

# Site C Clean Energy Project

## Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

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*Meeting Summary*  
*March 10, 2017, 10:30am to 1:00pm*  
*Fort St. John*

<p><b>ATTENDEES</b>  <i>Regional  Community  Liaison  Committee  Members</i></p>	<p>Brenda Apsassin, Blueberry River First Nations  Louise Cardinal, Blueberry River First Nations  Jane Calvert, Blueberry River First Nations  Mayor Merlin Nichols, Chetwynd  Doug Fleming, CAO, Chetwynd  Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St. John  Dianne Hunter, City Manager, Fort St. John  Tom Matus, CAO, Hudson's Hope  Area B Director, Karen Goodings, Peace River Regional District  Area C Director Brad Sperling, Peace River Regional District  Mayor Lorraine Michetti, Pouce Coupe  Councillor Andre Lavoie, Pouce Coupe  Charlette McLeod, CAO, Taylor  Edie Thome, BC Hydro  Dave Conway, BC Hydro  Bob Peever, BC Hydro  Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro  Wendy Laluk, BC Hydro</p>
<p><b>ABSENT WITH  REGRET</b></p>	<p>MLA Pat Pimm, Peace River North  Georgia Green, Constituency Assistant, Peace River North  MLA Mike Bernier, Peace River South  Cindy Fisher, Constituency Assistant, Peace River South  Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek  Duncan Redfern, CAO, Dawson Creek  Cec Heron, Doig River First Nation  Councillor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope  Mark Diffin, Land Referral Office Manager, McLeod Lake Indian Band  Area D Director, Leonard Hiebert, Peace River Regional District  Area E Director Dan Rose, Peace River Regional District  Chris Cvik, CAO, Peace River Regional District  Christopher Leggett, CAO, Pouce Coupe  Mayor Don McPherson, Tumbler Ridge  Jordan Wall, CAO, Tumbler Ridge</p>

INVITED GUESTS	<p>Karen Paxton, ATCO Two Rivers Lodging Group</p> <p>Councillor Laura Weisgerber, Chetwynd</p> <p>Councillor Mel Deck, Chetwynd</p> <p>Councillor Alec Brownlee, Chetwynd</p> <p>Randy Rusjan, Director of Parks &amp; Recreation, Chetwynd</p> <p>Kevin Franson, Director of Financial Administration, Chetwynd</p> <p>Andrew Barracks, Ministry of Transportation &amp; Infrastructure</p> <p>Amber Harding, Peace River Hydro Partners</p>
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### **Documents Distributed (via email on March 8, 2017)**

Agenda – March 10, 2017

Action Items Tracking Log – March 8, 2017

Site C Project Update Presentation – March 10, 2017

Watson Slough Clearing Information Sheet – February 2017

BC Hydro Site C Public Enquiries Report January – February 2017

### **1. Opening / Welcome / Agenda**

- a) Blueberry River First Nations elder, Louise Cardinal, provided an opening prayer for the meeting.
- b) Review of agenda and request for any additional items by Dave Conway. Edie Thome will be arriving a bit late for this meeting and sends regrets. Roundtable introductions were done to welcome new members and introduce invited guests. The District of Chetwynd council and senior staff attended as observers and will be taken on a tour of the Site C dam site after the meeting.

### **2. Review of Action Items**

- a) Action items 2016-014, 2016-045 are still in progress.

### **3. BC Hydro Project Update**

Bob Peever discussed the current and upcoming construction activities on the Site C project.

- a) Topics of interest included the tension crack on the north bank of the dam site, information on the roller compacted concrete (RCC) testing and the discovery of fossil concretions at the dam site.
  - a. A member asked if the tension crack was anticipated.
  - b. Bob Peever explained that tension cracks are anticipated from time to time however information was communicated to stakeholders with regards to this particular crack due to its 400 metre length.
  - c. A member asked how the tension crack will be fixed.
  - d. Bob Peever explained that engineers are finalizing a plan to stabilize the material with a toe berm. This will allow workers to focus on safely removing the material from the north bank and allow work to resume.
  - e. A member asked if the tension crack will add to the construction timeline.
  - f. Bob Peever explained that BC Hydro expects to complete the remediation work for the tension crack within the overall project budget and schedule.

