PEACE RIVER SITE C HYDRO PROJECT

Stage 2
Consideration of Public Consultation Input

BC hydro

December 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Overview

BC Hydro values input and feedback from communities, First Nations, regional and provincial stakeholders and the public about the Site C Project. This input will be documented and considered, along with technical and financial information, during project planning and evaluation.

BC Hydro conducted three rounds of consultation regarding the potential Site C Project in Stage 2 of project evaluation. Pre-Consultation was conducted December 2007 to February 2008, Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 was conducted May to June 2008, and Project Definition Consultation, Round 2 was conducted October to December 2008.

Consultation summary reports for Pre-Consultation, Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 and Project Definition Consultation, Round 2, were independently tabulated and prepared by Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and Synovate Ltd. Input from public consultation will be considered, along with technical and financial input, in refining features of the Project and the scope and nature of environmental and other studies.

This Consideration Memo demonstrates how input from Stage 2 public consultation has been considered by BC Hydro to date. It is important to note that public input received during Stage 2 will continue to be considered through all stages of Site C planning and evaluation, should the Project proceed to further stages.

This Consideration Memo is categorized by the following project disciplines:

- Consultation
- Engineering
- Environment
- Socio-Economic
- Energy Planning, Water Management and Finance

Background

BC Hydro is taking a stage-by-stage approach to the evaluation of Site C as a potential resource option for meeting B.C.'s future electricity needs, and is currently completing Stage 2. Stage 2 involved environmental, engineering, technical and financial work, and three rounds of consultations with the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders. In addition, First Nations consultation was initiated in a process that is separate, but parallel, to public consultation.

Pre-Consultation (December 2007 – February 2008)

In Pre-Consultation, BC Hydro asked participants how they wanted to be consulted and about what topics they wanted to discuss during consultation. Pre-Consultation was held from December 4, 2007 to February 15, 2008.

Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 (May – June 2008) and Round 2 (October – December 2008)

Project Definition Consultation, which incorporated stakeholder input received in Pre-Consultation, consulted the public and local, regional and provincial stakeholders on key potential impacts, benefits and features of the potential Site C Project. The consultation sought feedback on elements of project design, recreation, infrastructure, local impacts, land uses and community benefits. Round 1 was held from May 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008 and Round 2 was held from October 1, 2008 to December 3, 2008.

The public and stakeholders were advised of opportunities to participate through newspaper and radio advertisements, household mailers, BC Hydro bill inserts and direct email and phone call invitations. There were many opportunities provided for stakeholders and the public to participate in Stage 2 consultation:

- Consultation Discussion Guides and Feedback Forms
- Online Feedback Form (www.bchydro.com/sitec)
- Multi-stakeholder meetings
- Open houses
- Submissions by phone, email, fax or mail
- Community Consultation Offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope (Hudson's Hope office opened October 2008)
- Toll-free Site C information line
- Email updates

Participation in Stage 2 Consultation

Pre-Consultation	Round 1 Consultation	Round 2 Consultation
• 687 total participants	• 936 total participants	• 909 total participants
• 400 participants attended 48 stakeholder meetings	• 284 participants attended 29 stakeholder meetings	• 358 participants attended 26 stakeholder meetings
• 56 people attended a public meeting and open house in Hudson's Hope	• 380 people attended 10 open houses	• 326 people attended 7 open houses
• 305 feedback forms returned (67 online, 238 hardcopy)	• 224 feedback forms returned (76 online, 148 hardcopy)	• 345 feedback forms returned (177 online, 168 hardcopy)
• 31 submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)	• 22 submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)	• 72 submissions (fax, email, phone and mail)
• 200 visits to Fort St. John Community Consultation Office	• 250 visits to Fort St. John Community Consultation Office	• 153 visits to Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope Community Consultation Offices

Consideration of Input

Consultation summary reports for Pre-Consultation, Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 and Project Definition Consultation, Round 2, were independently tabulated and prepared by Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. and Synovate Ltd. These reports and materials for each of the three rounds of consultation are available at www.bchydro.com/sitec.

This memo, with tables, provides a summary of key inputs from Stage 2 consultation, and how this feedback has been considered and addressed to date. If Site C proceeds to Stage 3, consultation input will be reviewed for consideration regarding the scope and nature of effects assessment studies and other Stage 3 studies.

First Nations Consultation

BC Hydro is committed to effective communications and consultation with First Nations, with the goal of building positive long-term relationships. BC Hydro is committed to working fairly and equitably with First Nations as decisions about how best to meet our energy needs are made.

As part of the evaluation of the potential Site C Project, BC Hydro established a consultation process with First Nations about the Project, to identify interests and concerns, and to further knowledge and understanding about the potential effects of the Project. This consultation is continuing.

2.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS INPUT: CONSIDERATION TO DATE

Introduction

Following consultation best practice, BC Hydro engaged in Pre-Consultation, asking consultation participants how they wanted to be consulted about Site C, and about what topics. Input received through Pre-Consultation informed the two rounds Project Definition Consultation during Stage 2, and will continue to inform future project consultation. The consideration of input from Pre-Consultation was summarized in a Pre-Consultation Consideration Memo, which is available at www.bchydro.com/sitec, and is also appended to this document.

The remainder of this memo focuses on consideration to date of input received in Project Definition Consultation, Rounds 1 and 2.

Consideration of Input: Consultation

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Consultation Topics	Pre-Consultation	Participants regarded all nine topics in the Pre-Consultation feedback form as important for discussion in Project Definition Consultation.	All consultation topics raised in Pre-Consultation were included the subsequent Round 1 or Round 2 consultations. *Refer to Pre-Consultation consideration memo, appended to this document.*
Transparent Process/Accurate information and forecasts	All	Participants commented that they wanted consultation to be a transparent process with accurate information.	BC Hydro took steps to provide comprehensive and accurate information and ensure that it was accessible to all interested parties: • Historical reports and a project library were posted to the project website (www.bchydro.com/sitec) and made available at the community consultation offices • Project Information Sheets and Study Outlines on environmental studies being conducted in Stage 2 were provided to consultation participants and on the project website • The Site C project arranged for BC Hydro's Director of Energy Planning to attend consultation meetings during Round 2 to answer questions regarding electricity planning • In response to stakeholder requests, a community consultation office was opened in Hudson's Hope in October 2008, supplementing the Community Consultation Office opened in Fort St. John in January 2008. BC Hydro engaged an independent consultation firm to facilitate and document the consultation process, including the production of consultation summary reports. To add an additional layer of independence, the data analysis of all consultation input was tabulated and summarized by a internationally-recognized research firm. In developing the Project Definition Consultation Discussion

