

# Site C Clean Energy Project

## Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

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*Meeting Summary*  
*June 29, 2016, 10:15am to 1:45pm MST*  
*Fort St. John*

<b>ATTENDEES</b> <i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i>	<p>Mayor Merlin Nichols, Chetwynd            Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek (By Phone)            Cec Heron, Doig River First Nation            Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St. John            Councillor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope            Tom Matus, CAO, Hudson's Hope            MLA Pat Pimm, Peace River North            Area B Director Karen Goodings, Peace River Regional District (By Phone)            Area C Director Brad Sperling, Peace River Regional District            Area E Director Dan Rose, Peace River Regional District            Mayor Lorraine Michetti, Pouce Coupe            Councillor Andre Lavoie, Pouce Coupe            Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor            Charlette McLeod, Taylor            Edie Thome, BC Hydro            Bob Peever, BC Hydro            Siobhan Jackson, BC Hydro            Dave Conway, BC Hydro            Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro</p>
<b>ABSENT WITH REGRET</b>	<p>Doug Fleming, CAO, Chetwynd            Dianne Hunter, City Manager, Fort St. John            Mark Diffin, Land Referral Office Manager, McLeod Lake Indian Band            Georgia Green, Constituency Assistant, Peace River North            MLA Mike Bernier, Peace River South            Cindy Fisher, Constituency Assistant, Peace River South            Councillor Larry Evans, Fort St. John            Councillor Byron Stewart, Fort St. John            Area D Director Leonard Hiebert, Peace River Regional District</p>
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>	<p>Danielle Hartley, ATCO            Amber Harding, Peace River Hydro Partners            Jim Shilling, Peace River Hydro Partners</p>

## **Documents Distributed**

June 29, 2016 Meeting Agenda

Action Items Tracking Log – June 29, 2016

Terms of Reference: Regional Community Liaison Committee Final June 2016

BC Hydro Site C Public Enquiries May 2016 Report

BC Hydro Presentation – June 29, 2016

BC Hydro Communication Channels – June 29, 2016

ATCO Presentation (June 29, 2016)

PRHP Presentation (June 29, 2016)

### **1. Tour of Phase 2 of the Worker Accommodation Lodge**

Committee members participated in a tour of Phase 2 of the worker accommodation lodge led by Glenda Carson, BC Hydro. The tour included the following: dining room, health clinic, handicap accessible room, standard room, cardio and weight room, mud room and guest entrance, lounge, and recreation areas.

### **2. Opening / Welcome / Agenda**

- a) Review of Agenda and request for any additional items by Edie Thome.

### **3. Review of Action Items**

- a) 2016-019 There will be a longer document on the RCLC SharePoint site which will be linked to the action log so that longer pieces of information can be shared there. Logins for each community will be sent out to the SharePoint site.
- b) 2016-035 BCH and BC Housing are close to signing a contract for BC Housing to build the 50 unit building. BC Housing will own and operate the units.
  - a. Members asked about which sites are being considered; members from Fort St. John shared that City staff had looked at options with BC Housing and was helping connect them with non-profits who would be interested in operating the affordable housing units.
- c) 2016-007 Will be moved to Complete status in the log, this topic can be discussed again later if changes are needed.
- d) 2016-011 BC Hydro has Peace River Regional District (PRRD) employment numbers to share with members on a confidential basis until publicly posted.
- e) 2016-018 No update at this time on this action.

### **4. BC Hydro Project Update**

Bob Peever discussed the following works and activities using the [North Bank Map](#) on the Site C project website (sitecproject.com).

- a) North bank for materials excavation and placement.
  - a. A member asked for clarification regarding when work would begin on diversion tunnels based on permitting timelines.
  - b. Bob Peever clarified that the current work is to stabilize the bank before the diversion tunnel work. The diversion tunnel work will begin at a later date, after other permits are received. There will be 15 “leaves to commence” for the different stages of work over the course of construction and BC Hydro and its

contractors are currently working on Leave #2 and are working on applying for Leave #3.

