to discuss and address local interests, enquiries and concerns in a timely and cooperative manner, subject to financial, technical and schedule constraints.

3. Meeting Logistics

- 3.1. Chair: RCLC meetings will be chaired by a BC Hydro senior manager for the Project.
- **3.2. Co-chair:** RCLC meetings may be co-chaired by a representative, as determined by representatives at the end of a preceding meeting. Co-chairs will bring forward specific community issues to lead discussion at the following RCLC meeting.
- **3.3. Venue:** RCLC meetings will be held in Fort St. John, but also rotate to member communities at the discretion of representatives. A venue will be recommended by the host community or BC Hydro. BC Hydro will be responsible for making the meeting arrangements (see section 5.2). Teleconference options will be provided whenever possible at the venue.

- **3.4. Schedule:** The RCLC will meet at least four times per calendar year, and up to monthly, during Project construction, as determined by the RCLC or at the call of the chair. During the first year the RCLC will meet at least six times.
- **3.5. Expenses:** BC Hydro will pay for meeting venue costs and refreshments. BC Hydro will provide a Coordinator to manage meeting logistics and committee records, as described below.
- **3.6. Committee Records:** BC Hydro will provide a Coordinator to manage the distribution of materials as described below (dates may vary due to statutory holidays).
 - 3.6.1. **Agendas:** The draft Agenda will be circulated a minimum of 14 days prior to the meeting. Representatives will be able to provide comments and recommend agenda items. The final Agenda will be distributed to representatives at the meeting; however the Agenda can be adjusted at the meeting at the request of the representatives.
 - 3.6.2. **Meeting materials:** All representatives will strive to send meeting materials 7 days in advance of meetings.
 - 3.6.3. **Reporting:** BC Hydro and/or its contractors will provide data on employment (PRRD, BC, Rest of Canada and Aboriginal), contractors and sub-contractors, and enquiries to the RCLC.
 - 3.6.4. **Meeting Summary:** The Coordinator or an alternate will attend meetings and prepare a draft meeting summary which will be distributed to representatives for comment. Representatives will have 7 days to provide comments and accept the summary notes after which the draft version will be deemed final and distributed to the committee. If any comments are conflicting, they will be reviewed at the next RCLC meeting before a final version is distributed.
 - 3.6.5. **Annual Report:** The Coordinator will prepare an annual report of the committee approximately 90 days after January 1 of each year covering the calendar year prior to that date. The annual report will include the activities, materials and summary of meetings from the prior year. This will allow the report to reflect meetings held in the initial 12 months and provide three months to draft and issue the annual report.
 - 3.6.6. **Public Posting of Records:** Meeting summaries and presentations will be posted on the Project website except those identified by the committee as sensitive or confidential. The annual report of the committee will be posted on the Project website.
 - 3.6.7. **Reporting Templates:** Templates for regular reporting to the committee on project employment, regional business involvement, and project enquiries will be developed and shared with the Committee and will include information on how reports will be shared by the committee with the public.

3.7 Communications and Confidentiality

- 3.7.1 **Media Spokesperson:** The BC Hydro Site C Community Relations Manager will be the BC Hydro media spokespeople on issues relating to the RCLC. BC Hydro will not speak on behalf of representatives and any joint announcements or releases will be reviewed by all RCLC representatives prior to issuance.
- 3.7.2 **Confidentiality:** The general public and the media are not permitted to attend meetings. To foster open dialogue between representatives, information shared

during general discussions of the committee will be kept confidential. BC Hydro project updates, project information (including data on employment and contractors/sub-contractors) and enquiry responses (with identifying information removed) shall not be considered confidential unless indicated.

4. Membership

The RCLC will include the following representatives, which may change as staffing, roles or elected officials change. Committee representatives may designate another elected representative as a delegate, if they are unable to attend. Members of the committee are those representatives who respond to the invitation to participate in the RCLC and attend meetings regularly or send a delegate.

4.1 BC Hydro representatives (or delegate):

- Chair, Environmental, Aboriginal Relations, Public Affairs Director, Site C
- Site C Construction Management Representative
- Site C Community Relations Manager
- RCLC Coordinator
- Technical experts as needed
- 4.2 Community representatives (Mayor, Chief or another elected delegate):
 - MLA for Peace River North
 - MLA for Peace River South
 - Blueberry River First Nations
 - District of Chetwynd
 - City of Dawson Creek
 - Doig River First Nation
 - City of Fort St. John
 - Halfway River First Nation
 - District of Hudson's Hope
 - McLeod Lake Indian Band
 - Peace River Regional District
 - o Electoral Area 'B', Peace River Regional District
 - Electoral Area 'C', Peace River Regional District
 - Electoral Area 'D', Peace River Regional District
 - Electoral Area 'E', Peace River Regional District
 - Village of Pouce Coupe
 - Saulteau First Nations

- District of Taylor
- District of Tumbler Ridge
- West Moberly First Nations

4.3 Invited Guests

- 4.3.1 Each community may appoint one senior staff person, for example, the Chief Administrative Officer, to observe RCLC meetings and to provide support to the representative.
- 4.3.2 Representatives may invite additional staff or technical advisors to RCLC meetings, to deal with certain agenda items, with prior discussion and agreement of the Chair. The Chair will advise the RCLC of any invited guests through issuance of the final agenda in advance of the meeting the purpose or role of the technical advisor.
- 4.3.3 Public requests to attend or present to the RCLC will be referred to their respective elected representatives who can bring their interests, enquiries or concerns to the RCLC.