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
			Guides and Feedback Forms, BC Hydro engaged independent market research firms to review the materials for any bias, and conducted focus group testing to ensure that consultation materials could be easily understood by the public.
Design of Feedback Form	All	Some participants asked for a question on whether or not to build Site C. Some participants also wanted to provide input that was not directly related to the questions in the Discussion Guide.	In response to stakeholder requests in Pre-Consultation and Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, a question measuring the level of support for Site C was developed for Round 2 consultation. Each feedback form included space for additional comments. During Round 2, the feedback form was expanded even further to accommodate additional room for comments and input. Further, the project team continued to encourage written submissions on any topic. This resulted in 72 submissions to the project during Project Definition Consultation, Round 2, compared to 22 in Round 1 and 31 in Pre-Consultation.
Design of Consultation	Round 1	During Project Definition Consultation, Round 1, participants in the Lower Mainland indicated that they would like to participate in an open house.	In response to stakeholder requests for an open house in Vancouver, an open house was held on Wednesday, November 5th, 2008 at SFU Harbour Centre in downtown Vancouver.
Interest in Environmental Assessment	Pre-Consultation and Round 1	Participants were interested and asked questions about the environmental assessment process.	As a result of participant feedback, an information sheet about environmental assessment was developed in the Fall of 2008 and information about the Environmental Assessment Process was included in the Round 2 discussion guide. All of this information was also posted to the project website. The Round 2 discussion guide further explained that the decision on whether or not to move to Stage 3 of project review will be made by government.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Consultation should be independent of BC Hydro	All	Some participants felt that consultation should be conducted by a body independent of BC Hydro.	BC Hydro acknowledges this input from participants and notes that if the Project were to proceed to Stage 3, the Environmental and Regulatory Review and associated Public Comment Periods would be overseen by independent regulators. This environmental and regulatory review would be an independent, government-regulated process. Requirements for consultation would be prescribed by the independent regulators.

3.0 ENGINEERING INPUT: CONSIDERATION TO DATE

Introduction

Participants in each of the three rounds of Site C Stage 2 public consultation provided input into the engineering and technical aspects of the potential Site C project. Some of the interests expressed during these consultations were addressed during studies initiated in Stage 2, whereas some would be studied in future stages.

If the potential Site C Project were to advance to future stages of evaluation, additional studies, consultation and consideration of stakeholder input would be conducted. In addition, a comprehensive, independent environmental and regulatory review would be conducted, in which the public and stakeholders would have further opportunity to provide input regarding their concerns and interests.

An overview of input related to project engineering and consideration of that input to date follows.

Consideration of Input: Engineering

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Impact Lines	Round 1	Public consultation sought input on participants' opinions regarding this new approach and found that participants were generally in agreement with the impact lines approach	If the potential Site C project were to proceed, creation of the Site C reservoir would have several impacts on land adjacent to the reservoir. Public consultation indicated Peace River region participants are concerned about how reservoir shoreline conditions, such as erosion and stability, might affect issues such as public safety, property, recreation, and the environment. In addition, participants indicated concern that BC Hydro may underestimate the instability of the banks. A modern impact lines approach was developed in Stage 2 to assist in addressing these concerns. This new approach involves replacing the historically-conceived reservoir shore "safeline" concept with a "reservoir impact lines" approach that is based on a more rigorous assessment of physical processes that could potentially affect adjacent lands to the reservoir (flooding, shoreline stability, erosion, groundwater, landslide wave). Used in this context, the term "impact line" means a "boundary beyond which lands adjacent to a reservoir are not expected to be affected by the creation, or normal operation, of the reservoir". To ensure quality assurance, studies will be peer-reviewed by third party specialists. The new methodology being used by BC Hydro will provide the best available information about potential impacts to the shoreline and allow for the most flexibility for determining right of ways, easements and land requirements. BC Hydro acknowledges that the impact line methodology is still in development and additional studies would likely be required to further refine our understanding of the shoreline changes.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Impact Lines	Round 1	Participants were concerned that BC Hydro is underestimating the instability of the banks.	To refine its understanding of shoreline erosion, BC Hydro installed five temporary monitoring wind stations in Stage 2 to correlate wind data in the valley to that available at the Fort St. John airport (the only current source of wind data in the region). This calibration will enable BC Hydro to further refine predictive models of reservoir wave energy that would be the primary contributor to shoreline erosion. If the project proceeds, this work will continue and site specific geotechnical investigations may be conducted in sensitive areas.
Relocation of Highway 29	Round 1	Participants were most concerned about safety.	Four segments of Highway 29 would be flooded by the reservoir if the project were to proceed. For each of these segments, water crossings and alignment options were developed as part of historic Site C design work in the 1980s. At this time, the historic options for Highway 29 re-alignments have been shared and reviewed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and updated to meet current standards, providing improvements for wider lanes and shoulders and passing lanes, where practical. Property owners who would be directly impacted were also consulted during Stage 2. This consultation is documented in the Stage 2 report as an appendix. No decision to select a preferred highway alignment option will be made in Stage 2. If the project were to proceed, additional discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and regional government would be required to assess technical and financial feasibility of the historic options. In addition, the integration of the input from participants and property owners, along with heritage, social and environmental factors, would need to be considered prior to identifying a preferred alignment option for Highway 29.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Highway Design and Maintenance	Round 1	Participants wanted assurances that BC Hydro would maintain the highway	While BC Hydro would be financially responsible for the construction of the identified highway realignments, the maintenance of Highway 29 is expected to continue to be performed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.
