

Site C Clean Energy Project

Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
 September 29, 2021, 1:00 to 3:00 pm
 Video Conference Call

ATTENDEES <i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i>	Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District Shawn Dahlen – Peace River Regional District Moira Green, District of Taylor Margaret McDonald, McLeod Lake Indian Band Dave Conway, BC Hydro Jim McPherson, BC Hydro Lindsay Routledge, BC Hydro Ben Raucher, BC Hydro Matt Drown, BC Hydro Wendy Laluk, BC Hydro Shanna Mason, BC Hydro Kate O’Neil, BC Hydro Karen Von Muehldorfer, BC Hydro Chris Hatton, BC Hydro James Thomas, BC Hydro Katrina Kelly, BC Hydro
INVITED GUESTS	
ATTENDED	Troy Van Bostelen, AFDE Erwin Desouza, ATCO Jamie Bodnarchuk, PRHP
ABSENT WITH REGRET	Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nations Carol Newsom, CAO, District of Chetwynd Mayor Dale Bumstead, City of Dawson Creek Blair Lekstrom, CAO, City of Dawson Creek Jennifer McCracken, Doig River First Nation Milo McDonald, CAO, City of Fort St. John Mokles Rahman, CAO, District of Hudson’s Hope Naiomi McKinnon, McLeod Lake Indian Band Stephanie Rocheleau, Land & Stewardship Director, McLeod Lake Indian Band MLA Dan Davies, Peace River North

	<p>Tamara Wilkinson, MLA Assistant, for MLA Dan Davies</p> <p>Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South</p> <p>Terri Paulovich, Constituency Assistant, Peace River South</p> <p>Danielle Veach, Pouce Coupe</p> <p>Tyla Pennell, Acting CAO, District of Taylor</p> <p>Mayor Keith Bertrand, District of Tumbler Ridge</p> <p>Jennifer Thomas, CAO, District of Tumbler Ridge</p> <p>Mayor Dave Heiberg, District of Hudson's Hope</p> <p>Adriana DaCosta, MOTI</p> <p>Chief Justin Napoleon, Saulneau First Nation</p> <p>Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District</p> <p>Mayor Rob Fraser, District of Taylor</p> <p>Mayor Allan Courtoreille, District of Chetwynd</p> <p>Mayor Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St. John</p>
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Documents Distributed on September 28, 2021

- RCLC Meeting Agenda
- RCLC Presentation Slides
- RCLC Action item log
- RCLC Workforce Report
- RCLC Q1 Business Report
- RCLC June 9 Meeting Notes
- RCLC Public Enquiries FAQ

Opening / Welcome / Agenda

- Dave welcomed all attendees.
- Acknowledgement of Indigenous Treaty 8 traditional territories.
- If you aren't working from home, please take the time to familiarize yourself with the nearest exit should you need it.
- Dave provided an overview of the agenda.

Review of Agenda & Action Items

Dave reviewed the agenda and action items along with the status of each item.

Site C COVID-19 Update

- Shanna Mason provided a Site C COVID-19 update.
 - Forty percent of positive cases are with workers who are fully or partially vaccinated. Recently 2100 workers disclosed their vaccination status showing that 82% were fully vaccinated and 8% were partially vaccinated.
 - Chair Sperling asked if we were using a different vaccine as we started out with Astra Zeneca.
 - Shanna confirmed that Site C is no longer using Astra Zeneca.

- Chair Sperling asked if the reason Site C is seeing 40% of vaccinated workers contract COVID is it a result of using Astra Zeneca?
 - Shanna explained that other vaccine groups are seeing the same statistics. Efficacy was looked at and it shows that vaccines do keep workers out of the hospital. Many assume that once vaccinated they will not get sick. Astra Zeneca has the same efficacy as Maderno or Pfizer.

BC Hydro Project Update

Dam On-site Construction Update

Jim McPherson provided updates about on-site construction activities

- There were no questions.

Chris Hatton provide an update on 'Area E' which includes the Teco Pit. This area will be mobilized for use next year to provide aggregate for the project. The Ice Bridge Road will be upgraded.

