

# Site C Clean Energy Project

## Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

*Meeting Summary*  
*September 18, 2019, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm*  
*Taylor Curling Club, Taylor*

<p><b>ATTENDEES</b></p> <p><i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i></p>	<p>Tamara Wilkinson, MLA Assistant, for MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North            Mayor Allen Courtoreille, Chetwynd            Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek            Arlene Solonas, L &amp; R Consultation Coordinator, McLeod Lake Indian Band            Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District            Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District            Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District            Councillor Brent Taillefer, Taylor (meeting only)            Dave Conway, BC Hydro            Shanna Mason, BC Hydro            Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro            Ben Rauscher, BC Hydro            Steve Abbey, BC Hydro            Chris Hatton, BC Hydro            Mike Clark, BC Hydro            Lindsay Routledge, BC Hydro            Emily Stringer, BC Hydro            Anna Deeley, BC Hydro            Rod Brooks, BC Hydro</p>
<p><b>ABSENT WITH REGRET</b></p>	<p>Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor            Mayor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope            MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North            Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nation            Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South            Terri Paulovich, Constituency Assistant, Peace River South            Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St. John            Dianne Hunter, City Manager, Fort St John            Dan Orcherton, McLeod Lake Indian Band            Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District            Shawn Dahlen, CAO, Peace River Regional District            Betty Ponto, Taylor            Andrew Young, CAO Taylor            Mayor Keith Bertrand, Tumbler Ridge            Jane Calvert, Blueberry River First Nation</p>

	Carol Newsom, CAO, Chetwynd Duncan Redfearn, CAO, Dawson Creek Cec Heron, Doig River First Nation Chris Cvik, CAO Acting Hudson's Hope Christopher Leggett, CAO, Pouce Coupe Jordan Wall, CAO, Tumbler Ridge Councillor Nathan Parenteau, Saulteau Chris Waite, BC Hydro Ross Turner, BC Hydro
<b>INVITED GUESTS</b>	Nil

**Documents Distributed (on September 13 and 18, 2019)**

- RCLC Meeting Agenda
- RCLC Meeting Action Log - Updated Sept 2019
- Site C Presentation: Diverting the Peace River
- Site C Diversion Questions
- Site C Public Enquiries Report & FAQs for June & July 2019
- Site C Public Enquiries Report for August 2019
- Site C Workforce Report for July 2019
- Site C Business Summary for Q2 2019
- Site C Construction Bulletin for September 13, 2019
- Site C Fish and Aquatics Information Sheet
- Site C Wildlife Program Information Sheet
- Site C Temporary Fish Passage Information Sheet

**1. Opening / Welcome / Agenda**

- a) Dave Conway welcomed the Committee members to the meeting.
- b) Dave acknowledged the Treaty 8 people and the territory within which the meeting was held and thanked the Treaty 8 members present for attending.
- c) Dave thanked Taylor for hosting the meeting in the Curling Club.
- d) Dave identified muster locations and exits for safety.
- e) The agenda was reviewed and a request made for any additional items by Dave Conway.
  - a. No additional agenda items were added.

**2. Review of Action Items**

- a) Dave Conway reviewed the action item log and asked if the Committee had any questions.
- b) PRRD asked if the access road to Portage Mountain quarry was visible from Dinosaur Lake.
- c) Shanna Mason responded that there is Oil and Gas industry work in that area as well. Dave and Shanna said they would look into the work and get back to the Committee.
- d) PRRD also asked for an update on the mill curtailment hiring at the hiring fair.
- e) Shanna responded that the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development is providing training and coordinating efforts to improve opportunities

and skills for impacted persons. Shanna also indicated that BC Hydro summer hiring (June/July) saw an increase in hiring local persons.

- f) Introductions of meeting attendees occurred.

**Action:** BC Hydro to look into if BC Hydro's Portage Mountain quarry access road is visible from Dinosaur Reservoir.

### 3. River Diversion Presentation

Chris Hatton introduced himself as a project manager for Site C in charge of diversion and outlined the diversion presentation, including construction sequencing, river/navigable closures and upstream water levels. Mike Clark spoke to the diversion tunnels slides.

Diversion information included:

- a) Chetwynd asked about air quality safety in the tunnels.
- b) Mike described the air quality safety measures in the tunnels including personal protective equipment (PPE), diesel vehicle restrictions, and described how ventilation systems inside the tunnels use scrubbers to remove silica from air so outside work areas are not exposed to silica from the tunnel air.
- c) Dave shared the day's Peace River flow data as of 8am with the Committee verbally.
- d) PRRD asked how BC Hydro was addressing spring freshet and high flows.
- e) Chris described the flows which can be passed through the diversion tunnels and how they relate to historical high Peace River flows.
- f) PRRD asked about headponds/pressure.
- g) Chris replied that headponds will be covered in upcoming slides.
- h) Chetwynd asked for today's Peace River flow data to be sent to the RCLC.
- i) Dave agreed to send the flow data by email.
- j) McLeod Lake asked if there is rebar in the joints of the diversion tunnels.
- k) Mike replied that rebar is installed in any areas where the additional reinforcement is required but not everywhere. There is also a PVC gasket installed to prevent water leakage through the joints in the concrete liner.
- l) PRRD asked about the portage program.
- m) Shanna described that the portage program is still under development but would generally move small boats like kayaks and canoes between Halfway River boat launch and Peace Island Park boat launch during typical boating times.
- n) PRRD asked what happens to the debris caught in the debris boom after it is installed in spring 2020.
- o) Chris responded that the debris will be collected on the bank and subsequently burned.
- p) Chetwynd asked about sedation of fish as part of the fish passage process during diversion. Indicated a preference for a fish ladder or other passage so fish can navigate passage on their own.
- q) Shanna responded that BC Hydro will have one of the fish biologists attend the next RCLC meeting to present on the fish passage process but BC Hydro looked at numerous design options before proposing the temporary passage approach. Constructing a continuous fish tunnel would not attract fish as the opening would be well downstream of the dam and flows would be much smaller than those coming from the dam. Fish swim to the areas of greatest flow. And due to the height differential, climbing a fish ladder and reintroducing them upstream right where the flows go into the draft tubes would be too physically demanding on the fish.