Reservoir Clearing	All	Participants wanted to ensure that BC Hydro would properly clear the reservoir to minimize impacts to recreation areas, greenhouse gas emissions, etc. When asked, participants rated water quality, slope stability and erosion, and fish and aquatic habitat as the most important factors to consider during development of a reservoir preparation plan. These factors emphasize the importance participants put on the need for a multi-disciplinary perspective in developing the reservoir preparation plan in future stages, and BC Hydro acknowledges this importance.	In Stage 2, BC Hydro developed preliminary clearing considerations. These considerations were primarily forestry-focused and were prepared to provide the preliminary baseline that would be used to develop a more integrated reservoir preparation plan that considers environmental and socio-economic aspects, including impacts to communities, heritage resources, air quality, wildlife, and aquatic habitat. The preliminary clearing considerations are based on the clearing of all merchantable and non-merchantable vegetation within the project footprint below the maximum normal operating level. If the Project were to proceed, a waste vegetation plan would be developed in consultation with local government, stakeholders and regulators to help understand the trade-offs between clearing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and leaving some vegetation in place that could be beneficial for fish and wildlife habitat, shoreline stability and water quality (except where there may be a risk to public safety). This input during Stage 2 would continue to be considered in these future plans.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Waste Vegetation Clearing	Round 2	Participants rated minimizing visibility impacts/health impacts (air quality) and impacts to local residents as important to consider when preparing waste vegetation plans.	In considering vegetation disposal, feedback from Stage 2 consultation indicated that participants felt minimizing visibility and health impacts and local impacts to residents were their top priorities, followed by a need to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. Any burning of waste would be performed in accordance with provincial and federal regulations and would be designed to protect against air quality impacts (including community health and visibility). Should the Project proceed, BC Hydro would assess alternatives such as chipping, composting or conversion of waste to bio-energy to reduce the air quality effects and also as a potential option to mitigate against greenhouse gas emissions.
Recreation Opportunities	All	Participants wanted to ensure that recreational opportunities were created or maintained.	If the Project were to proceed, the reservoir preparation plan would include the siting of potential recreational areas and boat launches along the reservoir. BC Hydro would aim to balance any desired increase in access for recreation and other activities with the need to limit access to allow for conservation or safety.
Access Roads	Round 2	Feedback during the Stage 2 consultation process indicated that a majority of participants favoured increased access to the south bank (59%) and north bank (65%) of the reservoir.	Most reservoir preparation activities would require construction or upgrading of roads on both sides of the reservoir and dam site. In addition, helicopter access is being considered for activities on steeper slopes. Any increase in access for recreation and other activities would need to be balanced with the desire to limit access to allow for conservation. Plans to access the reservoir area would be developed with input from local stakeholders, First Nations, and environmental and geotechnical specialists. Input from Stage 2 consultation, along with input from these groups regarding potential impacts related to access and scheduling of reservoir preparation activities, would also be considered during planning.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Public Access to the Powerhouse Access Bridge	Round 2	The majority of participants were supportive of public access to the Powerhouse Access Bridge and infrastructure investments for the Peace River Region. Some participants, however, expressed caution (ie. potential impacts to communities such as Hudson's Hope)	If the Project were to proceed to Stage 3, a traffic impact assessment would be conducted and an associated traffic management plan would be developed, incorporating input from Stage 2 public consultation and further rounds of public consultation. During public consultation in Stage 2, the majority of participants expressed the opinion that if a new bridge was constructed as part of the Site C project then it should be accessible to the public after construction. Further consultation with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, local governments, stakeholders, First Nations, and the public regarding the potential powerhouse access bridge and associated access roads is required prior to any decision regarding public access to the powerhouse access bridge. Further, this decision would ultimately be made by the Province and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure in connection with regional road and highway planning. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has indicated that it would be interested in the consultation input received by BC Hydro.
Construction Materials	Round 2	In Round 2 of the consultations, the majority of the participants consistently emphasized the importance of fish and wildlife as extremely important factors and impacts to local residents, heritage sites and minimize GHG emissions as very to extremely important in evaluation of considerations	The majority of granular materials necessary for construction of the earth fill dam would be available from undeveloped sources in close proximity to the potential dam. Feasible options of impervious material are believed to be within 10 km of the dam site, but have not yet been confirmed. If the Project were to proceed to the next stage of evaluation and planning, an early requirement would be to confirm suitable locations and assess the potential environmental and social impacts associated with construction material and related transportation requirements. Until the location of impervious material is confirmed, the Project allows for the possibility of transporting this material from further away, potentially using the rail line.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
		for construction materials options. A majority of the participants evaluated costs as somewhat to not very important.	BC Hydro will consider the input from participants in the evaluation of options for construction materials. For example, BC Hydro would assess relocating more materials under the flooded area of the reservoir to reduce impacts to wildlife and fish. If the Project were to proceed to construction, an environmental construction management plan would be developed to consider potential impacts and identify feasible mitigation strategies during construction.
More Information	Rounds 1 and 2	Participants were interested in the results of engineering studies and whether they would be made public.	Completed reports on Stage 2 engineering and operations studies will be included in the Site C Stage 2 report, which will be available on the Site C website and in the community consultation offices in Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope.

