

Site C Clean Energy Project

Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
 May 16, 2018, 12:30pm to 3:00pm
 Northern Grand, Fort St. John

<p>ATTENDEES <i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i></p>	<p>Tamara Wilkinson for Dan Davies, MLA Peace River North Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nation Nancy Chipesia , Blueberry River First Nation Councillor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope Tom Matus, CAO, Hudson's Hope Councillor Andre Lavoie, Pouce Coupe Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor Councillor Nathan Parenteau, Saulneau First Nation</p> <p>Dave Conway, BC Hydro Bob Peever, BC Hydro Melissa Holland, BC Hydro Shanna Mason, BC Hydro Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro Jim Robertson, BC Hydro Adelle Yott, BC Hydro</p>
<p>ABSENT WITH REGRET</p>	<p>Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South Jane Calvert, Blueberry River First Nation Mayor Merlin Nichols, Chetwynd Carol Newsom, CAO, Chetwynd Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek Duncan Redfearn, CAO, Dawson Creek Cec Heron, Doig River First Nation Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St John Dianne Hunter, City Manager, Fort St. John Fay Masear, McLeod Lake Indian Band Nathan Prince, McLeod Lake Indian Band Mayor Lorraine Michetti, Pouce Coupe Christopher Leggett, CAO, Pouce Coupe Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District</p>

	Chris Cvik, CAO, Peace River Regional District Mayor Don McPherson, Tumbler Ridge Jordan Wall, CAO, Tumbler Ridge
INVITED GUESTS	Brian Hussain, ATCO Kahsha Patterson, ATCO Katherine Styba, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Nicola Hogg, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Greg Coulter, Peace River Hydro Partners Philip Longbottom, Voith Hydro Rick Morrison, AFDE Ann Danilevich, AFDE Troy Van Bostelen, AFDE

Documents Distributed (via email)

Agenda – May 8, 2018
 Site C Project Update Presentation – May 15, 2018
 BC Hydro Site C Public Enquiries Report March-April-May 15, 2018
 March Workforce Report – May 15, 2018
 Site C BC Business Summary (Q1)- May 15, 2018
 Site C Community Recreation Site Fund – Committee Recommendations

Documents Distributed (at meeting)

RCLC Action Log – May 16, 2018

1. Opening / Welcome / Agenda

- a) Dave Conway welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. He also acknowledged the Treaty 8 peoples and the territory within which the meeting was held. He asked the Treaty 8 representatives to please accept our thanks for allowing us to hold this meeting within their traditional territory.
- b) A round of introductions occurred for those new to the Committee.
- c) The agenda was reviewed and a request for any additional items was made by Dave Conway.
 - a. No additional items were requested.

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.
- b) Dave Conway provided a verbal response to action item 2016-014 about a Supreme Court decision regarding Metis people. He asked the Committee for feedback as to whether they wanted this response provided in writing.
 - a. Committee responded that they would like the response provided in writing.

Action: Email BC Hydro response to action item 2016-014 to RCLC Committee members.
 Post-meeting note: The response was sent to the Committee via email on May 17, 2018.

3. BC Hydro Project Update

On-Site Update

Bob Peever introduced himself as the Onsite Construction Manager. He provided an update on Onsite Construction for Site C. Bob stated that PRHP, AFDE and Voith, as well as, some smaller contractors are now onsite. He explained that most of the material coming to site is being moved by rail. Bob spoke about the right bank drainage tunnel which is progressing well and the drill and blast technique being used.

- a) A member asked for clarification from Bob on the measures to stabilize the area for the portal.
- b) A member asked whether or not BC Hydro was able to get to the bedrock and whether BC Hydro knows the location of the bedrock. Bob stated that the contractor is into bedrock on both the right and left banks.
- c) A member stated it was the left bank that they have heard a lot of discussion about slope stability and the bedrock. Bob responded that the entire slope will be excavated back and that the dam and generating station infrastructure is built into the bedrock. The contractor has moved about 5 million cubic meters of materials and there are approximately 2.8 million cubic meters left to move. Bob indicated the black line in the slope on the pictures of the left bank to show where the bedrock is and the area remaining to be excavated above it.
- d) A member asked whether the excavation from the bedrock upwards was for slope stabilization only. Bob confirmed that was correct.

Site C Dam Model Presentation

The Site C Dam Model was played for Committee members. The model is used as a design tool and the design incorporates lessons learned from other BC Hydro facilities.