4.4 Duration of the RCLC

4.4.1 The RCLC will meet throughout the construction of the Project. Prior to operations, the RCLC will discuss options for liaison during Project operations, including potential to merge this committee with other BC Hydro local committees.

5. Summary of Responsibilities

5.1 BC Hydro Chair will:

- 5.1.1 facilitate discussion to achieve committee purposes and to promote a balance of views
- 5.1.2 seek input from RCLC, make recommendations to Project team members and report on how RCLC feedback has been taken into consideration
- 5.1.3 guide the development of the meeting agendas, reflecting the input received from representatives (see section 4.4)
- 5.1.4 assign a BC Hydro Coordinator as a resource to the RCLC

5.2 BC Hydro Coordinator will:

- 5.2.1 arrange and ensure representatives are notified of RCLC meeting dates and location
- 5.2.2 manage records as described above (section 3.6)
- 5.2.3 arrange meeting venues and logistics

5.3 Elected members will:

- 5.3.1 attend meetings, suggest agenda items and actively participate in discussions
- 5.3.2 report enquiries, interests and concerns of their community or constituency to the RCLC related to the construction of the Project, including public requests referred to them (section 4.3.3)
- 5.3.3 communicate to their community or constituency in a timely manner about Project information shared at the RCLC and distribute meeting materials to their organizations as needed

5.4 Decision-Authority

- 5.4.1 BC Hydro is legally responsible for decisions regarding the development and implementation of the Project.
- 5.4.2 The RCLC is an information-sharing committee and is advisory to BC Hydro. BC Hydro will take into consideration the input from the RCLC with respect to the Project.

Appendix B: 2024 Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting Agendas

All presentations and meeting summaries are posted publicly at <u>https://www.sitecproject.com/in-the-community/regional-community-liaison-committee</u>. Agendas are included below.

List of meetings in 2024 by date:

Date	Location			
June 5, 2024	In-person Meeting, Fort St John			
November 27, 2024	Electronic Meeting			

Site C Clean Energy Project Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting and Tour

Wednesday, June 5, 2024 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. MST

Pomeroy Hotel and Conference Centre 11308 Alaska Road, Fort St. John, BC

AGENDA

0	 Meet at Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre Parking Lot (All) Meet in parking lot and board bus 	8:30 AM
0	Travel to Site C (All on bus)	8:40 AM
0	Gate A security and drive to BC Hydro Construction Office (All)	9:00 AM
0	Call to order, Review of Agenda & Action Items (Bob Gammer) Light refreshments available as we arrive in meeting room 	9:15 AM
0	Site C Reservoir Filling Update (Dave Hunter)	9:20 AM
0	Employment Report (Kate O'Neil)	9:35 AM
0	Roundtable (Committee members)	9:40 AM
0	Next Steps & Closing (Bob Gammer) Next meeting date: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 	9:50 AM
0	Site Tour (Bob Gammer) o Dam Crest @ Left Bank Abutment (Chris W) o Diversion Tunnel Outlet/Temp Fish Passage (Dave H) o Rehabilitation work in Area 24 (Sean D) o Intake deck/Approach Channel (Chris W)	10:00 AM
0	Depart Gate A, Return to Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre	12:00 PM
0	Arrive at Pomeroy Hotel & Conference Centre	12:20 PM

Site C Clean Energy Project Regional Community Liaison Committee

Wednesday, November 27, 2024 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. PST 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. MST

Via MS Teams Videoconference

Click here to join the meeting

Or connect by phone (audio only) by dialing: <u>+1 604-343-0415</u> Vancouver, Canada Phone Conference ID: 415 145 741#

AGENDA

Opening, Welcome and Acknowledgement (Bob Gammer)	1:30 PM
Review of Agenda and Action Items (Bob Gammer)	1:35 PM
 Dam On-site Construction Update (Chris Waite) Generating Station Update Other project areas 	1:40 PM
Reservoir (Dave Hunter) Spillway operations Ongoing monitoring Boat Launches 	1:50 PM
Environmental Update (Matt Barnette) Site Reclamation 	2:00 PM
Jobs and Businesses Update (Kate O'Neil)	2:10 PM
Roundtable (Committee members)	2:15 PM
 Completion of Committee's Task/Closing (Bob Gammer) Ongoing communication 	2:25 PM

Appendix C: List of Supporting Materials

Materials supporting the Regional Community Liaison Committee meetings held in 2024.