4.0 ENVIRONMENT INPUT: CONSIDERATION TO DATE

Introduction

Participants in the three rounds of Stage 2 public consultation expressed concerns and interests to BC Hydro related to potential effects of the Project on the environment. Some of these concerns had been heard by BC Hydro in previous consultations, and had been considered during the planning of Stage 2 baseline studies related to the potential Project.

Baselines studies were initiated to develop an understanding of the current environmental and social conditions in the Peace River region. Areas of Stage 2 study included fish, wildlife, local climate, green house gas, land and resource use, community, economy, recreation, water quality and heritage. Studies were informed during Stage 2 by consultation input. In addition, BC Hydro shared public consultation feedback with Technical Advisory Committees established for the Project, so that government agency participants could consider the information given to the public and the feedback received from consultation participants. An overview of input in key topics areas related to environment and consideration of that input to date follows.

If the potential Site C project were to advance to future stages of evaluation, additional studies would be undertaken toward predicting effects and evaluating mitigation options, which would further consider input and concerns raised by stakeholders. In addition, a comprehensive, independent environmental assessment would be conducted, in which stakeholders would have further opportunities to participate.

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Consideration of Stage 2 Public Consultation Input: Environment

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Climate and Air	All	Participants were concerned about the Project's potential effect on GHG emissions, local climate (i.e. fog), and air quality.	BC Hydro heard participants concerns about local climate, air quality and greenhouse gases. BC Hydro has initiated local level climate modeling, water temperature modeling and the collection of valley bottom climate data collection (wind data) through the installation of wind monitoring stations. This collection of data continues. If the Project were to proceed to construction, air quality regulations would be integrated into environmental management and monitoring. BC Hydro developed a preliminary estimate of GHG emissions from the potential project (construction and operations) using the International Panel on Climate Change modeling protocol and consideration of life cycle emissions from construction activities, and also commissioned a comparison of GHG emissions against other resource options.
Water Quality	All	Participants were concerned with impacts on water quality, including mercury, and impacts to fish and aquatic life.	BC Hydro initiated a fish and aquatic study program during Site C Stage 1 Feasibility Review, which was continued and expanded during Stage 2 examination of the potential project. Partly in response to public concerns expressed about methyl mercury, BC Hydro added an additional component to existing Peace River fish studies to collect fish tissue samples and test for current mercury levels. If the Project were to proceed to Stage 3, a methyl mercury assessment would be required to assess the potential effects of the project on methyl mercury in the Peace River ecosystem.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Fish	All	Participants were concerned about impacts to fish.	BC Hydro and its regulators will continue to focus on understanding the potential effects of Site C on fisheries resources. BC Hydro will consider fish in its review of alternative water management strategies, should the Project proceed to Stage 3.
Wildlife	All	Participants were concerned about impacts to wildlife.	Wildlife studies were initiated in Stage 1, and have been continued or expanded in Stage 2. Studies focus on a number of species such as bats, songbirds, waterfowl, raptors, furbearers, butterflies, and ungulates. Additional studies will focus on data gaps, or the identification of a regional context for species. For example, a program to track ungulates (deer, elk and moose) is planned for early 2010 to gain further information about movement and migration patterns for wildlife in the Peace Valley. In response to studies and feedback during Stage 2, BC Hydro undertook additional surveys of stone sheep and bats. Impact and mitigation studies would be initiated, should the Project proceed to a future evaluation stage, including environmental assessment. Studies would assess the effects of reservoir clearing on wildlife habitat, use and movement, as well as consider how to adjust or plan project activities, such as reservoir clearing, to minimize disturbance of wildlife or destruction of habitat.
Water Management	Round 1	Participants commented that BC Hydro should look at maintaining static water levels when evaluating operation of the dam and water management.	Evaluation of water management options, including reservoir water levels and downstream flows, will include the potential effects of water levels on environmental topics.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Local climate (fog)	Round 1	Based on feedback from participants, fog was a concern for participants, mainly in fall and winter.	Historically the public has been concerned about fog and its effect on agriculture and transportation. Should the Project proceed to Stage 3, BC Hydro will refine preliminary Stage 2 modeling and identify potential additional data needs that would help in predicting the effects of Site C on local fog conditions.
Fish	Round 1	Participants ranked their preference for recreational fish species.	Should the Project proceed to Stage 3, BC Hydro would develop a detailed fish mitigation plan, which would include consideration of angling species, informed in part by the Stage 2 angler/creel survey analysis and public input.
Fish Passage	Round 1	Participants commented that BC Hydro should build fish ladders to ensure successful spawning.	The biological rationale and review of fish passage options for a project like Site C are being reviewed on a preliminary basis in Stage 2. Fish ladders are just one technical option that could be considered to fulfill the objective of moving fish effectively past the dam, and are familiar to the public based on knowledge of coastal facilities targeted at salmon. Fish species in the Peace River may require consideration of a different approach.
Reservoir Clearing	All	Participants wanted to ensure that BC Hydro cleared the reservoir area prior to flooding and were concerned about how clearing would be done. Water quality, slope stability and erosion and fish and aquatic habitat were rated as the most important factors to look at in reservoir preparation.	The Site C engineering team added the development of a preliminary reservoir clearing plan to its scope of work for Stage 2, based on high public interested in this topic. A multi-disciplinary approach will be adopted should the Project advance. BC Hydro will consider economic, environmental and social aspects in the refinement of the base reservoir clearing plan in future stages, including impacts to communities, heritage resources, air quality, wildlife and aquatic habitat.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Environmental Studies	All	Participants were interested in more information regarding environmental studies.	During Stage 2, BC Hydro released a list of planned studies and Information Sheets about studies already in progress. The scope and timing of planned studies could change based on public, agency and First Nations input. A summary of the results of studies will be released in the Site C Stage 2 Report and completed environmental study reports will be appended to the Site C Stage 2 Report.
Heritage Resources	Round 2	Participants expressed a high level of interest in and knowledge about the region's heritage, including pre-contact archaeology and more recent pioneering history and fossils. When asked, participants rated the identification and recovery of unique artifacts and respecting cultural priorities as the most important considerations with respect to heritage resources.	During Stage 2, BC Hydro undertook a study to review extensive past heritage studies to outline an approach to completing a heritage inventory and assessment. In addition, BC Hydro initiated the development of an archaeological potential model that would be used to guide further work if the Project were to proceed to Stage 3. If the Project proceeds to the environmental assessment process, a heritage inventory and assessment would be completed along with development of a plan for further investigation, research or recovery related to identified heritage sites. BC Hydro also added a task to develop a cataloguing system related to documenting existing recorded sites and artifact collections. This catalogue will be made available for use by the local museum repository and will help to manage the heritage record.

5.0 SOCIO-ECONOMIC INPUT: CONSIDERATION TO DATE

Introduction

During Stage 2 public consultation, BC Hydro heard participant concerns about socio-economic issues associated with the potential Project, including concerns that adverse effects would be felt more by Peace River residents than by other British Columbians. Some of these concerns had been heard by BC Hydro in previous consultations, and had thus informed the planning of Stage 2 socio-economic studies related to the potential Project. Socio-economic topics and concerns were also reviewed with representatives from local, provincial and federal government agencies during Stage 2, including BC Hydro sharing the results from Stage 2 consultation with these agencies.

If the potential Site C project were to advance to future stages of evaluation, additional project planning and studies would be undertaken which would further address concerns raised by stakeholders. In addition, a comprehensive, independent review during the environmental assessment process would be conducted, during which stakeholders would have further opportunity to participate.

An overview of input related to potential socio-economic effects and consideration of that input to date follows.

Consideration Table – Socio-Economic

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Interest in Socio-Economic Impacts	Pre-Consultation	Socio-economic impacts were highly rated by participants as important to discuss in Project Definition Consultation	In response to public interest in socio-economic topics, BC Hydro initiated socio-economic baseline work early in the process. However, detailed economic outlook studies would need to be completed as close to a potential EA application as possible so that projections are current. As a result, the early reporting on socio-economic topics will be preliminary drafts.
Community Benefits	Pre-Consultation	When asked to list community benefits they would like if the project were to proceed, participants identified recreation, infrastructure upgrades, and employment/contracting opportunities/economic opportunities.	Because recreational opportunities were raised so often in Pre-Consultation, BC Hydro asked questions about recreation in Project Definition Consultation, Round 1 Stage 2 socio-economic work was developed using input received during Pre-Consultation, and was focused on gathering preliminary baseline information and developing an assessment methodology for potential future stages. The structuring of socio-economic Technical Advisory Committees was also informed by the interest public consultation participants expressed during Pre-Consultation, namely: • Community Services & Infrastructure • Land & Resource Use • Recreation & Tourism • Heritage
Important Factors in Evaluating Site C	Round 1	66% of participants rated upgrades to infrastructure such as roads, bridges, parks and health facilities as important to consider in	BC Hydro received much input, including specific suggestions about potential community and infrastructure benefits, should Site C proceed to construction. This input will be addressed and considered in future stages of the project, including in future socio-economic work. Local and regional governments, as well as the