- a) Rick Morrison the AFDE representative provided an explanation of some of the features displayed in the model presentation.
- b) A member asked if the model shows current design changes from the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) amendment.
 - a. Shanna Mason stated yes the model shows the design changes from the EAC amendment. She explained that in the original design the upper and lower level spillways had the same alignment and that when both were open they interfered with each other causing a flow disturbance. So to eliminate conflict, the alignment was changed for the upper and lower spillways, in order to separate them.
- c) A member stated that he understood that the lower gates are not supposed to be used.
- d) Shana Mason confirmed that they are emergency gates.

Off-Site Update

Melissa Holland, the Director for Highway 29 Realignment, Transmission and Reservoir Clearing provided an update on the timeline and areas of construction located outside of the dam site, including the Highway 29 realignment, reservoir clearing, and transmission line and the substation.

- a) Melissa provided an update on geotechnical and archeological work along Hwy 29.

- b) Shanna Mason stated BC Hydro will be submitting an amendment to have a long bridge at Halfway River instead of a causeway and a short bridge..
- c) The MoTI representative added that it will be the largest bridge in the northern region.
- d) Melissa explained that clearing in a portion of the western transmission line corridor was put on hold and that they intend to finish clearing next winter.
- e) Melissa discussed the wildfire on Tea Island and stated that the wildfire was contained to the already cleared area, but the fire expanded beyond the burn piles. In the location of the wildfire on the south bank, the piles had been burnt a month prior. Hot dry weather and wind seem to have caused ignition.
- f) Melissa explained that BC Hydro used drone hummingbird technology at night with infrared cameras to identify hotspots as part of the fire management. BC Hydro is likely to continue using this technology.
- g) A member discussed the Smoke Management Plan (SMP), and noted it was effective during the burning which occurred this spring and that their community received the notices as planned and thanked BC Hydro for the good work in implementing the SMP.
- h) No questions were asked about off-site dam work.

Reports Update

Shanna Mason explained that Site C generates specialized reports for regulators. In March, Site C submitted a series of reports. She explained there is a lot of work going on right now that people are not aware of and that BC Hydro is willing to come and present on these topics. BC Hydro will provide a list of the reports that are available in the meeting minutes.

Post-meeting note: The following is the list of reports:

- *EAC Annual Compliance Report*
- *Annual Report – Aboriginal Plant Use Mitigation Plan*
- *Annual Report - Vegetation and Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan*
- *Annual Report - Accidents and Malfunctions Plan*
- *Annual Report - Air Quality Plan and Smoke Management Plan / Climate and Air Quality Monitoring*
- *Annual Report - Acid Rock Drainage and Metal Lechate Management Plan / Water Quality Management Plan*
- *Annual Report - Heritage Resources Management Plan*
- *Annual Report - Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Management Plan*
- *Annual Permit Report – Heritage Inspection*

Mitigation Update

Nancy Pepper discussed the BC Hydro Peace Agricultural Compensation Fund Board

- a) Nancy named the people on the Board and asked members to keep the information confidential until there is a public announcement. A member asked who will be managing the Agricultural Fund, Nancy stated that it has not been decided yet, BC Hydro will seek feedback from the Board on the selection of the Fund Administrator at the second Board meeting in June.

Nancy Pepper discussed the Recreation Site Fund and asked for the Committee's recommendations on who should sit on the Committee for the Fund.

- a) A member asked for a reminder of the process to identify the Recreation Site Fund and its purpose.
 - a. Nancy responded that the Fund was identified during the Environmental Assessment stage to replace small, unmaintained recreation sites that will be removed when the area is inundated. Nancy explained that funding for these sites is in addition to the three boat launches that BC Hydro is replacing and improving.
- b) The member commented that the public will be expecting more recreation opportunities on the reservoir.
- c) The member asked if this is all of the recreation funding from BC Hydro for recreation on the reservoir.
 - a. Nancy explained that BC Hydro is mitigating the impacts of Site C including replacing the boat launches and providing funding to replace the small, unmaintained recreation sites. She stated that private business owners who are interested in developing recreation facilities on the reservoir will be able to do so.
 - b. Nancy asked if there are any specific recreation amenities in which the member is interested.
- d) The member said that picnic sites, overnight sites, and places on the reservoir that boaters can access are needed. User groups cannot put outhouses wherever they want any more with current regulations. \$50,000 a year is put into maintenance at Peace Island Park. The member does not feel that \$200,000 total is enough money to support more extensive recreation infrastructure.
- e) The member stated that it may be hard to find people to sit on a committee for the amount of funding available. The member did not think there is enough money for the fund. There also doesn't appear to be any maintenance funding.
- f) The member asked if the recreation document is public.
 - a. Nancy shared that the information is public in the Outdoor Recreation and Mitigation Plan which was posted publically in 2016 and was also presented to the PRRD Board in 2016.
 - b. Shanna Mason noted that the \$200 000 is in addition to boat launches and that a small amount of money to develop these sites may make a difference to some organizations.
- g) A member stated they agree with the comments raised and that reservoir would increase downstream use of Peace River by river boats.
 - a. Nancy shared that in addition to the Recreation Fund, BC Hydro will fund the development of a BC Peace River/Site C Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan in accordance with Environmental Assessment Certificate condition 40.
- h) A member stated that BC Hydro needs to look for reasonable areas for recreation sites now, since it will be difficult to do so after the reservoir is filled. BC Hydro also needs to consider use by both motorized and non-motorized boats. BC Hydro need to look at the entire scope of recreation on the reservoir.
- i) A member again expressed their concern that the amount of funding was too low, and that they are not sure what they can get done with the available funding.
 - a. Shanna Mason suggested a focused discussion around broader recreation priorities in the future with interested members.
 - b. Shanna Mason also stated that they would like to hear from indigenous groups about who should participate on the fund.