Title	Author	Date
RCLC December 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes	BC Hydro	Jul 26, 2024
RCLC Annual Report – 2023	BC Hydro	Apr 2, 2024
RCLC June 5, 2024 Meeting Agenda	BC Hydro	May 30, 2024
RCLC Action Log Update (June 5, 2024)	BC Hydro	Jun 5, 2024
RCLC June 5, 2024 Meeting presentations (PDF)	BC Hydro	Jun 5, 2024
RCLC June 5, 2024 Meeting Minutes	BC Hydro	Jul 26, 2024
RCLC November 27, 2024 Meeting Agenda	BC Hydro	Nov 15, 2024
RCLC Action Log Update (Nov 27, 2024)	BC Hydro	Nov 27, 2024
RCLC November 27, 2024 Meeting presentations (PDF)	BC Hydro	Nov 27, 2024
RCLC November 27, 2024 Meeting Minutes	BC Hydro	Jan 22, 2025

Appendix D: RCLC Action Item Tracking Log – 2024

Item No.	Action Item	Responsibility	Meeting Date	Status / Outcome*
	No items.			

ONGOING ACTIONS 2019-010	BC Hydro will follow-up with Hudson's Hope regarding how much rip-rap is planned to be taken out of Portage Mountain guarry and how	BC Hydro	June 19, 2019	In progress. BC Hydro provided Hudson's Hope with an initial update on estimated hauling along Canyon Drive on June 16, 2020. BC Hydro will provide another update in fall 2020 after the hauling plans from the shoreline protection contractor and other
	much traffic is anticipated on Canyon Drive for this work.			Highway 29 contractors were confirmed. BCH will provide future updates based on ongoing engagement with the District of Hudson's Hope.
2019-001	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.	BC Hydro	March 13, 2019	In progress. The PRRD does not currently have a water reclamation facility in operation, or under construction. The City's facility is expected to open soon.
2019-31	BC Hydro to send quarterly BCUC reports to RCLC members on an ongoing basis.	BC Hydro	December 11, 2019	Ongoing. BC Hydro will send an email with a link to the BCUC Quarterly Progress reports shortly after they are filled with the BCUC and posted to the Site C Project website.
				On March 17, 2020 it was requested that this be moved to the top of action item log.
2016-007	Members will encourage people who approach them with questions or enquiries to submit the enquiry via the Site C website enquiry form to BC Hydro or via email at sitec@bchydro.com or with plenty of detail to help BC Hydro address the enquiry.	RCLC	March 11, 2016	Ongoing. This information has been added as a standing meeting agenda item.

2016-011	BC Hydro to share current data on jobs—including information on the number of workers from the Peace River Regional District, enquiries and procurements, as well as a 3-6-month outlook.	BC Hydro	March 11, 2016	Ongoing. This information has been added as a standing meeting agenda item.
2016-012	Committee members request the attendance of a BC Hydro Executive Team member at the meeting.	BC Hydro	March 11, 2016	Ongoing. BC Hydro will target having a BC Hydro Executive Team member attend annually.
2016-018	BC Hydro will communicate to the committee when an application is made for a NOTAM, what the application is for and what BC Hydro receives.	BC Hydro	April 22, 2016	Ongoing. If blasting is scheduled at the dam site, BC Hydro will file for a NOTAM with Nav Canada. The NOTAM would likely only cover the period of time when the blasting is planned to occur. BC Hydro will communicate with committee members when an application is made.
2017-001	Members are encouraged to promote BC Hydro job opportunities with the Site C project.	RCLC	March 10, 2017	Ongoing.
2017-003	RCLC members will provide BC Hydro with copies of any advertisements or notices of Site C related work that may contain incorrect information, so BC Hydro can review and correct, if necessary.	RCLC	March 10, 2017	Ongoing.

2018-001	BC Hydro will add an ongoing item to the Action Items Tracking Log for the drainage at, and use of, the 85 th Avenue Industrial Lands.	BC Hydro	January 31, 2018	Ongoing. Drainage at, and use of, the 85 th Avenue Industrial Lands will remain as ongoing until further notice. BC Hydro held a meeting on 85 th Avenue with the PRRD, Fort St. John and MoTI on July 4, 2019. BC Hydro will schedule additional meetings as needed.
2018-006	BC Hydro will provide a response to the question of whether the employment statistics provided to the Committee can be categorized by community.	BC Hydro	January 31, 2018	Ongoing. BC Hydro will provide a bi-annual breakdown of major contractors' employment stats by community.
2019-025	Committee members to contact Dave Conway to be added to the Williston Reservoir forecast mailing list as needed.	Committee Members	December 11, 2019	Ongoing. Reminder sent to Committee by email on Feb 7, 2020.
2020-021	Include standard reclamation section in bi- weekly construction update and in future RCLC presentations.	BC Hydro	November 25, 2020	Ongoing. As key reclamation activities occur, they will be included in the bi-weekly construction update and future RCLC presentations.
COMPLETE ACTIONS				
2023-001	Decommissioning of the ATCO Lodge	Carmen Brooks	2023-03-8	Complete : Tour of Two Rivers Lodge completed on June 7, 2023