

Site C Clean Energy Project

Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
March 16, 2022, 1:00 to 3:30 pm
Video Conference Call

ATTENDEES <i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i>	<p>Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Mayor Rob Fraser, District of Taylor</p> <p>Mayor Dave Heiberg, District of Hudson's Hope</p> <p>Mayor Allan Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd</p> <p>Margaret McDonald, McLeod Lake Indian Band</p> <p>Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nations</p> <p>Dave Conway, BC Hydro</p> <p>Bob Gammer, BC Hydro</p> <p>Jerry Muir, BC Hydro</p> <p>Shanna Mason, BC Hydro</p> <p>Chris Waite, BC Hydro</p> <p>Matt Drown, BC Hydro</p> <p>Greg Scarborough, BC Hydro</p> <p>James Thomas, BC Hydro</p> <p>Ben Rauscher, BC Hydro</p> <p>Kate O'Neil, BC Hydro</p> <p>Vlad Kositsky, BC Hydro</p> <p>Nich Burnett, BC Hydro</p> <p>Lynette Bryan, BC Hydro</p> <p>Adil Zaheer, BC Hydro</p> <p>Wendy Laluk, BC Hydro</p>
INVITED GUESTS	
ATTENDED	<p>Troy Van Bostelen, AFDE</p> <p>Jamie Bodnarchuk, PRHP</p>
ABSENT WITH REGRET	<p>Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nations</p> <p>Carol Newsom, CAO, District of Chetwynd</p> <p>Mayor Dale Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek</p> <p>Blair Lekstrom, CAO, City of Dawson Creek</p> <p>Jennifer McCracken, Doig River First Nation</p> <p>Milo McDonald, CAO, City of Fort St. John</p>

	<p>Mokles Rahman, CAO, District of Hudson's Hope</p> <p>Naiomi McKinnon, McLeod Lake Indian Band</p> <p>Stephanie Rocheleau, Land & Stewardship Director, McLeod Lake Indian Band</p> <p>Dan Davies, MLA, Peace River North</p> <p>Tamara Wilkinson, MLA Assistant, for MLA Dan Davies</p> <p>Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South</p> <p>Terri Paulovich, Constituency Assistant, Peace River South</p> <p>Danielle Veach, Village of Pouce Coupe</p> <p>Mayor Keith Bertrand, District of Tumbler Ridge</p> <p>Jennifer Thompson, CAO, District of Tumbler Ridge</p> <p>Adriana DaCosta, MOTI</p> <p>Chief Justin Napoleon, Saulneau First Nation</p> <p>Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Mayor Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St. John</p> <p>Moira Green, CAO, District of Taylor</p> <p>Shawn Dahlen – CAO, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Jim Morgan, ATCO</p>
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Documents Distributed for the December meeting:

- RCLC Meeting Agenda
- RCLC Presentation Slides
- RCLC Action item log
- RCLC Workforce Reports
- RCLC Q4 Business Report
- RCLC December 8 Meeting Notes
- RCLC Public Enquiries FAQ

Opening / Welcome

- Dave welcomed all attendees.
- Acknowledgement of Treaty 8 traditional territories as well as those in other traditional territories.

Review of Agenda & Action Items

Dave reviewed the agenda and action items along with the status of each item.

Site C COVID-19 Update

Shanna Mason provided a Site C COVID-19 update.

- Shanna is happy to report that there is not much to update regarding COVID.

- BC Hydro is taking a cautious approach to the changes in the provincial mandate and is looking to normalize and get in line with the rest of the province soon. There isn't much to say on COVID for the first time in a long time.
- Dave reminded members that BC Hydro is updating COVID numbers weekly on the Site C website.

BC Hydro Project Update

Dam On-site Construction Update

Chris Waite provided updates about on-site construction activities.

- Mayor Courtoreille asked if all the turbines have been received by Site C.
 - Chris confirmed that there are three on site and the fourth is on its way and is likely in the Chetwynd area. Two more are in Prince Rupert and will be delivered later this summer.

Off-Site Construction

Matt Drown provided an update on off-site activities.

- Mayor Courtoreille asked about the big columns on the bridge and what would happen in an earthquake.
 - Matt informed the committee that the columns have been built to the highest seismic standards, all the columns have been piled into bedrock with steel piles. The highway has been well designed for all contingencies including a landslide generated wave.
- Mayor Heiberg is concerned about the burn piles as part of reservoir clearing close to town and asked if specific conditions in the valley near Hudson's Hope will be considered when burning takes place as smoke can accumulate in town.
 - Matt explained that the burn piles will dry out and season until the fall. BC Hydro will use a special venting index for the Hudson's Hope area to prevent smoke issues in town.
- Mayor Heiberg asked when helicopter work will be complete in the Hudson's Hope area.
 - Matt explained there would be another week of helicopter work and again in the fall when the burn piles are lit as they are lit by helicopter.
- Mayor Heiberg asked when the walking trails will be ready for public access and completion dates for the berm.
 - Matt expects the berm to be complete in July and the temporary construction fences to be removed following construction. Fencing may need to remain to prevent access on D.A. Thomas Road, until the road upgrades and recreational site has been completed, in 2023. This will require further discussion with the District of Hudson's Hope.
 - Shanna added that the community didn't want a walking trail on the large portion of the berm. When users arrive at the bottom of D.A. Thomas Road there will be a parking area that will connect to existing trails in the area.

