

Site C Clean Energy Project

Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
 March 11, 2020, 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm
 Pomeroy Hotel, Fort St. John

ATTENDEES <i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i>	<p>Tamara Wilkinson, MLA Assistant, for MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North Acting Mayor, Lilia Hansen, Fort St John Mayor Allen Courtoreille, Chetwynd Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor 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 Dave Conway, BC Hydro Shanna Mason, BC Hydro Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro Chris Hatton, BC Hydro Dave Hunter, BC Hydro Neil Kelly, BC Hydro Ross Turner, BC Hydro Ben Rauscher, BC Hydro Emily Stringer, BC Hydro Kate O'Neil, BC Hydro Maria Eviston, BC Hydro</p>
ABSENT WITH REGRET	<p>MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North Dianne Hunter, City Manager, Fort St John Mayor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nation Jane Calvert, Blueberry River First Nation Carol Newsom, CAO, Chetwynd Mayor Dale Bumstead, Dawson Creek Duncan Redfearn, CAO, Dawson Creek Cec Heron, Doig River First Nation Terri Paulovich, Constituency Assistant, Peace River South Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St. John Tony Zabinsky, City Councillor, Fort St John Chris Cvik, CAO Acting Hudson's Hope Stephanie Rocheleau, McLeod Lake Indian Band</p>

	Arlene Solonas, L & R Consultation Coordinator, McLeod Lake Indian Band Mayor Lorraine Michetti, Pouce Coupe Christopher Leggett, CAO, Pouce Coupe Shawn Dahlen, CAO, Peace River Regional District Betty Ponto, Taylor Andrew Young, Taylor Mayor Keith Bertrand, Tumbler Ridge Jordan Wall, CAO, Tumbler Ridge Councillor Nathan Parenteau, Sauleau
INVITED GUESTS	
ATTENDED	Jim Morgan, ATCO Jamie Bodnarchuk, PRHP Ann Danilevich, AFDE Adriana da Costa, MoTI
ABSENT WITH REGRET	Troy Van Bolstelen, AFDE Brian Hussain, ATCO Christian Dann, ATCO Stephane Giroux, Voith Maximilien Bisson, Voith Marelda Brydon, PRHP Craig Cornell, PRHP

Documents Distributed (on March 3 & 10, 2020)

RCLC Meeting Agenda
RCLC Presentation Slides
RCLC Action item log
Site C January Workforce Report
Site C Business Summary for Q4 2019
Site C Public Enquiries Report & FAQs for January & February 2020
Site C Pre-Heavy Equipment Operator Skills Pilot Program poster
Site C Pre-Carpentry Skills Pilot Program poster
Site C Indigenous Training and Employment Opportunities poster
Site C GO Fund Annual Report 2019
RCLC Clayhurst Letter
Site C Methylmercury Info Sheet

1. Opening / Welcome / Agenda

- a) Dave Conway welcomed the Committee members to the meeting.
- b) Dave thanked Fort St John for hosting the meeting at the Pomeroy Hotel.
- c) Dave acknowledged that the meeting was taking place in the traditional territory of the Treaty 8 First Nations.
- d) Dave identified muster locations and exits for safety.
- e) Dave discussed interpersonal health and safety regarding COVID-19 for the meeting.

- f) Shanna discussed BC Hydro's policies regarding COVID-19 and reducing travel, limiting access in and out of site, reducing upcoming in-person non-essential meetings, site tours, etc., to prioritize safety and limit the potential for spread. BC Hydro will keep updating the RCLC on these policies for meetings and tours going forward and is following direction from the Ministry of Health.
- g) Introductions were conducted around the room with all members.
- h) The agenda was reviewed, and a request made for any additional items.
 - 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 changes or additions.
- b) No changes or additions were asked.

Action: N/A

3. BC Hydro Project Update

River Diversion

Chris Hatton introduced himself and provided updates on river diversion.