- Chair Sperling asked what is the volume of gravel that will be removed?
 - One to two million cubic meters will be removed, BC Hydro has the ability to move up to three million cubic meters if needed.
- Chair Sperling noted that it was mentioned that this was operated by CN rail but asked if it was owned by BC Rail?
 - Chris explained that the tenure is licensed to BC Rail. BC Hydro is in discussion with both CN and BC Rail along with the province. It is crown land.
 - James Thomas with BC Hydro properties, confirmed the area is crown land and BC Rail has a licence of occupation. It is not their land.
- Chair Sperling asked if BC Hydro is expanding the pit.
 - Chris explained that BC Hydro will be operating on the southern part of the pit, opening the pit and expanding it north.
- Chair Sperling asked what is going to happen after BC Hydro is finished at Teco Pit.
 - Chris responded that the intent is that BC Rail and CN Rail would resume their rights to the area.
 - James Thomas confirmed that the area BC Hydro plans to use is within the existing license of occupation and is not new area as far as licenses. James offered to send out maps of the area to show the area that CN and BC Rail already have.
 - Brad would appreciate the map as aggregate is not easy to find in the north.
- Dan Rose asked if anyone lives in the area that will be affected, is mitigation offered if needed?
 - James confirmed that no one lives on the crown land but there are a few residential use properties in the area. BC Hydro has been in discussion with a property owner already. BC Hydro is mindful of others that may use the road.
- Moira is concerned about slope stability near the railway. This may also create dust that would affect Taylor.
 - Chris confirmed the ground is quite flat with few slopes to be concerned about. The intent is to stay away from the edge, well back from any slopes. Geotechnical engineers are involved in the design of the road. BC Hydro's use of the pit will not introduce a hazard to the rail line.
- Director Goodings commented that gravel is a very limited resource that is badly need in order to maintain the roads in the region. There is concern about the amount of gravel being taken out. How much gravel has BC Hydro has taken out that is no longer available for use?

- Dave stated that BC Hydro will provide an estimate of those numbers to Director Goodings.
- Shanna added that aggregate resources are subject to royalties and hopefully the province will use those funds to develop further resources.
- Chris also commented that a conservative estimate of available aggregate within the Area E boundary is more than 12 million cubic meters. BC Hydro will likely use less than 3 million cubic meters. A large amount will be left behind.
- Director Rose stated that the road would change from a winter road to an all-season road. Will dust suppression be used?
 - Chris confirmed that the construction plan includes dust suppression and road improvements will add a layer of thicker gravel that will help suppress the dust as well.

ACTION 2021-012 – James Thomas to send out maps of the Tico Pit area to show the area that CN leases from BC Rail.

ACTION 2021-013 – BC Hydro to provide Director Goodings details of gravel use for Site C.

Off-Site Construction

Matt Drown provided an update on off-site activities.

- There were no questions.

Katrina Kelly provided an update on shoreline enhancement at Wilder Creek.

- Chair Sperling asked who did the study on the reservoir and requested a copy. He asked about the topography and soil for the other four sites chosen.
 - Katrina confirmed that the sites are not all shallow water sites. The sites at Maurice Creek are very different.

ACTION 2021-014 – BC Hydro to arrange a future presentation from our fish biologists outlining the process of site selection for fish enhancement and the rationale for why the specific sites have been chosen.

- Chair Sperling asked when construction will begin and why the current occupant is not permitted to farm until construction starts?
 - Katrina explained that construction is weather dependant and will start as early as possible in the summer of 2022.
- Chair Sperling feels the land is being taken out of production way too early.
 - James explained that BC Hydro has owned the land since 1977 and each year it has been used productively by a variety of different occupants. The plan is to ensure this continues except when BC Hydro needs to use it. In other areas of the project BC Hydro has frustrated farmers by taking up areas that have already been planted. BC Hydro wishes to prevent this scenario occurring again so have advised the farmer the land is not available for the year BC Hydro will be using it. If this plan changes BC Hydro will notify the farmer.
- Director Goodings asked how many acres will BC Hydro replacing according to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)?
 - BC Hydro responded that 33 acres will be replaced.
- Director Goodings asked if there will be access to the rest of the class 1 lands when the projects are complete?
 - James explained that there are some topographical challenges as a result of the reservoir. Most locals are aware that access is challenging. How access will look in the long term is the first challenge and the second challenge will be access within the

site. BC Hydro is pursuing a long term access route to the area. BC Hydro has not looked into the access within the area this but intends to.