ACTION 2022-001 – Matt Drown to confirm the dates, details and public access to the trails around the berm and D.A. Thomas Road area with Mayor Heiberg.

- Bob Gammer asked what happens with the old portions of highways once the new alignment is in use.
 - Matt explained that a good portion of the old highway will be under water. All barriers, signs and asphalt will be removed and above grade the areas will be returned to a natural state to match

the surrounding area. There will be visual screening done so that motorists will be not be confused by which section of highway they should drive on.

Fish Enhancement Site

Greg Scarborough provided an update on the fish habitat enhancement work.

- Chair Sperling asked if this on hold due to the slide. How long has BC Hydro been working on this and why didn't residents get previous notice? What did the engineers and geotechnical people say is different about where its being constructed now from where it was going to be constructed in front of Old Fort. The area that is being proposed now is closer to the slide.
 - Shanna explained that she and Nancy Pepper spoke with the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) in 2019 regarding the main stem work that is being done, nothing has changed as this is the exact same work that was proposed at the beginning of the Site C Project. The Fish Enhancement site was included in the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) permit approval in 2014. When Nancy and Shanna spoke to the PRRD in 2019 it was stated that the main stem work would likely go ahead, and the back-channel work would not and was under review. After that meeting, BC Hydro sent a letter to the PRRD stating the back-channel work was permanently on hold. From BC Hydro's perspective, there has always been a plan to conduct the main stem work and this had been communicated. BC Hydro has always been planning this work, it has not been moved, it has not been made closer, or further, than originally presented.
- Chair Sperling explained that many Old Fort residents would argue this because it has been changed and BC Hydro used the slide as an excuse.
 - Shanna confirmed that BC Hydro did eliminate the back-channel work and discussed this in 2019 and updated the Site C Project website to reflect this. BC Hydro conducted telephone conversations with many of the Old Fort river front property owners regarding the emergency response planning guide. Several residents were happy that the back-channel work would not be done, however, there were some residents that felt the back-channel work may have improved the slide situation by providing stability and were disappointed the work would not be done. BC Hydro has been speaking openly about this and does not want to do any work anywhere near the slide. Geotechnical engineers will be at the open house to explain why the main stem works are far enough away to not be problematic.
- Chair Sperling asked for the engineering explanation. If BC Hydro is talking to the residents then they should show some respect and communicate this to the regional district. The short notice of the open house is disrespectful.
 - Shanna confirmed that BC Hydro will have the engineering report re-sent to Chair Sperling and that engineering staff will be at the open house.
 - Dave Conway explained that in order to conduct an open house with the public enough information and detail needs to be available. BC Hydro provided six weeks notice which is a fair amount and ensured that the information provided is substantive enough to give everyone an idea of what is taking place.
- Chair Sperling explained that the BC Hydro notice said an access road would be built in March and then a meeting in April to explain what is taking place after the work started. Many residents ask what the point of the meeting is if BC Hydro is going ahead with the work anyway.

Peace Region Aggregate Resources

Director Karen Goodings, Mayor Dave Heiberg and Mayor Rob Fraser provided a presentation on the aggregate in the Peace River region. There is a concern that the region could experience a lack of aggregate needed for future growth.

- Shanna appreciated the presentation as it was thoughtfully done. BC Hydro will have a presentation, or follow up, to address the presentation points and questions. It needs to be made clear that that Site C will not be using Teco Pit. If the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) says that six million cubic metres of materials are available in Teco Pit, it is not being used by Site C construction. BC Hydro is developing a new pit, next to Teco Pit, which is being called Area E. The application that was sent out listed Area E. Teco Pit and Area E are often referenced as the same area, but they are physically separate. The new aggregate source in Area E is believed to have 12 million cubic metres of aggregate available. BC Hydro will be using approximately one million m³ of these materials. In the unlikely event that BC Hydro were to use, or need, additional aggregate, a new amendment to the environmental certificate would be required by BC Hydro; this will be determined by the end of this construction season. It is important for everyone to know that Teco Pit is under licence by Canadian National Railway (CNR) and MOTI uses it as well. This is not an area from which BC Hydro will be extracting aggregate.
- Shanna will provide an in-depth presentation and conversation regarding BC Hydro's commitments in the EIS in terms of compensation for gravel. For example, Peace View Pit is BC Hydro's pit and BC Hydro has been providing MOTI with gravel from it for some time. There are many other ways that BC Hydro is compensating MOTI and it would be worth a separate discussion and presentation.
- Director Goodings mentioned that when discussions first took place prior to Site C construction, Area B was completely left out of the conversations as far as gravel was concerned. There needs to be more discussion as it is a huge concern for industry, maintenance contractors and residents.
 - Shanna doesn't want to leave anyone with the impression that BC Hydro is looking to re-evaluate the regime or conditions to Site C construction. BC Hydro did submit the Environmental Impact Statement which resulted in providing BC Hydro with conditions. BC Hydro could talk about the MOU and talk about how BC Hydro is fulfilling those conditions, but BC Hydro would not be open to re-evaluating those conditions and how the joint panel reviewed this. If there is a desire to re-assess the impacts of the project, that isn't something that is within BC Hydro's control.
- Director Dan Rose noted that at the last RCLC meeting there were discussions regarding an ecosystem that could be lost and the committee was told at the time it was part of CNR's tenure; now we are learning this is not part of CNR's tenure.
 - Shanna stated that BC Hydro has been clear about Area E. The mapping shows where Area E is in comparison to Teco Pit and that CNR has tenure over Teco Pit and Area E. It can be confusing because the two names have been interchanged. What is being communicated today is the same that was communicated at the last RCLC meeting and the same as in the approval to have the land temporarily removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve - it wasn't an