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
		evaluating Site C, while enhanced recreational opportunities was rated as important by 47% of participants.	Province, will also continue to be consulted on this topic.
Areas of Peace River used for recreation and timing of recreation	Round 1	The Peace River area is used for recreational purposes by participants in the summer (55%), fall (44%), spring (33%) and winter (17%).	BC Hydro will review this input, as well as the results of the Stage 2 angler and recreation survey, which provide a sample-based recreation participation estimate (including residential and tourist use), and consider additional data sources if the Project proceeds to a future stage, including environmental assessment.
Accessing Reservoir for Recreation	Round 1	Participants were divided on their preference for shore or boat-based recreational access to the potential reservoir.	Specific options for recreation access to the reservoir (e.g. trails, sites or boat launches) would be discussed in detail should the Project proceed to further stages of evaluation. In addition to public input, BC Hydro would consider crown land management objectives for adjacent areas, local government interests, and current amenities and use levels.
Housing Workers	Round 1	Participants rated minimizing impacts on local cost of housing, minimizing the need for additional services such as policing and creating opportunities for out-of-town workers to bring their families to the Peace region as most important when considering the housing of workers.	In addition to public input, BC Hydro received preliminary feedback from local governments on the topic of worker housing. If the Project proceeds to Stage 3, a detailed worker housing plan would be developed, considering public input, the potential implications such as procurement, project cost, local impacts and benefits, and worker quality of life. The workforce characteristics, such as year-round versus seasonal requirements, would also be taken into consideration. A future socio-economic effects assessment would include study of options related in-town housing and community infrastructure.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
		Participants commented that local workers should be used as much as possible.	
Heritage Resources	All	Participants were concerned about impacts to heritage sites.	BC Hydro has committed to this area of study should the Project proceed to Stage 3. A heritage inventory and assessment would be developed in the next stage of the project as well as evaluation and proposal of a mitigation plan as part of an environmental assessment if the Project proceeds.
Heritage Resources	Round 1	Identifying and recovering unique heritage artifacts and respecting cultural priorities for artifacts associated with specific communities were rated as most important to consider.	The public interest in identifying and recovering unique artifacts is aligned with the views of the regulator (under the *Heritage Act*). New work would be required in Stage 3 to complete a Heritage Impact Assessment (inventory and assessment) according to current standards. These results would be used to develop an appropriate heritage mitigation plan.
Public Use of the Powerhouse Access Bridge	Round 2	The majority of participants indicated a preference for public access to the powerhouse access bridge that would be built, should the Project proceed to construction.	Public and regional perspectives about potential public use of the Project's powerhouse access bridge (across the Peace River) are better understood as a result of Stage 2 consultation. Public use of the powerhouse access bridge would change regional traffic patterns; therefore, further discussion with provincial and regional governments is required. Should the Project proceed, and if public access was proposed, BC Hydro would assess the socio-economic effects accordingly.
Park Infrastructure	Round 2	When asked to list suggestions for infrastructure improvements to create a lasting benefit to the Peace River region,	Should the Project proceed, potential park amenities and infrastructure would be further considered in the development of refined plans for reservoir clearing and preparation, and recreation use and access, along with the province's land use objectives for adjacent areas.

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
		participants most often mentioned campgrounds or RV parks, boat launches or marinas, and nature or wilderness parks.	
Other Community Benefits	Round 2	When asked to list other potential community benefits, participants mentioned water and sewer most often.	During Stage 2, BC Hydro initiated discussion with local governments on topics including water and sewer infrastructure. Both local government and public interest in civic infrastructure topics is informed at least in part by high property tax pressures in the region and a high non-resident population. Dialogue would continue, should the Project proceed.
Nature-Related Activities	Round 2	The highest rated nature-related activities were wildlife viewing and photography.	The current high interest and high participation rate in outdoor recreation activities will be taken into account if the Project advances to Stage 3.
Access Roads	Round 2	Participants were more likely to support increasing permanent road access on both the north and south banks of the reservoir, over the option of decommissioning roads once construction concludes.	The interest in increasing access roads varies among individuals, local and provincial governments. Those interested in shorter travel times or new recreation areas generally support increased access, whereas those who prefer to maintain the remoteness of the south bank do not want increased access. Feedback reflects a current land use structure for the north bank of the Peace River, which is already developed, rather than the south bank. Should the Project proceed, BC Hydro will work with the Province to understand its regional land use objectives for this area.
Land Use	All	Participants were concerned with the impacts to land, particularly loss of	The potential Project would result in a loss of land currently being occupied by various private and crown land uses. BC Hydro committed during consultation to assess agriculture through several

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
		agricultural land.	lenses, including loss of agricultural zoned land, agricultural capability and agricultural economy.
Agricultural Values	Round 2	Forage crops and food for domestic animals, farm businesses that contribute to the local economy, scenic and pastoral landscapes and local food production were rated as the most important aspects of valley-based agriculture in the Peace River region.	BC Hydro acknowledges the public's high interest and values for agricultural lands. If the Project proceeds to an environmental assessment, BC Hydro will complete an agricultural effects assessment which will consider impacts on agriculture from these viewpoints, and seek out and evaluate relevant mitigation options. Participants ranked a number of mitigation areas, and further examination of feasible options would take place in Stage 3.
Agriculture: Mitigation and Enhancement	Round 2	Participants would like potential impacts to agricultural land to be mitigated.	Where Project design options exist, BC Hydro will consider impacts to agricultural land, such as minimizing direct losses and maintaining functional farm units, in options assessment.
Forestry: Harvest and Reclamation	Round 2		BC Hydro will examine effects of the Harvest and Reclamation Plan on the forest sector (the increase in supply).
Additional Information	All	Participants were interested in more information regarding environmental studies.	BC Hydro released a list of planned studies, and released Information Sheets for studies already in progress. The scope and timing of planned studies could change based on public, agency and First Nations input. A summary of the results of studies will be released in the Site C Stage 2 Report and completed environmental study reports will be appended to the Site C Stage 2 Report.

6.0 ENERGY RESOURCE PLANNING, WATER MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE INPUT: CONSIDERATION TO DATE

Introduction

Stage 2 Project Definition Consultation participants expressed concerns and interests to BC Hydro regarding a number of topics, including energy resource planning, water management and project financing and costs. An overview of input regarding these topics and consideration of this input to date follows.

