

Site C Clean Energy Project

Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
November 27, 2024, 2:30 to 4:00 pm MST

<p>ATTENDEES <i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i></p>	<p>Mayor Lilia Hansen, City of Fort St. John Kevin Henderson, CAO Dawson Creek Alternate Director Reid Graham, Area B, Peace River Regional District Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Chair, Peace River Regional District Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District Margaret McDonald, McLeod Lake Indian Band Adriana da Costa, Ministry of Transportation and Transit Shanna Mason, BC Hydro Bob Gammer, BC Hydro (RCLC Chair) Dave Hunter, BC Hydro Matt Barnette, BC Hydro Jerry Muir, BC Hydro Ben Rauscher, BC Hydro Chris Waite, BC Hydro Kate O'Neil, BC Hydro</p>
<p>ABSENT WITH REGRET</p>	<p>Mayor Brent Taillefer, District of Taylor Councillor Betty Ponto, District of Taylor Jennifer McCracken, Lands & Resources Manager, Doig River First Nation Milo MacDonald, CAO, City of Fort St. John Naiomi McKinnon, McLeod Lake Indian Band Stephanie Rocheleau, Land & Stewardship Director, McLeod Lake Indian Band Councillor Raymond Johnston, Village of Pouce Coupe Lisa Scott, CAO, District of Tumbler Ridge Steve McLain, CAO, District of Chetwynd Justin Napoleon, Saulteau First Nations Shawn Dahlen, CAO, Peace River Regional District Jim Morgan, ATCO Patricia, Blueberry River First Nations</p>

Documents Distributed for the November 27 meeting:

- RCLC Meeting Agenda
- RCLC June 8, 2024, Meeting Notes

Opening / Welcome

- Bob welcomed all attendees.
- Opening comments and territorial acknowledgment.

Review of Agenda & Action Items

- Bob reviewed the agenda.
- There were no action items.

BC Hydro Site C Project Updates

1. Damsite Construction Update

Director of Construction Management, Chris Waite, provided updates on what has occurred since the last meeting and on remaining areas of construction.

- Mayor Hansen asked how debris is removed and is there an opportunity for the OSB mill to access the fibre?
- In reference to penstocks, Mayor Hansen commented that she didn't realize that the flexible couplers had been replaced on each unit.

Chris explained that the original penstock flexible coupler collars didn't turn out to be as functional as hoped and provided some detail on the merits of the updated coupling collars.

- Adriana da Costa: Is there a forecast for how much debris there is, where it is coming from, meaning reservoir clearing?

2. Reservoir Filling Update

Reservoir Filling Project manager, Dave Hunter, provided an update on the process of reservoir filling and a lookahead for what to expect.

Response to questions from Mayor Hansen and Adriana da Costa.

- Approximately 100,000 cubic metres of woody debris has floated down the reservoir to the dam. This debris was removed and is stockpiled on site. Debris removal ends at the end of this month and will resume in the spring.
- Approximately 400,000 cubic metres of woody and plant debris is expected to release in the next few years.
- BC Hydro is exploring possible uses for the debris. Conifex Timber, in Mackenzie, has expressed interest in using the debris material, but Dave noted the material is mostly small logs and mixed material.
- There is the potential for a controlled, high efficiency burn if no third parties take the debris.

- Director Sperling – wanted to know if the referenced burning would happen below his area, south of the city (meaning Area C) and he wanted to know if there would be an opportunity to comment on the plan.

Director of Regulatory, Environment & Communications, Shanna Mason, provided further insight on a high efficiency burn as a debris disposal option.

- a high efficiency burn means low emissions.
- a controlled burn, managed by a fire boss who would follow Ministry of Environment regulations.
- BC Hydro would give the wood away, but the material is dirty and hauling is expensive.

- Director Sperling: Expressed doubt about the success of a high efficiency burn. He posed the possibility that commercial interests could transport the material (wood chips are trucked to Prince George now).
- Shanna: Commercial decisions would be up to the company that would take the debris. She mentioned BC Hydro would not pay for transport costs of third parties.

3. Reclamation

Environmental Specialist, Matt Barnette, gave an update on the progress of reclamation planting at the main site and off site locations.

- Chair Hiebert: Asked about invasive plant management.

Matt: Pathfinder is the contractor that monitors and will treat reclamation areas for approximately three years post reclamation.

4. Jobs and business update

Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, Kate O’Neil, provided the October employment statistics with an additional page to describe employment at Site C in operations.

No questions.

Roundtable Updates from the Committee

City of Fort St John – Mayor Lilia Hansen

- Ongoing snow clearing discussion.
- Senior’s housing project is progressing.
- The city is working on long range water supply. It is considering replacing one reservoir and upgrading another. With reference to more water supply they are considering more water wells along the Peace River with the potential for horizontal drilling instead of vertical.
- She asked why BC Hydro had left the old Halfway River bridge standing and could she get information about the new boat launches on the Site C reservoir.

Shanna: The old Halfway bridge is deep enough below the surface to not present a navigation hazard. Removing the old bridge supports was likely to have meant environmental impacts, such as sediment release.

McLeod Lake Indian Band – Maggie McDonald

- McLeod Lake has a new Band Administrator, Ms. Jami McDonald.
- The new Wellness Centre is nearly complete.

Ministry of Transportation and Transit – Adriana da Costa

- Noted a name change - MOTI will now be Ministry of Transportation and Transit. Mike Farnworth is the new minister.
- The ministry will be interested in the Site C reservoir slope monitoring.

Mayor Hansen asked Adriana about the status of the Taylor Bridge. Adriana said the proposal is ready to go to Treasury Board when they get approval to submit it.

Peace River Regional District – Director Leonard Hiebert, Chair

- Thanked BC Hydro for the opportunity to sit on the committee.
- Agriculture has been challenging this year – specifically due to the ongoing drought.
- With reference to the Site C reservoir, he said he recently observed the potential for debris to collect in pockets along the reservoir.

Peace River Regional District, Area C – Director Brad Sperling

- No comments.

Peace River Regional District, Area B Alternate – Director Reid Graham

- This was his first and last meeting, but he said he found it interesting. He asked that we continue with community engagement.

Closing comments – Concluding the Committee and Future Communications

This is the final RCLC meeting. Bob thanked existing and past committee members for representing their communities and for their contribution to the committee.

Shanna thanked committee members and shared some thoughts on the value of the time spent together on the committee.

Bob told committee members that BC Hydro will still be available to address any concerns that come up. We will continue to provide communities with regular updates on the project and lines of communication with Project staff remain open should anyone have any questions. Our Northern Community Relations and Indigenous Relations teams will be the ongoing points of contact later, once the project is fully in operation in late 2025.