- j) A Saulteau member thanked BC Hydro for recognizing Treaty 8 in the opening statements. Saulteau stated that they had a Cultural Heritage Resource Committee that deals with such matters.
- k) A Blueberry River member stated that they need to talk about this more and get more information from the elders; there are concerns about recreation.
- l) A member shared that the long stay RV sites at Peace Island Park will be up and running June 1st.

Action: BC Hydro will set up a meeting to discuss the full scope of Site C outdoor recreation mitigation measures and broader recreational opportunities on the reservoir with interested members.

4. Jobs and Businesses

Dave Conway provided a job and business update.

- a) The most recent contracts awarded are for Generating Station Spillways (GSS) substation, and the GSS Hydro-mechanical Equipment Supply.
- b) Employment is continuing to increase on the Project as work ramps up as shown in the workforce report
- c) The Q1 business report lists 334 companies engaged by BC Hydro and Site C contractors to provide goods and services to Site C construction from January-March 2018.
- d) The Public Enquiry and FAQ report were reviewed.

5. GSS Amendment Update

Shanna Mason spoke about the BC Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) and the Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC) amendment process to change the design of the spillways.

- a) The spillways should not be used regularly, but it is needed for situations such as if a spill occurs at the W.A.C Bennett dam and the water needs to be passed by Site C. The EAO put together a working group and held a briefing on the changes. The changes are now before them; they are working on developing recommendations and sharing an early draft with us this month with a possible decision in July.
- b) In June BC Hydro is planning to submit the EAC amendment for the change to the Halfway River bridge alignment.
- c) A member asked how many EAC amendments have been submitted and confirmation that the third amendment is planned to be the Highway 29 alignment at Cache Creek.
 - a. Melissa confirmed that BC Hydro will submit an EAC amendment for the selected alignment of Hwy 29 at Cache Creek.

6. Contractor Updates

- a) PRHP provided an update, stating that they were very busy in 2018. They are bringing in between 30-50 people to site for orientation. Well over 30% of the workforce are local employees. PRHP discussed using charter flights out of Nanaimo.
- b) A member asked why PRHP is not using regular commercial airliners out of Fort St. John and mentioned that the airport doesn't get the same fees from charter flights.
 - a. PRHP shared that there is not enough capacity on commercial airlines.

- b. Nancy Pepper shared that BC Hydro provides updates to the North Peace Airport Society every six months with information about contractor's use of charter flights. The last update was provided in January 2018.
- c) ATCO provided a contract update
- d) AFDE provided a contract update
- e) VOITH provided a contact update and explained how they are encouraging apprentices. They presently have two local hires.

7. Roundtable

- a) Taylor reminded everyone that the long stay RV sites are completed at Peace Island and will be available for general public booking June 1st.
 - a. Nancy Pepper thanked MoTI for their partnership in construction of the RV sites at Peace Island Park.
- b) MOTI stated that for recreational development opportunities they can assist by offering their transportation expertise.

8. Next Steps

- a) The Committee discussed and agreed that the next meeting will be a site tour.
- b) The Committee discussed possible dates. Two options will be sent to the Committee for review:
 - i) Wednesday, September 19
 - ii) Wednesday, September 26
- c) The action items will be sent to the Committee.

Action: Send current action items to Committee.

Post-meeting note: The Action Item log was sent to the Committee on June 5, 2018 by email.