- g. A member asked if situations like the tension crack would prevent the Site C project from moving forward or if it could occur again during construction.
- h. Bob Peever explained that the tension crack would not prevent the project from moving forward. BC Hydro has a remediation plan to address the tension crack and has installed instruments to measure and monitor stability around the tension crack.
- i. Part of the construction work that has been underway for the past 19 months includes the removal of unstable soil on the north bank to create stable slopes for construction of the dam.
- j. A member asked if the slab that is being created for the testing of the RCC will be used for anything else after the testing is complete.
- k. Bob Peever explained that many core samples will be removed from the slab for strength test samples. The sampling should be complete in approximately 90 days and once complete the remaining portion of the slab will be excavated out of the area.
- l. A member heard that large petrified clams were found and wanted to know where they would be stored.
- m. Bob Peever explained that the clam shells (fossil concretions) will be displayed outside of the BC Hydro Site C construction office.
- n. Bob Peever noted that a NOTAM is being issued soon for some blasting work on site.

Dave Conway provided information on procurement, employment and regional business participation.

- b) Discussion focused on regional employment and business participation.
  - a. A member asked if the employment numbers for regional workers have decreased.
  - b. Nancy Pepper explained that regional and provincial employment numbers have increased and that the trend is displayed in a graph included in the update presentation.
  - c. Edie Thome asked committee members for their help to promote available Site C job opportunities with BC Hydro.
  - d. A member asked for clarification as they had heard that some local contracts have been cancelled due to the work being brought in-house.
  - e. Amber Harding explained that Peace River Hydro Partners (PRHP) had hired a company on a contract and that the company was aware that PRHP planned to bring the work in-house at the end of the contract period.
  - f. A member asked if PRHP's bidding process for procurements is a confidential and sealed process.
  - g. Amber Harding explained that the bidding process for PRHP is a sealed and confidential process.
  - h. A member asked if the procurement policies for PRHP are public.
  - i. Amber Harding agreed to provide more details of PRHP's procurement process at the next meeting.

*Action: Members are encouraged promote BC Hydro job opportunities with the Site C project.*

*Action: PRHP to provide more details on procurement and sub-contractors at the next meeting.*

#### **4. Public Enquires and FAQ Report**

Dave Conway reviewed the Public Enquiry and FAQ report with the Committee.

- a) Since 2008, BC Hydro has received 5553 public enquiries on the Site C project.
  - a. A member asked if the public enquiry numbers include enquires from First Nations.
  - b. Dave Conway explained that some enquiries from First Nations would be captured in the reports however the Site C Aboriginal Relations team receives, responds and tracks many enquiries which would not be included in the Public Enquiry reports.

#### **5. Updates from Peace River Hydro Partners and ATCO Two Rivers Lodging Group**

- a) Amber Harding provided an update on PRHP, noting that they attended the local job fairs in Dawson Creek and Fort St. John. The job fairs were successful. PRHP were able to discuss opportunities with potential employees and explain which job positions are available. Recruitment is underway for skilled trades including welders, electricians and pipefitters; however they are no longer recruiting for heavy equipment operators. Currently PRHP are reviewing journeymen qualifications and plan to add apprentices at a later date.
- b) Karen Paxton provided an update on ATCO Two Rivers Lodging Group (ATCO), noting that they also attended the local job fairs. ATCO is actively recruiting for support positions such as kitchen work, housekeeping, janitorial and maintenance. ATCO has found it beneficial to speak with local contractors as they have increased their use of local contractors, including electricians and plumbers.