- a. Chris detailed the updates on the river diversion tunnels, inlet & outlet portals, fishway, and debris management systems. The debris management structures are scheduled to go in late May early June 2020.
- b. Chris stated BC Hydro would appreciate any feedback from the Committee members on suggestions for additional avenues to communicate about diversion to communities.
- c. Shanna added that communication on diversion to date has been targeted to the RCLC, First Nations, user groups (River Rats) and in the Site C Bi-weekly Construction Bulletins. No notifications are currently on the radio or newspaper but will want to do this closer to the actual closure dates. BC Hydro acknowledges the sensitivity of diversion and desires to be mindful and respectful, and as there is safety to consider with diversion and debris booms, signage will be used as an on-water notification with messaging being more urgent as boaters get closer to the debris booms. We are seeking any feedback from the committee on methods for communicating about river blockage come this spring when the debris booms are installed. (eg Radio, newspapers, etc.)
- d. Peace River North suggested using Facebook ads.
- e. Shanna added that there are some community Facebook groups that could be engaged.
- f. Taylor suggested putting a notice in the Taylor Times (monthly newsletter). Asked if there will be signage at boat launches.
- g. Shanna confirmed that signage will be at boat launches and on the river.
- h. Taylor asked how often debris will be removed from the booms.

- i. Chris replied that removal would occur periodically in spring, summer and fall as needed. Two levels of redundancy on both the Peace and the Moberly Rivers.
- j. Slide 29. Taylor asked how the velocity of water coming out of tunnels will impact downstream river conditions.
- k. Chris replied that some in river excavation and natural gravel barriers will slow down flow velocity. There will be no impact past the site.
- l. Taylor asked how boat traffic from downstream will be restricted from making their way up to the dam.
- m. Chris replied that signage and lights on the construction bridge will notify boaters on the river.
- n. Shanna stated that a previous presentation showed instrumentation, flows, numbers/data, and offered to present on these specifics about downstream of the site if desired.

Action: N/A

Dam On-site Construction Update

Ross Turner introduced himself and provided updates on on-site construction update.

- a. PRRD Area C asked when the conveyor will start operation.
- b. Ross replied that it will be started on April first and will begin moving materials mid-April.
- c. PRRD Area C asked if there have been any test runs on the conveyor.
- d. Ross confirmed that test runs were conducted in fall 2019.
- e. PRRD Area C asked if the conveyor will run 24/7.
- f. Ross confirmed that the conveyor will run 24/7.
- g. Chetwynd asked about noise volumes from the conveyor and whether those will change once materials are on it.
- h. Ross replied that noise monitoring will occur.
- i. PRRD Area D stated that the low decibel humming may be more of an irritant.
- j. Shanna stated that there will be noise, but that there will be regular monitoring of the noise levels and decibels to understand areas to mitigate. She added that the conveyor will be well maintained to avoid noises that occur with use (dirt can get into the gears that would result in sounds).
- k. PRRD Area C asked about dust containment from 85th Avenue.
- l. Ross stated that there was no dust during trials but they will be monitoring continually
- m. Shanna stated that there will be ongoing monitoring and dust control practices.
- n. PRRD Area C stated that there are existing issues with dust in the valley and that added dust load from the conveyor with prevailing winds could push that into the valley as well.
- o. Ross stated that BC Hydro will be conducting ongoing monitoring of dust to address this concern.
- p. Taylor asked what will be done with the insulation used after construction.
- q. Ross replied that the insulation will be reused for three seasons on the project. After that, he will have to look into the plan for how it can be reused.
 - i. PRHP provided a response to this query in the Contractor Updates later in the meeting.
- r. Taylor asked about the progress in constructing the right bank drainage tunnel.

- s. Ross replied that it is in progress and it's purpose is to prevent hydrostatic pressure behind the powerhouse.
- t. Taylor asked if the drainage tunnel will have the same finish as the diversion tunnels.
- u. Ross replied that it will not as it is not necessary.
- v. Chetwynd asked if fish trap and haul facilities are in place at other locations.
- w. Dave Hunter confirmed that the model for Site C is taken from a successful trap and haul models used at Cougar Dam in Oregon and in other places.
- x. Chetwynd: closing of the river has an impact on boating community beyond the Peace Region.

Action: N/A

Dam Off-site Construction Update

Neil introduced himself and provided off-site construction updates.