Consideration of Input: Energy Planning, Water Management and Finance

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
Alternatives to Site C – Alternative Forms of Generation and Low Cost Power	All	Participants would like BC Hydro to consider alternatives to Site C such as wind, solar, tidal, etc. in addition to further pursuit of conservation.	BC Hydro has a thorough process to consider all resource options. This process is guided by provincial policy and the resulting plan is filed with an independent regulator, the BC Utilities Commission. Energy resource options for meeting demand will be considered in future BC Hydro LTAP and IEP filings with the BCUC. The topic of alternatives would also be addressed in a future regulatory process, should the Project proceed. Further, recognizing a high degree of interest in alternatives to Site C, the Site C Project arranged for BC Hydro Director of Energy Planning, who is responsible for the LTAP and IEP filings, to attend most of the Open Houses during Round 2 consultations to address questions directly from participants.
Alternatives to Site C – Maximizing Existing Facilities	All	Participants want BC Hydro to maximize existing facilities prior to considering Site C.	BC Hydro currently has a Resource Smart program in place to maximize heritage assets such as G.M. Shrum, Revelstoke and Mica. In fact, reinvesting in existing assets is a key priority of BC Hydro, and current plans include a $3.4 billion investment in existing assets over two years alone. However, it is important to note that building additional capacity at its generating stations adds additional capacity to the system, but not energy. BC Hydro needs both energy and capacity to meet future electricity demand.
Water Management	All	Participants value all water management factors, but ranked fish and wildlife	There are several competing interests in water management factors and the trade-off between these interests will be complex. However, in evaluating water management scenarios, the Site C team will look

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
		considerations higher than other factors, including recreation.	closer at potential operation scenarios related to impacts to fish, as fish and wildlife impacts were ranked higher than other topics, such as recreation. Bank erosion will be a criterion for evaluating the Project; water management factors will have an impact on bank erosion. Further, a water management plan will need to developed, in consultation with stakeholders, and filed with the Water Comptroller.
Cost of Energy	All	In general, participants cared most about the amount and reliability of energy, rather than cost.	Compared to other concerns in the Peace River region, costs were ranked lower, perhaps because costs of the project would be spread out over the entire province, while environmental/socio-economic impacts would be in the Peace River region. BC Hydro has an accountability to provide reliable power to its customers. Further, costs are regulated by the BC Utilities Commission.
Local Benefits	All	Participants were interested in potential local and regional benefits from the project, including low impact energy, procurement opportunities for local businesses, free or reduced rates for power in the Peace River region, a community trust, etc.	It is early to fully determine the potential community benefits arising should Site C proceed to construction. No decisions have been made to proceed, nor which community benefits would accrue. This input would continue to be considered. Further consultation is also required with local and regional governments. Ultimately, the Province and the regulators will also play a role in this determination. Regarding local procurement opportunities, BC Hydro has established a business directory for the Site C Hydro Project as an opportunity for local businesses to be added to the directory.
Scepticism of need for power	Round 2	Some participants were sceptical of the need for Site	At this time, BC Hydro believes there is the potential to require a project of this size around 2019-2020. Therefore, it is prudent to

Topic	Consultation Round	Consultation Input	Consideration of Input
		C given projections for B.C.'s load.	continue investigating the Project as a potential option to meet future electricity needs. The *BC Energy Plan* also requires the province to be energy self-sufficient by 2016. In the longer term, if Site C were built, it would contribute to B.C.'s ability to be self-sufficient.
Integrating Intermittent Power Generation with Site C Planning	Pre-Consultation	Participants wanted BC Hydro to look at how intermittent power sources such as wind and solar could be integrated with Site C.	BC Hydro heard this feedback in Pre-Consultation and brought it forward as a consultation topic in Project Definition Consultation. BC Hydro will continue to take this into consideration when looking at the Site C Hydro Project, through the energy planning process at BC Hydro, as well as Site C planning.
Cost Estimates	All	Participants wanted revised cost estimates for the Project.	BC Hydro will be updating the project cost estimates should the Project proceed to Stage 3.
Import/Export	Rounds 1 and 2	Participants were interested in BC Hydro's import/export numbers	BC Hydro has been a net purchaser of electricity eight of the last 10 years. The Site C team prepared an information sheet about BC Hydro's purchase/sale numbers and provided it to consultation participants.

Peace River Site C Hydro Project
Consideration of Input from Pre-Consultation
December 4, 2007 to February 15, 2008

Overview

Consistent with best practice in consultation, BC Hydro committed to producing a Consideration Memo, demonstrating how input received during the Pre-Consultation phase was considered in determining what should be discussed in the Project Definition consultation and in determining how people should be consulted.

The input received from Pre-Consultation has directly informed the upcoming round of Project Definition Consultation commencing May 2008. This document highlights how input was considered by BC Hydro and how it has informed the consultation program to date for the Peace River Site C Hydro Project. It is expected that input from Pre-Consultation will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as project evaluation continues.

Background

BC Hydro initiated Pre-Consultation for Site C as per the direction in the Energy Plan released in February 2007 by the provincial government.

Pre-Consultation was conducted from December 4, 2007 to February 15, 2008. The purpose of Pre-Consultation was to ask British Columbians how they wanted to be consulted about the potential Site C project, and what topics they would like to discuss during a consultation program for Site C.

Pre-Consultation has now concluded and the *Pre-Consultation Summary Report*, tabulating the input into the Pre-Consultation process, is complete and available at the Site C project website at www.bchydro.com/sitec. Meeting notes summarizing the 48 stakeholder meetings are available on the project website.

The *Pre-Consultation Summary Report* was written and prepared by Kirk & Co and Synovate Ltd. Kirk & Co. Consulting Ltd. is an industry leader in designing and implementing comprehensive public and stakeholder consultation programs. Utilizing generally accepted best practices in consultation, the firm designs consultation programs to maximize opportunities for input. Kirk & Co. works with polling firms to professionally manage, analyse and report on large volumes of public and stakeholder input. Synovate Ltd. is an internationally recognised market research firm. All consultation input received by feedback form and written submission was independently verified and analysed by Synovate.

Pre-Consultation input was collected through the following methods:
• Pre-Consultation Discussion Guide and Feedback Form

- Stakeholder meetings/Open House
- Online Feedback Form
- Submissions, e-mail and faxed correspondence
- Toll-free Site C information line
- Fort St. John Community Consultation Office

The public and stakeholders were advised of the opportunity to provide their input through ten newspaper advertisements in regional and community papers, a media release with resulting media coverage, and direct email invitations.

A total of 686 people participated in Pre-Consultation, with 400 attending stakeholder meetings representing local, regional and provincial interests. Additionally, 56 people attended a Hudson's Hope public meeting, there were 305 feedback forms collected, 31 submissions and approximately 200 visits to the Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John.

This feedback received from Pre-Consultation is intended to inform and help design the consultation program going forward, including the upcoming round of Project Definition Consultation commencing May 2008.

Consideration of Input

BC Hydro has reviewed the detailed Pre-*Consultation Summary Report* prepared by Kirk & Co. Consulting and Synovate Ltd. Kirk & Co. presented the results to the Site C project team, and also separately to a committee of the BC Hydro Executive, in March 2008. Additional briefings were held within BC Hydro, including the Energy Planning Group.

Stakeholder input from Pre-Consultation, has extensively informed the upcoming consultation program, and will continue to inform future project consultation. The consultation topics included in Round 1 of the Project Definition Consultation are all topics stakeholders raised as concerns or suggested as topics for discussion. In addition, the methods of consultation including stakeholder meetings, open houses, household mailers, newspaper inserts, an on-line feedback form, the Community Consultation Office in Fort St. John, and other methods will ensure that local, regional and provincial stakeholders as well as the public have a range of opportunities to participate and provide their input.