- b) Work on a bridge over the Moberly, along with additional clearing, will start when permits are received.
- c) Clearing of the reservoir up to Cache Creek will start in 2017 to support the Highway 29 construction timeline commencing in 2017. Additional stages of clearing will happen over the next 6 years as construction advances.
  - a. A member asked what size of trees would be cut. Bob Peever and Siobhan Jackson shared that the Clearing Plan calls for the removal of most merchantable timber and some smaller trees which would intrude into the boating zone. Retaining vegetation which would not interfere with boating provides aquatic habitat and supports aquatic environment based on past experience. Vegetation would not be removed on Terrain Class 5 steep slopes to avoid adding to slope instability issues on these steep slopes.
- d) On the 85<sup>th</sup> Ave Industrial Lands, impervious till for the dam's center will be moved by conveyor to reduce truck traffic on north bank roads.
- e) There is an air quality station at 85<sup>th</sup> Ave and another will be located at the worker accommodation facility.
  - a. Siobhan Jackson shared that air quality data collected for Site C by BC Hydro is posted on the BC Ministry of Environment's website as part of their real-time monitoring network. The stations monitor particulate matter, specifically PM<sup>2.5</sup> and PM<sup>10</sup>. These were identified in the Environmental Assessment as a potential risk to human health.
- f) A member asked about who was funding construction on the north bank roads and if the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) was taking over responsibility for maintaining the roads.
  - a. Bob Peever shared that BC Hydro is funding the capital cost of the road work and MoTI will take over maintenance after construction.

Bob Peever discussed the following works and activities using the [South Bank Map](#) on the Site C project website (siteproject.com).

- g) Gravels will primarily be sourced from the south bench.
- h) Riprap will come from West Pine via rail from the MoTI quarry.
- i) Of the clearing on the south side, about 95% of the logs were delivered for processing to facilities in Fort St. John.
- j) A temporary substation and distribution lines to feed equipment will be constructed, along with a repeater to improve communications.
- k) There will be a one (1) km long tunnel.
  - a. Members asked about the purpose of the tunnel. Bob Peever shared that the tunnel would intercept and drain water away from the bedrock on which the roller compacted concrete buttress would be located.
- l) Closure berms have been constructed on the backchannel and dewatering and fish salvage is ongoing as required.
- m) Factories built on the south bank will build the large components for the project, including the very large penstocks, spillway gates, cranes and generating station equipment.

#### General Construction Discussion

- n) A member asked about dust on site and how it was being managed.
  - a. Bob Peever shared that dust is a challenge on the site and BC Hydro just sent out a notice to all contractors to implement more mitigation measures. BC Hydro

- does monitoring around the site and while some results have been too high, BC Hydro is working with contractors to decrease dust.
- b. Another member asked if Taylor had seen any changes in air quality. A member from Taylor shared that they haven't seen any changes.
  - c. Bob Peever identified that there are climate stations at site which are tracking air quality and usually exceedances are noted when there are high winds. Contractors also have silica management plans. Siobhan Jackson also shared that air quality monitoring stations outside the dam site area is collected.
- o) A member asked about what steps were being taken to reduce the potential of the spread of invasive weeds from vehicles moving around and outside of the region.
- a. Siobhan Jackson shared that the Construction Environmental Management Plan requires that steps be taken to reduce the potential spread of invasive weeds due to vehicles and contractors are implementing the requirement.
- p) A member asked about how greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from vehicles are being tracked.
- a. Siobhan Jackson stated that contractors report on their GHG emissions to BC Hydro, and BC Hydro reports GHG emissions in accordance with provincial and federal requirements. Models show that GHG emissions from the Site C reservoir will be relatively low in comparison to tropical reservoirs due to relatively low biomass and boreal climate. On a per unit energy basis Site C will produce GHG emissions similar to other renewables such as wind.

*Action: BC Hydro to include a link to the [Construction Environmental Management Plan](#) in the meeting summary. Please see section 4.15 Vegetation and Invasive Plan Management.*

*Action: BC Hydro will also check if there have been any incidents reported by environmental monitors related to invasive plants.*

Edie Thome reviewed the employment, procurement and business slides including the following discussion:

- q) Siobhan Jackson confidentially shared the preliminary unpublished PRRD employment numbers for May 2016. It takes at least five weeks to receive the information, perform quality checks and post the information publicly, so this information was provided for the RCLC members in advance of completing all of those steps.
  - a. Members stated that they want to see Aboriginal, BC and Canada compared in the report, as described in the final Terms of Reference. They also wanted to be able to see numbers by contractor in order to see which contractors were using local workers and which were not.
  - b. Edie Thome shared that the public distribution would include that information and this was preliminary to be able to share with the RCLC before the final numbers were ready
  - c. Brad Sperling, Lori Ackerman and Pat Pimm volunteered to work with Siobhan Jackson on a final format for the worker numbers report that will be provided to the RCLC.