- a. Chetwynd asked what highway protection work means and why does the highway need to be protected with the embankment at Cache Creek East.
- b. Shanna shared that it is for erosion control, takes wear over time to prevent wear of the highway.
- c. PRRD Area B asked about works at Farrell Creek.
- d. Neil replied that construction at Farrell Creek was to begin in the fall of 2020.
- e. PRRD Area B asked about construction plans at Farrell Creek and wants an update for the next meeting.
- f. Neil said that can be provided.
- g. PRRD Area C asked for an update on fish habitat downstream.
- h. Dave Hunter described the downstream habitat, the engineering, the enhancement projects and the completed phase 1 work. He also described the second half of downstream channel enhancement that will occur in 2021 & 2022.
- i. PRRD Area C asked if the channel enhancement plan will be presented to the PRRD before it is finalized.
- j. Dave Hunter and Nancy confirmed that BC Hydro will present the plans before they are finalized to the PRRD.
- k. Taylor stated they are surprised that chain-on/chain-off areas have not been implemented in the realignment work. Says more industrial traffic will be happening and indicates it should have been implemented in the construction design. Asks if this is something the appropriate ministries would get together to look in to including in the work.
- l. MOTI replied that this is not part of the Site C impacts and mandate, though MOTI has a highway team looking at it as a separate add-on project for Cache Creek Hill.
- m. PRRD Area E asked about Barr Island, and if other similar areas are being excavated.
- n. Shanna responded that fish habitat enhancement is planned along the shoreline.
- o. Dave Hunter added that at Cache Creek an area is being excavated for fish habitat. The work does not mean removing islands. Excavation sources are from future-submerged islands.
- p. PRRD Area E asked if submerged islands will be a boater hazard.
- q. Shanna replied that this will not be an issue. There are no islands after inundation that will be semi-submerged.

- r. Dave C added that there are three islands that are high enough elevation that will remain islands, but the rest will be submerged.
- s. Dave Hunter added that Transport Canada has a requirement to have an app to map the depths in the reservoir for public use.
- t. Nancy confirmed that bathometric mapping will be done and made available to boaters after reservoir filling.
- u. PRRD Area B asked about the amount of gravel that the project will use and expressed a concern about the amount of gravel that will be used over the project and nothing will be left with the Peace region—is there any mitigation for the amount of gravel used.
- v. Shanna responded that gravel used on dam site is mostly sourced from the dam site area. Aggregates used for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Highway 29 work will be sourced from MoTI pits for which BC Hydro has an agreement with MoTI. West Pine Quarry, Portage Quarry and Wuthrich Quarry will be left in better condition for MoTI as the infrastructure, including roads and faces are in place.
- w. MoTI added that most gravel used for construction is from underwater areas currently or areas that will be underwater—that is another mitigation measure.

Action:

- i. BC Hydro to provide update on Farrell Creek works at next RCLC meeting
- ii. BC Hydro to present an update on second half of channel enhancement plan for the PRRD.

EAC Amendments

Nancy introduced herself and provided updates on EAC amendments.

Action: N/A

Mitigation Update

Nancy provided mitigation updates.

- a. Provided some examples of signage to appear at boat launches and, on the river, to notify boaters of the river blockage. Signage has been approved by Transport Canada.
- b. Agricultural Mitigation and Compensation Fund update: the Board met last week to review the applications from the 2nd intake. An announcement will be forthcoming on successful applicants. She thanked the Board & NDIT for their work to successfully implement the Fund.
- c. GO Fund update: update on successful applicants for first intake of 2020. BC Hydro announcement will be going out next week. She thanked the GO Fund committee for their work.
- d. Peace River North asked how often GO Fund awards are given.
- e. Nancy responded that there are quarterly intakes to access the \$100,000/year.
- f. Shana added that NDIT is the administrator for the Fund.
- g. Nancy added that the Committee is composed of one community member and one local government representative from each community.

Action: N/A

Methylmercury

Dave Hunter introduced himself and presented on the Methylmercury monitoring program for Site C.