amendment – It was done through an Order in Council submission. Shanna confirmed that CNR has tenure over Teco and Area E, however CNR has not developed Area E, BC Hydro will develop it. Studies of Area E have been completed by BC Hydro and it is estimated that 12 million m³ of materials are available, this number does not include Teco Pit. BC Hydro agrees that the area is a unique grasslands area and BC Hydro is committed to returning it to a grasslands area.

ACTION 2022-002 – Shanna to confirm if the six million cubic metres of materials mentioned in the aggregate presentation provided by Karen Goodings includes Area E.

- Director Goodings mentioned that the province has not put a very high value on gravel over the years and PRRD has not been properly compensated in the past.

Community and Social Mitigation Update

Ben Rauscher provided an update on river closures, boat launches and BC Hydro's Go Fund.

- Chair Sperling asked for an update on rustic campsite grants.
 - Ben Rauscher confirmed that three applications were received and have been considered. BC Hydro has gone back to the applicants to make amendments to the applications before bringing them to Front Counter BC for consideration by the Rustic Site and Trails group in Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations. A few applications should go forward for approval and money would go out in the initial phase of the rustic recreation site grant funding. There will be another \$100,000 available during the operations phase.

Job and Business Update

Kate O'Neil presented the job and business update.

Contractor Updates

Troy Van Bostelen – AFDE

- AFDE has been active in the community and is proud to say that many projects are employee led and supported corporately when possible.
- An AFDE crane operator, Johnny Bloomer was a finalist for Canadian Construction's 2021 photo of the year for his photo from the tower crane of the Peace River fog bank. The photo will be distributed to the committee.

Jamie Bodnarchuck PRHP

- PRHP will be ramping up soon and hiring heavy equipment operators and labourers.
- PRHP did the keynote speech at the Youth Changing Tomorrow Conference. PRHP reminded everyone that there are two scholarships available at Northern Lights College.
- The job links and scholarship information will be sent to the committee.

Roundtable

A roundtable update occurred from the local community representatives:

- Maggie McDonald commented that it is now better in McLeod Lake, however there were quite a few COVID cases in January and February which were hard on the community. Now some events are being planned such as one with BC Hydro on June 7. Happy retirement best wishes to Dave Conway.
- Director Rose states that there are some concerns in the agriculture community about the increased costs of putting a crop in due to increased fuel prices. Prices are not going to cover the added costs, so decisions will have to be made by farmers. Happy retirement Dave.
- Karen Goodings reiterates what Director Rose mentioned about the higher costs of fuel and the negative effects on the agriculture community. Now that Bob Gammer is taking over Karen asks who will take Bob's position. Next question is for Bob. Karen would like a response to a question about the Upper Halfway that was asked in November and has still not received a response. In Area B the sun is shining and thank you for allowing time for the aggregate presentation.
 - Dave confirmed that BC Hydro is in the midst of the hiring process to replace Bob. Two of four interviews have been completed, there should be a decision in the next two to three weeks.
 - Bob stated that he will continue to work on getting an answer to Karen regarding the Upper Halfway concern.
- Chair Sperling wishes Dave a happy retirement. Chair Sperling is also concerned about the rise in fuel costs and the negative affect it will have on the agriculture community. With the changes in COVID protocols and restrictions lifting, community members seem a little happier.
- Mayor Courtoreille gave an update on COVID in the community with masking being lifted it has brightened community spirits. One comment on Twin Well, Chetwynd has public washrooms there for day use, it will be open this summer, thank you Ben. Thank you, Dave for all your wit and charm, happy retirement.
- Mayor Heiberg mentioned that he tried retirement eight years ago and it didn't go as planned. Happy retirement Dave and thank you for everything.

Next Steps & Closing

- The next meeting date is tentatively set for June 15 or 22.
 - No concerns regarding the above dates.
 - Wendy will poll the RCLC members for their meeting date preference.
 - Dave thanked the committee. He has attended 25 RCLC meetings appreciates the respects the committee has shown to BC Hydro and to him over the years. The committee has represented their constituents and communities with passion, and it is appreciated and respected. Dave will share his email and phone number once retired. Stay safe and healthy.

RCLC meeting ended at 3:14 p.m.