As a further example, the topic of comparing Site C to energy alternatives was added as a consultation topic, and will continue to form a part of consultation. As well, a household mailer was added as a communications tool to advise residents of the upcoming round of Project Definition Consultation.

The balance of this document will provide a summary of the key results from Pre-Consultation, and how this feedback has been considered and addressed to date.

1. Topics for Consultation

Participants regarded all nine topics presented in the feedback form as important topics of discussion in Project Definition Consultation (between 71% and 81% regard the topics as “somewhat” or “very” important).

The topics, ranked in order of overall importance were:
- Project design
- Water management
- Fish / wildlife
- Socio-economic
- Land use
- Infrastructure
- Local benefits / opportunities
- Recreation
- Local and provincial climate

In the next two rounds of consultation during Project Definition, BC Hydro will be consulting on specific elements of these topics. Specifically, in Round 1 of Project Definition Consultation in May and June 2008, the following topics will be discussed:

- Comparing Site C to energy alternatives
- Project design, specifically reservoir impact lines and water management issues
- Recreation; impacts on river recreation and opportunities for reservoir recreation
- Infrastructure, specifically worker housing and relocation of segments of Highway 29
- Environment including impacts to fish and potential increase of fog
- Land use, focusing on heritage resources such as archaeological sites

Community and provincial benefits; employment and worker training, legacy investments, enhanced recreational opportunities, and infrastructure upgrades.

In Round 2, in fall 2008, potential consultation topics include, but are not limited to:
- Options for reservoir preparation, construction material and disposal sites, water management, and reservoir operating levels
- Infrastructure, which includes more detailed alignment options for relocation of segments of Highway 29 and use of the construction bridge
- Local climate and Greenhouse Gas, which includes discussion of local climate effects and Greenhouse Gas effects and evaluation
- Environmental, such as potential impacts on wildlife and wildlife habitat
- Land uses, such as potential impacts on agriculture, parks and protected areas
- Community and provincial benefits

2. Additional Topics of Interest

In an open-ended question asking respondents what additional topics they would like to be consulted about during Project Definition consultation, several additional topics were volunteered. These additional topics are listed below (other topics were also raised, but they have already been captured in the topics above):

- Possible alternative projects, energy sources or conservation (19%)
- Detailed management of construction and transmission costs (10%)
- Opposed to project (9%)
- Relocation of or compensation for affected residents (8%)
- First Nations consultation (6%)
- Maintaining low long-term hydro rates (5%)
- Integration / working with IPPs / IPPBC (3%)
- Require more info about companies involved in consultation (2%)
- Timelines re. construction (2%)

The highest ranking topic in the open-ended question that participants wanted to be consulted about was possible alternative projects or sources of energy, including conservation.

Analysis of energy alternatives is generally done as part of BC Hydro's energy planning process which incorporates developing Integrated Electricity Plans (IEP) and Long-Term Acquisition Plans (LTAP) on a regular basis. Both Plans are filed with the BC Utilities Commission for review and consideration.

Currently, BC Hydro is developing its Long Term Acquisition Plan (2008 LTAP) to be filed with the BCUC in Spring 2008. The 2008 LTAP will update the 2006 IEP / LTAP and will address and compare energy resource options, including Site C. In addition to these planning processes, BC Hydro is seeking input from stakeholders and the public in the Stage 2 review of Site C about key factors to consider in evaluating Site C as a potential resource option. This topic is expected to be reviewed in both rounds of Project Definition Consultation.

With respect to conservation, BC Hydro is aggressively promoting conservation and energy efficiency among its customers, including residential and commercial customers. Through its PowerSmart program, BC Hydro is a global leader in conservation, providing programs and incentives to help customers use less power, with a target to realize 50 per cent of our future energy needs through conservation by 2020. BC Hydro has established two committees made up of stakeholders to advise BC Hydro – the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Committee and the Conservation Potential Review Committee.

With respect to cost estimates for construction and transmission, and timelines for construction, BC Hydro will be updating the interim project cost estimate for the Site C project at the end of each stage of project review. The updated interim project cost estimates will be publicly available as they were in the Stage 1 report. These estimates will undergo a peer review, and BC Hydro will work with BCTC to develop the estimates for transmission-related costs.

Some participants (9%) stated their **opposition to Site C** in this particular open-ended question. Later in the questionnaire, some participants also expressed their opposition (32%) in the last open-ended question on the feedback form.

It's important to note that no decision has been made to build Site C. Much more analysis and technical work needs to be done to review the project before a decision can be made. Project Definition Consultation is an important part of the project work that will be undertaken in Stage 2 to continue to understand and the study the features of the potential Site C project including its potential benefits and impacts.

Some participants proposed the topic of **relocation of, or compensation for, affected residents** (8%) as a consultation topic. BC Hydro is engaging and consulting directly with potentially impacted property owners, and in fact has project staff dedicated to this important area. Part of work during Stage 2 is to update the information about the potential land impacts.

Six per cent of participants raised the topic of **First Nations consultation**. BC Hydro is committed to effective communications and consultation with First Nations, with the goal of building positive relationships. As part of the evaluation of Site C, BC Hydro is consulting with First Nations about the project and how, moving forward, First Nations would like to be involved and consulted.

3. Evaluating Site C

Participants were asked about the factors that were important to them when evaluating Site C as a potential option. All topics rated 70 per cent or higher in being "very important" or "somewhat important". The factors included:

- Managing local environmental impacts (80%)
- Managing local social and infrastructure impacts (78%)
- Providing dependable energy throughout the year (79%)
- Providing clean electricity (78%)
- Providing renewable power for more than 100 years (76%)
- Providing affordable power (73%)
- Becoming energy self-sufficient in BC (73%)
- Understanding transmission requirements (71%)

All of these factors continue to be important considerations as BC Hydro evaluates Site C as a potential option. A number of these factors are also topics for consultation in the upcoming round of Project Definition Consultation (e.g. local environmental and infrastructure impacts).

4. Community Benefits

In an open-ended question, participants mentioned opportunities for recreation (27%), employment (19%), upgrades to infrastructure (19%), and a lasting legacy similar to the Columbia Basin Trust (16%) as community benefits they would most like to see from the development of Site C. Employment opportunities are of particular importance to participants from the Peace region.

Close to one-quarter (23%) of participants who responded to the question mentioned their opposition to Site C rather than specifying any community benefits they would like to see from the project.