- a. PRRD Area D asked for confirmation that methylmercury in fish tissue generally occurs in higher levels from manmade reservoirs than in natural lakes.
- b. Dave Hunter replied that after reservoir filling the inundation areas of soil and terrestrial vegetation will cause a peak in concentration before levels subside again after 20-30 years. Similar levels are not generally present in natural lakes because there is not the methylmercury inputs from newly inundated soils and vegetation.
- c. Shanna added that levels in natural lakes will differ. If there was a naturally occurring landslide or disturbance around an existing lake causing a new lake to form, a similar peak could occur.
- d. Dave Hunter added that some lakes in BC have similar levels as Williston Reservoir.
- e. Dave C recommended Dave Hunter to speak further on comparisons made to reference lakes (those not influenced by industry and/or reservoirs) in the Peace Region and reference the Peace Williston studies by the Fish Wildlife Compensation Program.
- f. Dave Hunter confirmed that reference lakes were not affected by industry but showed similar levels of fish tissue methylmercury due to natural inputs from surrounding environment.
- g. Taylor asked about the effects of Methylmercury downstream.
- h. Dave Hunter responded that fish tissue methylmercury levels in the reservoir are expected to increase three to four times the baseline levels, and downstream of the reservoir double the baseline levels, and that there are many Methylmercury Monitoring Plan study locations monitoring fish tissue methylmercury levels all the way to Many Islands, AB. He confirmed that the risk from methylmercury is from bioaccumulation in fish, not from being present in high levels in the water. Consumption of the largest/oldest fish are the area of concern. There is no issue with drinking or swimming in the water, related to methylmercury. Bull trout are catch and release for non-indigenous people. Health Canada sets limits for consumption of fish and is working with First Nations communities on this.

Action:

- iii. BC Hydro to share the info of comparable methylmercury lakes information with the RCLC.

Job and Business Update

Kate O'Neil presented the business update.

- a) PRRD Area C asked if Indigenous workers are counted as part of the PRRD total (slide 86).

- b) Kate confirmed that the workers who are counted as Indigenous have self-identified as such; and if they live in the Peace River Regional District they are counted as part of the PRRD total.
- c) PRRD Area D asked if BC Hydro or the contractors are short-staffed.
- d) ATCO replied that facility management around the camp is not short-staffed and they are still able to recruit locally, but challenges in other areas of the province such as LNG Canada project in Kitimat.
- e) PRHP stated that the pool of potential staff is good. They are participating in local job fairs.
- f) AFDE stated they are participating in local trade/job fairs to recruit local and in BC, though there is some mismatch in specific trades as needed, and indicated that local candidates get preference. There is some recruiting in Alberta as well.
- g) Ross stated that he sits in on monthly labour committee meetings with all prime contractors and he acts on behalf of BC Hydro. He has not had any indication of labour supply issues. Kitimat is a primary competitor for labour resources (i.e. Kitimat project via CLAC union) has similar benefits package, but Fort St John is easier to get to for workers which is more desirable.
- h) Dave C indicated the normal annual seasonal fluctuation in employment. (slide 87).

Action: N/A

4. Contractor Updates

- a) AFDE: concrete placement through the winter successful in the powerhouse intake and spillway. 125,000 sq. m. of concrete. Ramping up the production during the warmer months. Subcontractor back on site working. Structural steel in powerhouse. Penstocks delivered and being installed. 2020 & 2021 will be their busiest construction years, looking to increase their workforce by 25% (worker #s) with carpenters and labourers being the majority of this (about 95% of the to-be-hired staff). Will be at the Fort St John labour show April 2020. Sponsoring the St. Patty's day 5K run, and the Spark Women's Leadership Conference. Also involved in the second pre-carpentry training program.
- b) PRHP: lining works in Tunnel 1 is complete and Tunnel 2 is 65% complete—will be finished in two months. Fish passage works will also be finished in two months. Community investment: PRHP is a lead sponsor of the Youth Leadership Council. Also created scholarships for students in the Peace Region, one open and one for women in trades only. Recipients will be split equally between indigenous and non-indigenous recipients. Participating in Spark Conference as a sponsor and on a panel.
 - a. As a follow-up to the question during the on-site construction update on what will be done with insulation after the project, PRHP confirmed that this has been built into their demobilization plan: will implement buyback programs or will be sold on secondary marketplace to other projects, or recycled. Last resort is to go to landfill.
 - b. MoTI asked for timing on turbine delivery.
 - c. Ross will get back to them with that information and if the turbine is coming in as one piece and when. Currently expect the first in May/June 2020.
- c) ATCO: camp expansion continuing. Surplus food program is still ongoing, but don't have enough baseline data to report specifics (December dropped in occupancy so less food being produced in the kitchens). Program is targeting 50-100 meals/day and very successful, will represent this in a presentation after 6 months. Local community

sponsorship: sponsor for WEENAS trade show and will also be at the Fort St John Trade Show.