#### **6. Roundtable**

- a) Merlin Nichols noted that Chetwynd is on the edge of the Site C project area and that there are current and future impacts to the community. The construction of the transmission lines will use roads in the community and this is a primary concern for Chetwynd. Chetwynd would like to receive updated information on the transmission line work and other information about project traffic in their community such as the small amount of riprap that is going to be moved by truck in the next few weeks from West Pine Quarry to the dam site.
  - a. Nancy Pepper explained that more information will be provided to Chetwynd at a meeting with BC Hydro on March 29 and that the small amount of riprap will be used for road building. The work should result in approximately 8-10 trucks per day from West Pine Quarry for about a week.
  - b. Amber Harding explained that blasting will not occur prior to April 1, 2017. In April, blasting in West Pine Quarry and hauling from the quarry will begin. The materials will be transported on the regular CN rail schedule and no new trains will be added to the schedule for this work.
  - c. Merlin Nichols asked if other sources of rip rap were being investigated.
  - d. Amber Harding shared that investigations are underway at Sukunka to see what is available at that quarry. It's very early in the investigation and no decisions have been made.
- b) Andre Lavoie shared that he was happy to see a Pouce Coupe vendor on the Site C vendor list.

- c) Karen Goodings has heard concerns from a local resident about the bridge near Eagle Island and the eagle nests by the bridge. Concerns have also been raised about the Watson Slough clearing.
- d) Karen Goodings and Rob Fraser commented on incorrect information included in a recent advertisement on planned Site C work.
  - a. Edie Thome thanked Karen and Rob for raising these concerns as this allows BC Hydro to address them. Watson Slough is a good example, as the PRRD asked BC Hydro to delay clearing and after reviewing the information BC Hydro was able to adjust the clearing plan. The clearing plan will be closely monitored to ensure that only high risk trees are moved, approximately 10%.
  - b. Edie Thome asked Karen and Rob to share copies of any advertisements that may contain incorrect information with BC Hydro so any errors can be corrected.
- e) Karen Goodings said that BC Hydro is removing viable trees for eagle nesting and would like information on how BC Hydro is mitigating the tree removal.
  - a. Edie Thome explained that for active eagle nesting, BC Hydro uses the definition of when nesting is occurring and that BC Hydro will not disturb an active nest.
  - b. Edie Thome also explained that BC Hydro is installing 38 nesting platforms during construction that will be designed to be attractive to nesting bald eagles.
- f) Karen Goodings thanked BC Hydro for delaying the clearing of Watson Slough.
  - a. Edie Thome explained that BC Hydro made plans for clearing at Watson Slough with the best of intentions. BC Hydro appreciates the PRRD raising their concerns as it allows BC Hydro to address them.
- g) Karen Goodings asked about individual farm mitigation.
  - a. Edie Thome will follow up with Karen Goodings on this topic at a separate time. If any other Committee members are interested in information on the Environmental Assessment Certificate conditions, they are welcome to contact BC Hydro or Edie directly to discuss.
- h) Karen Goodings shared that BC Hydro should expect to receive a letter from the PRRD shortly with their comments on the draft Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Plan.
- i) Lori Ackerman mentioned that the Fort St. John office receives enquiries from the public about Site C. There are concerns about job opportunities for local workers and some companies have concerns about the procurement process with BC Hydro's contractors.
- j) Lori Ackerman has also heard that Site C workers are using healthcare facilities in Fort St. John rather than the on-site health care services.
  - a. Nancy Pepper explained that an issue had arisen regarding a misunderstanding regarding the scope of the healthcare available at the Project Health Clinic and the issue is expected to be resolved soon. She is keeping Northern Health updated on the matter.
  - b. An update on healthcare on-site will be provided at the next meeting.
- k) Louise Cardinal mentioned that First Nations do not like the number of trees being cut down.
- l) Rob Fraser shared that Taylor is facing challenges with their tele-medical clinic and that the clinics in Fort St. John are at capacity. If Site C workers are leaving the dam site to seek medical care, this will have an impact on the community.
- m) Rob mentioned that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) referral application for change of the Cache Creek Bridge was posted and advertised. Accuracy by BC Hydro is very important as people will come to the District office and point out errors or inadequate information. It is apparent that the application and all the associated documents were not released at the same time; there is then an information gap. If the information was provided in a comprehensive package it would

reduce complaints and confusion. The application documents do not refer to supplemental documents.