- Director Goodings asked for the information to be shared with RCLC. If BC Hydro can lessen the amount of Class 1 land lost it will be an advantage. If it requires a berm to protect the land to be continued to use for agriculture this would be very important. Karen asked for more information about the projects.
 - Shanna offered to provide a presentation from our fish biologist on fish habitat and all the areas that were looked at and excluded.
- Chair Sperling asked if BC Hydro could create a berm to protect more Class 1 soil and suggested that it might be easier than moving the dirt west and grading it.
 - Shanna offered to have subject matter experts provide a further explanation as to why this is not practical for BC Hydro. The ability to reduce the footprint of the reservoir is not an option.
- Director Rose asked if there is an opportunity to have a discussion with those that require this land and the regulator. Perhaps BC Hydro can relocate this project a bit to reduce the loss of Class 1 lands.
 - Shanna confirmed that the requirement for habitat won't be removed. BC Hydro has looked very hard at all locations, there is limited topography. There won't be an opportunity to change course in a meaningful way on this. Shanna will look for information to provide before our next RCLC meeting as time is of the essence. BC Hydro is close to going to contract and working with First Nations partnerships.
- Director Goodings asked if BC Hydro has to apply to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) or is the area now owned by BC Hydro? Does that give BC Hydro the right to do what BC Hydro wants?
 - BC Hydro is applying for agricultural land permits to excavate the areas on the map in green within the purple area which is approximately seven hectares and then a separate permit to place fill which is in the orange area. The application will be submitted in the next three months.
- Director Rose asked if there have been any issues with permits in connection with the Blueberry River First Nations decision?
 - Karen Von Muehldorfer explained that BC Hydro has been working closely with the Province when putting forward permits. They are taken to the negotiating table in addition to the regular consultation BC Hydro does. Permits are being issued; it's taking longer, but there have been no significant delays.

Community and Social Mitigation Update

Ben Rauscher provided an update. The rustic recreation site fund is accepting applications for up to \$10,000. Local government, First Nations and not-for profits can apply. Several applications have been submitted.

- Karen asked if The Gates could be considered as a rustic site? To be available for future use?
 - Shanna commented that BC Hydro did present on the desire to have a fixed access over to the gates and that is not a practical option as a portion of the gates is quite high off the water.

Job and Business Update

Lindsay Routledge presented the job and business update.

- Lindsay announced that this is her last day with BC Hydro.
 - Lindsay will be missed by the committee.

Contractor Updates

Jamie Bodnarchuck PRHP

- Total volume of RCC placed is 1.68 million cubic meters. The yearly high was in 2019 when 581,000 cubic meters was placed.
- Peace River Hydro Partners will announce tomorrow that \$25,000 will be donated to The Tse'k'wa Heritage Society to support its efforts to develop and preserve the national historic cave site at Charlie Lake.
 - Chair Sperling commented how appreciative he is for the donation to protect the cave.
- PRHP is currently hiring and looking for operators of all types. Jamie will send the current job postings to Wendy to distribute to the RCLC. Resumes can be sent to info@prhp.ca.

Troy Van Bostelen AFDE

- AFDE's workforce is plateauing at 1800 workers. AFDE will be attending the local job fair today in Fort St. John to recruit local workers.
- AFDE is supporting the Fort St. John Fire Fighters Charitable Society. AFDE works closely with the fire department and is involved with several charitable groups in the Peace Region.

Erwin Desouza ATCO

- ATCO the camp averages about 1500 daily. All protocols are in place.

Roundtable

A roundtable update occurred from the local community representatives:

- Maggie from McLeod Lake Indian Band is having a talking circle tomorrow on Truth and Reconciliation Day. Maggie is new and busy learning the system.
- Chair Sperling once again thanked PRHP for the donation to the Tse'k'wa Heritage Society.
- Director Goodings reported that harvest season is moving along well. Karen received a call regarding Watson Spring. Improvements have been near the spring that is affecting the water flow. A person resides there and has the water rights to the spring. There is concern he has lost his source of water.
 - James Thomas thanked Karen for bringing this forward. James is well aware of the spring and will contact the owner and find out more about the water flow concerns.
- **ACTION 2021-015** – James to contact the property owner near Watson Spring regarding water flow.
- Director Rose agrees with comments from Director Sperling regarding the involvement by the contractors in the community. They have made a lot of strides which includes the donation to The Tse'k'wa Heritage Society.
- Shawn Dahlen – nothing to report.

Next Steps & Closing

- BC Hydro will present on the fish habitat projects at the next meeting.
- The next meeting date is tentatively set for November 24 or December 8.
 - No conflicts mentioned.
 - Wendy will poll the RCLC members for their meeting date preference.

RCLC meeting ended at 3:23 p.m.