- a. Fort St John thanked the contractors for their involvement in community. Asked if ATCO can discuss joining Spark presentation. ATCO and FSJ will connect.

Action:

- iv. BC Hydro will update the Committee on timing and method of delivery of turbines, and how many pieces they will arrive in.

5. Roundtable

A roundtable update occurred from the local community representatives:

- a) Chetwynd stated they are happy with the presentation and reiterated interest in seeing the percentage of local workers on the project increase to support the region and workers and families.
- b) PRRD Area B: no updates. Stated interest in discussing Clayhurst boat launch. Referenced a letter dated Aug 18, 2015. Stated BC Hydro should build a boat launch nearby the Clayhurst area if not in the Clayhurst area itself. Also spoke to the burning of the trees and the resulting loss carbon sequestering. Environmental Assessment did not direct any recommendations around carbon issues. Is asking to reconsider the carbon mitigation.
 - a. Nancy suggested to add to the next meeting for a more fulsome conversation on both the boat launch and carbon sequestering.
- c) Taylor thanked the GO Fund for their work. Echoed interest in the boat launch discussion. Discussed the response planning meeting going forward that Taylor will be involved in especially processes around Peace Island Park. Stated a desire to confirm who is responsible for looking into adding chain-on/off areas at Cache Creek Hill on Highway 29.
- d) PRRD Area D stated they received questions at the community table about the Clayhurst boat launch. Asked what other avenues for updates are available for providing community updates—especially for those who don't have good internet.
 - a. Dave C stated he sends a PDF of the Bi-weekly Construction Bulletin along with the email that could be a good alternative to trying to access the website. The Bi-weekly Construction Bulletin is public information that can be forwarded to constituents and stakeholders by elected officials.
- e) PRRD Area E is interested in an update on traffic increase up the Jackfish Lake Road this summer. Concerned about the Cache Creek boat launch location and the likelihood of it being built. Also interested in local workers being used above out-of-region workers. Commended contractors for continuing to participate in the job fairs.
 - a. Nancy responded that the boat launch in that area is an EAC requirement and it will be completed once the best final location is identified. Described the traffic monitoring program in Chetwynd.
 - b. Dave C the Jackfish Lake Road update will be a takeaway for a future Committee meeting.
 - c. ATCO is almost at capacity for what they require in terms of workforce.
- f) Fort St John thanked the prime contractors for their community support, and thanked BC Hydro for the staff statistics to share with the region. Stated they are happy with the heavy duty and carpentry courses being implemented.
- g) PRRD Area C: Would like more information on the velocity of water leaving the dam site and if it could have any impact on erosion or changes to stability in relation to the Old Fort Slide.

- a. Dave C stated that BC Hydro will take this away to respond.

Action:

- v. Clayhurst boat launch to be put on agenda for discussion at next RCLC meeting (with reference to the letter dated Aug 18 2015).
- vi. The Site C environmental assessment of GHG emissions and carbon sequestering to be discussed at the next RCLC meeting.
- vii. BC Hydro to provide an update on Site C traffic usage of Jackfish Lake Road in the summer at the next RCLC meeting.
- viii. BC Hydro to respond to PRRD Area C on the potential for the water coming out of the diversion tunnels or eventually the dam and spillway to impact the Old Fort Slide area and cause any additional destabilization and will confirm the expected water velocity.

6. Next Steps

- a) The next meeting date was confirmed.
- b) Dec meeting: asked if the December meeting should be cancelled for low attendance.
 - a. Committee stated preference to keep the December meeting.
- c) Sept: send a poll for preference for September meeting date.

Action:

- ix. BC Hydro will send a poll for September meeting dates.