- a. Edie Thome mentioned that BC Hydro has four permits in engagement and consultation along with federal permits. These are points well taken; one package that cross references itself is needed by BC Hydro. This is a great example.
  - b. Jane Calvert agreed this seems to be a common issue with BC Hydro permits. Access to information needs to be more timely and informative. It's difficult to determine what is actually taking place.
- n) Rob Fraser mentioned that he has heard concerns about the turnaround time for payment to sub-contractors. He has also heard concerns that local suppliers are being replaced by mail order suppliers, and that larger companies are setting up local storefronts to look like local suppliers.
- a. Amber Harding offered to have the PRHP procurement manager attend the next RCLC meeting and provide information on PRHP's procurement process and policies. PRHP currently conducts a background check on suppliers by obtaining local references and local employee information, and noted that a local address doesn't automatically make them a regional company. She also explained that some invoices that PRHP receives from their suppliers do not contain the required information for processing. PRHP has sent a letter to their suppliers to explain the importance of including the required information on an invoice. PRHP employees have also received training on how to obtain the required information prior to ordering supplies. PRHP has a 90 day payment schedule.
- o) Doug Fleming thanked BC Hydro for inviting council and staff as guests to the RCLC meeting and mentioned that they will be touring the dam site after the meeting. Doug also thanked PRHP and BC Hydro for continuing to communicate with Chetwynd.
- p) Jane Calvert mentioned that Blueberry River First Nations members have sent approximately 20 job applications for Site C work in the past few months and none of them have been hired. Currently only one Blueberry River First Nation member is employed at the Site C. She would like to know how to make their applications more successful.
- a. Edie Thome explained that she has been speaking with Laurie Sterritt, with BC Hydro's Aboriginal Relations team, about holding a workshop. Edie Thome will ask Laurie Sterritt to follow up with Blueberry River First Nations.
- q) Karen Goodings asked about the Highway 29 realignment route.
- a. Edie Thome explained that the realignment route must stay within the boundaries, which are identified in the licence and permit. Changes to the realignment route are not being considered at this point. BC Hydro will continue to work through the plans that are in place.
- r) Brad Sperling said that the upcoming work at 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue and for the conveyor belt will raise concerns about noise from equipment and trucks.
- a. Edie Thome thanked Brad Sperling for raising this concern and explained that BC Hydro has plans in place but it would be good to get his feedback as well. More information can be shared with the Committee for further discussion.
- s) Doug Fleming asked if PRHP could send out a summary of their procurement process to the Committee, as the next RCLC meeting, which will include a presentation on PRHP's procurement process, will be held in June 2017. The summary would help elected officials answer enquiries from their community members.
- a. Dave Conway will work with PRHP to send out a summary of PRHP's procurement process to the Committee.

*Action: 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.*

*Action: BC Hydro will follow up with PRRD Director Karen Goodings to discuss Site C mitigation funds.*

*Action: BC Hydro will report on the amount of trees removed from Watson Slough.*

*Action: BC Hydro will follow up with Blueberry River First Nation about job and training opportunities with BC Hydro and Site C.*

*Action: PRHP to send out summary of their procurement process via Dave Conway.*

## **7. Next Steps**

- a) The next meeting date will be in June 2017.
- b) Agenda items for the next meeting will include:
  - Health clinic at the worker accommodation lodge
  - Overview of Peace River Hydro Partners' procurement process
  - 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue Industrial Lands
  - Wuthrich Quarry
- c) The action items will be sent to the committee.