*Action: Siobhan Jackson will follow up with the volunteers to develop the format of the RCLC Workforce Report.*

- r) A member asked about a list of all subcontractors and businesses working on the Project.

- d. Siobhan Jackson shared that a twice annual list of subcontractors and businesses for the PRRD will be provided to the Committee, and for businesses and subcontractors beyond those in the PRRD, we are also tentatively planning to provide a list twice a year.
- s) A member identified concerns about out-of-province contractors not paying PST in BC and not registering with the province, which creates an unfair bidding situation for BC businesses.
- t) Frequency and timelines for reporting different information:
  - e. Worker numbers will generally be available five weeks after the end of the month. Even if the committee is not meeting, the report can be posted to the SharePoint site when available.
  - f. A list of subcontractors and businesses in the PRRD will be provided quarterly.
  - g. A list of subcontractors and businesses from BC will be provided twice a year.

## **5. Contractor Update**

- a) PRHP Presentation
  - a. PRHP will report out at the next meeting on their disciplinary policy, particularly for traffic offenses.
- b) ATCO Presentation
  - a. ATCO direct employees are approximately 80% local hires. ATCO has brought in core team members from other camps due to their experience, but with the move to operations they will be hiring and bringing on new local staff. ATCO values its local reputation and has shared that with their contractors. For example, Domcor is a non-local company but they have hired all their staff locally.
  - b. ATCO shared that they had followed up regarding some local media articles that talked about the amount of pick-up trucks with Alberta license plates at the construction site. ATCO was told that the trucks had been brought from Alberta and hadn't been relicensed yet, but they were usually driven by BC employees despite the plates.
  - c. ATCO shared that while they have some larger supply contracts with companies such as Gordon Food Service, they are still regularly going to Fort St. John for supplies. A photographer from Dawson Creek is doing the interior photos and a Dawson Creek business is printing and framing them. They are working to identify other local businesses which can supply specific needs.

*Action: BC Hydro will send out the presentations from ATCO and PRHP to the members.*

## **6. Communication Channels and Public Enquiries report**

- a) Siobhan Jackson reviewed the handout and invited feedback from the Committee. She noted that there has been a reduction in enquires compared to earlier in the year, in part due to a new automatic message (by phone or email) that directs callers directly to the website for information on job and business opportunities.

*Action: BC Hydro will send the Site C Communication Channels document electronically.*

## **7. Community Concerns and Solutions Discussion**

- a) Mayor Nichols provided an update on an amendment to the District of Chetwynd – BC Hydro Community Agreement regarding a Southbank viewpoint.

- a. BC Hydro was unable to locate a site with a good view of the dam site and consistent and safe access. BC Hydro will instead provide a payment of \$200,000 to Chetwynd for the District to propose and implement recreation site(s) close to the dam.
  - b. The District would like to identify 2-3 potential sites this summer and get the support of BC Hydro and the PRRD for the final choices.
  - c. The amendment does not change the \$50,000 from the Recreation Fund which will be designated for projects on the south bank.
- b) A member asked if BC Hydro planned to develop access to the reservoir from the south side.
- a. Siobhan Jackson shared that BC Hydro is not planning a boat launch on the south side of the reservoir. Based on the road conditions and drive times, the Lynx Creek launch would be just as close for residents from the Chetwynd area. Local recreation groups may choose to apply in the future to the Recreation Fund to create other types of shoreline recreation sites along the south side.
- c) A member asked for an update on the BC Hydro injunctions and if they could be considered SLAPP lawsuits.
- a. Edie Thome provided an update on the injunctions.
- d) A member asked for more information about any land expropriation.
- a. Edie Thome and Siobhan Jackson shared that BC Hydro has not yet undertaken any expropriations. The BC Hydro Properties team's acquisitions approach is informed by, and equivalent to, what landowners would receive under the expropriation process. We work to make sure the offers are robust and the owners get everything they are entitled to. A [Property Acquisition Process Guide](#) is available on the project website.
- e) Councillor Heiberg asked for a map to be provided for the works around Portage Mountain.

*Action: BC Hydro to follow-up with Councillor Heiberg regarding Portage Mountain works.*

## **8. Terms of Reference – Final**

There were no changes to the Terms of Reference and they are now final. They will be posted to the SharePoint site.

## **9. Next Meeting**

Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in Fort St. John