The results of the open-ended question regarding potential Community Benefits are summarized below:

- Recreational benefits/facilities/opportunities (27%)
- Infrastructure upgrades (19%)
- Employment/contracting opportunities/economic opportunities (19%)
- Establish Legacy Fund Trust/similar to Columbia Basin Trust (16%)
- Reduced/subsidized energy costs (9%)
- Appropriate compensation for First Nations/other people directly impacted (9%)
- Social benefits (education/healthcare) (6%)
- Increased tourism/tourism focus/opportunities (5%)
- Better water system/supply (3%)
- Low housing cost for those residents dislocated (1%)
- Protect/control bank stability near residential sites (1%)
- Other (14%)
- Opposed to Site C/No benefit (23%)

The topic of community benefits from the Site C project, should it proceed, is of high interest and is part of Project Definition Consultation in Rounds 1 and Round 2 in 2008.

5. Consultation Methods

During Pre-Consultation, BC Hydro sought input on stakeholders' likelihood to participate using various methods of consultation. As there was a notable difference between Peace River stakeholders and provincial stakeholders on this question, the table below breaks down the feedback by region. The table notes

each consultation method, and the likelihood of participation, measured by responses that participants were 'very likely' or 'somewhat likely' to participate.

Consultation Method	Peace River Stakeholders	Provincial Stakeholders
Stakeholder meetings	79%	57%
Public open houses	82%	38%
Online feedback form	46%	58%
Fort St. John Community Consultation Office	59%	18%
Online stakeholder meetings	39%	39%
Newspaper insert with feedback form	50%	18%
Online bulletin boards	39%	23%

Participants were also asked if there are other methods of consultation they would likely participate in. Peace River stakeholders offered Public Open Houses as a highly preferred method (34%), as well as mailout feedback forms / letters, stakeholder meetings, radio call-in shows and meetings with Chambers of Commerce (6% each). Provincial stakeholders offered the following suggestions: industry meetings (19%), political or regulatory meetings (15%), and meetings with BC Hydro staff (15%).

BC Hydro is planning to use a broad variety of methods of consultation in the upcoming round of Project Definition Consultation to directly respond to this feedback and to ensure local, regional and provincial participants have a variety of opportunities to provide input:

- Stakeholder meetings – local, regional and provincial
- Public open houses – local and regional
- Online discussion guide and feedback form – all regions
- Fort St. John Community Consultation Office – local and regional, open Monday to Saturday
- Online stakeholder meetings – not in upcoming round, but under consideration for future rounds of consultation
- Newspaper insert with feedback form – under consideration for upcoming round
- Online bulletin boards – not planned for upcoming rounds of consultation

6. Public Notice of Consultation

BC Hydro asked participants how likely they are to read further information about the Site C Project Definition Consultation program and how they prefer to receive that information. The results are broken down below by provincial and Peace region stakeholders.

Public Notice Method	Peace River Stakeholders	Provincial Stakeholders
Email	86%	87%
Mail	93%	70%
Website	72%	77%
Newspaper ad	78%	53%
Fort St. John Community Consultation Office	65%	16%

BC Hydro is currently planning to use all of these methods to communicate information and provide public notice about the Project Definition Consultation program. Specifically, BC Hydro is adding the use of a mailer to households in the Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope areas. At 93%, household mailer was the highest noted method that Peace region participants were most likely to use to read further information about consultation on Site C.

7. Additional Comments

Among participants who provided open-ended feedback under an "Additional Comments" section of the feedback form, 32% stated their opposition to the Site C project or a desire to use alternative energy sources or energy conservation instead. A higher percentage of participants from the Peace region express this sentiment than do those from outside the Peace (35% versus 19%, respectively).

Having an honest consultation process with full disclosure is volunteered by 15% of participants who provided additional comments in the feedback form. The comments are summarized below, along with some comments on BC Hydro's consideration to date of this input, where appropriate.

- *Don't build it/use alternative energy sources/conserve current energy supplies (32%)*

  It's important to note that no decision has been made to build Site C. Much more analysis and technical work needs to be done to review the project before that decision can be made. Project Definition Consultation is an important part

of the project work that will be undertaken in Stage 2 to continue to understand and the study the features of the potential Site C project including its potential benefits and impacts.

With respect to conservation, BC Hydro is aggressively promoting conservation and energy efficiency among its customers, including residential and commercial customers. Through its PowerSmart program, BC Hydro is a global leader in conservation, providing programs and incentives to help customers use less power, with a target to realize 50 per cent of our future energy needs through conservation by 2020. BC Hydro has also established two committees made up of stakeholders to advise BC Hydro – the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Committee and the Conservation Potential Review Committee.

- *Have honest consultation/ensure full disclosure/keep promises (15%)*

  BC Hydro will continue to manage the consultation process in a manner that is fair, transparent, and consistent with best practice. A broad range of consultation methods will encourage as much participation as possible so that BC Hydro and the Government of British Columbia can make an informed decision about whether to proceed to Stage 3, which is the regulatory stage.

- *Build it (9%)*

  As mentioned above, it's important to note no decision has been made, and further analysis needs to be done.

- *Ensure environmental concerns are addressed (land, climate, wildlife) (9%)*

  Environmental concerns continue to be a key area for consultation and project definition work. If the project were to proceed to Stage 3 of evaluation, it would undergo a full environmental assessment and review.

- *The project will bring many benefits (financial/power production) (8%)*

- *Good workshop/thanks for the information (7%)*

- *Continue with consultation process (6%)*

- *Ensure full disclosure regarding project costs (4%)*

  BC Hydro will be updating the interim project cost estimate for the Site C project at the end of each stage of project review. The updated interim project cost estimates will be publicly available as they were in the Stage 1 report.

- *Ensure integration of wind/hydrogen generation/small hydro projects into Site C planning (3%)*

BC Hydro will continue to evaluate the Site C project within the overall context of energy planning for the future, including how Site C would work with other energy sources that are coming online.

- *Ensure that First Nations is involved/has issues addressed (3%)*

- *Concerned about preferential treatment for First Nations (3%)*

  With respect to both comments above, BC Hydro is committed to effective communications and consultation with First Nations, with the goal of building positive relationships. As part of the evaluation of Site C, BC Hydro will consult with First Nations about the project and how, moving forward, First Nations would like to be involved and consulted.

- *Create/implement a Legacy Fund (2%)*

- *Ensure that the local community benefits (2%)*

  With respect to both comments above, community and provincial benefits continue to be a topic of Project Definition consultation.

- *Have an independent/neutral committee or group doing the consultation/have a neutral location (1%)*

  BC Hydro has engaged a public consultation firm that is a recognised industry leader in its field. This firm, Kirk & Co, further makes use of internationally recognised market research firms to tabulate consultation input. The consultation reports are prepared by this third party firm and provided to BC Hydro for consideration of input.

  In almost all cases, the consultation firm will provide facilitation and note-taking of stakeholder meetings. In most cases, the meetings will be held in a ‘neutral location’ wherever possible.