- r) McLeod Lake asked why the water has to be treated after construction of the coffer dams.
- s) Chris responded that BC Hydro will contain the water to let sediment fall out of it before it is returned to the river.
- t) Chetwynd asked if studies have been done about landslide, erosion, or sloughing scenarios along the reservoir. Referenced rain events of 2011 and 2016.
- u) Shanna answered that BC Hydro has completed extensive investigations and is conducting monitoring for slope stability.
- v) Mike described the analysis of slope stability using historical photos, LiDAR and satellite data to identify areas of potential concern. Also discussed work to estimate potential for impact lines including landslide generated waves and other measures.
- w) Chetwynd asked about whether local Peace Region workers were hired into higher levels of management on the Project so that they can use this experience for future projects.
- x) Steve described his local work experience and the experience he has had with hiring Peace residents into higher level positions.
- y) PRRD asked about building a buffer and what the likelihood is of the Williston reservoir impacting levels at Hudson's Hope.
- z) Shanna responded about contributing drought conditions of recent years and their impact on Williston Reservoir levels.
- aa) Dave provided inflow and discharge data as well as elevations for the Williston reservoir.
- bb) PRRD asked about BC Hydro's mitigation plan for access to the lake for recreation purposes.
- cc) Shanna responded that management considers many needs when managing the reservoir levels. These include weather forecasts, generation needs, existing reservoir levels, downstream impacts, etc.
- dd) Dave responded about the PWAC meeting and managing water.
- ee) Dave suggested that we have BC Hydro Generation Systems Operations provide a presentation on the subject at a future RCLC meeting.
- ff) Dawson Creek provided further information on the discussion from the PWAC meeting presentation, saying it was very well done. Agrees that having BC Hydro Operations come to present to the RCLC would be valuable.

**Action:**

BC Hydro will provide today's Peace River flow data to the Committee.

BC Hydro will schedule the fish biologists to present at the December RCLC meeting.

BC Hydro will invite BC Hydro Generation Systems Operations to another RCLC meeting to provide a presentation similar to the one made to PWAC discussing the Peace Region management of water levels, climatic conditions and forecasts and how Site C diversion needs are taken into account.

BC Hydro will send an electronic copy of the diversion questions to RCLC members for them to review and provide feedback to BC Hydro regarding any gaps they identify that stakeholders may ask about. A paper copy was provided in the meeting.

**6. Roundtable**

A roundtable update occurred from the local community representatives:

- a) Dawson Creek asked about tunnels after diversion is completed. Mike responded that the tunnels will be plugged and filled.

- b) McLeod Lake thanked BC Hydro for the information and reiterated that they are interested in the fish passage presentation at the next meeting.
- c) PRRD stated that the percentage of local workers at dam site continues to drop. Asked for clarity on reason for this.
- d) Shanna responded actual numbers of PRRD resident workers is a record high but as the total number of workers increases, the percentage may show a decrease at the same time. Steve Abbey shared the benefits of hiring local for contractors. He highlighted that there is only 3-4 years left on the project which may limit local interest in work, as they may not want to leave a long-term job for a shorter-term role.
- e) PRRD asked about the Clayhurst boat launch. Nancy Pepper described the replacement boat launches and amenities what will replace the boat launches that are impacted by the Site C reservoir.
- f) Shanna stated this is a BC Hydro topic that predates the Site C project and as such has been a topic at the Peace Williston Advisory Committee. It is our understanding that BC Hydro believes they have answered this question previously and provided rationale as to why the Clayhurst boat launch will not proceed.
- g) PRRD stated they haven't received a clear enough response about why this boat launch was eliminated by BC Hydro.
- h) BC Hydro will review the communications record regarding the boat launch and send as a package to the PRRD.
- i) PRRD discussed Gate B entrance paving and concerns about trucks chaining up on Old Fort road instead of at Gate B. Does not want chain up to occur on public roads, as it impacts public safety.
- j) Dave highlighted existing signage for safety measures to drivers. The chain-up area at the top of the hill is under construction and BC Hydro is planning other improvements to Gate B as well to address this issue.
- k) Chetwynd thanked BC Hydro for the stats on workers and the businesses that will be supported.
- l) PRRD thanked BC Hydro for accommodating some of the workers laid off to the forestry closures.

**Action:** BC Hydro will provide the RCLC members with letters or other older documentation outlining the final decision on the installation of a boat launch at Clayhurst.

## 7. Next Steps

- a) Next meeting: to be determined via email to the Committee.
- b) Dave proposed an RCLC tour on site in October, with PWAC, and invites to council. BC Hydro will send several possible dates for the tour to the RCLC for feedback.

### **Action:**

BC Hydro will send potential spring RCLC meeting dates, and poll for preferences via email. BC Hydro will send several possible dates for the site tour to the RCLC for feedback.