

Site C Clean Energy Project

Regional Community Liaison Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary
January 31, 2018, 12:30pm to 3:00pm
Fort St. John

<p>ATTENDEES <i>Regional Community Liaison Committee Members</i></p>	<p>Louise Cardinal, Blueberry River First Nation Bella Gravel, Blueberry River First Nation Ranish Shakya, Blueberry River First Nation Mayor Merlin Nichols, Chetwynd Mayor Lori Ackerman, Fort St. John Dianne Hunter, City Manager, Fort St. John Councillor Dave Heiberg, Hudson's Hope Councillor Andre Lavoie, Pouce Coupe Director Brad Sperling, Area C, Peace River Regional District Director Dan Rose, Area E, Peace River Regional District Tamara Wilkinson, Constituency Assistant, Peace River North Mayor Rob Fraser, Taylor Dave Conway, BC Hydro Ed Gohl, BC Hydro Melissa Holland, BC Hydro Shanna Mason, BC Hydro Nancy Pepper, BC Hydro Jim Robertson, BC Hydro Melanie Dame, BC Hydro</p>
<p>ABSENT WITH REGRET</p>	<p>Mike Bernier, MLA, Peace River South 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 Tom Matus, Hudson's Hope Fay Masear, McLeod Lake Indian Band Nathan Prince, McLeod Lake Indian Band Mayor Lorraine Michetti, Pouce Coupe Christopher Leggett, CAO, Pouce Coupe Director Karen Goodings, Area B, Peace River Regional District Director Leonard Hiebert, Area D, Peace River Regional District Chris Cvik, CAO, Peace River Regional District</p>

	Charlette McLeod, CAO, Taylor Mayor Don McPherson, Tumbler Ridge Jordan Wall, CAO, Tumbler Ridge
INVITED GUESTS	Tim Lea, ATCO Kahsha Patterson, ATCO Nicola Hogg, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Katherine Styba, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Megan Adams, Peace River Hydro Partners Rod Jones, Peace River Hydro Partners Lawson Crichton, Voith Hydro

Documents Distributed (via email on January 30, 2018)

Agenda – January 31, 2018

Action Items Tracking Log – January 31, 2018

Site C Project Update Presentation – January 31, 2018

BC Hydro Site C Public Enquiries Report December 2017

Site C BC Business Summary (Q4 October – December 2017)

Site C Field Work Summary – January 2018 (Distributed at meeting on January 31, 2018)

Regional Request for Quotes Information Sheet (Distributed at meeting on January 31, 2018)

GO Fund Information Sheet (Distributed at meeting on January 31, 2018)

Clearing and Debris Management Information Sheet (Distributed at meeting on January 31, 2018)

1. Opening / Welcome / Agenda

- a) Dave Conway welcomed the Committee members to the meeting. He also acknowledged the Treaty 8 peoples and the territory within which the meeting was held. He asked the Treaty 8 representatives to please accept our thanks for allowing us to hold this meeting within their territory, acknowledged the Fort St. John Beaver Band and gave thanks to Blueberry River First Nation for providing an opening prayer.
- b) An elder from Blueberry River First Nation provided an opening prayer for the meeting.
- c) A round of introductions occurred for those new to the Committee meetings.
- d) The agenda was reviewed and a request for any additional items was made by Dave Conway.
 - a. No additional items were requested.

2. Review of Action Items

- a) Dave Conway reviewed the action items and asked if the Committee had any questions.
 - a. A Committee member requested that drainage at, and the use of, the 85th Avenue Industrial Lands be tracked as an ongoing item.

Action: BC Hydro will add an ongoing item to the Action Items Tracking Log for the drainage at, and use of, the 85th Avenue Industrial Lands.

3. BC Hydro Project Update

Shanna Mason introduced herself as the new Director of Environment and Regulatory. She thanked the Committee members for their attendance and explained that the meeting time can be used to cover any topics of interest to the Committee. Shanna then provided an update on the Site C construction schedule, which has been updated to reflect the timeline of construction activities following the Provincial government's decision to proceed with Site C. River diversion and reservoir filling are now approximately one year later than in the previous schedule.

Melissa Holland, the Director for Highway 29 Realignment, Transmission and Reservoir Clearing provided an update on the areas of construction located outside of the dam site, including the Highway 29 realignment, reservoir clearing, and transmission line and substation work.

BC Hydro has developed two options for the Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek/Bear Flat, which shifts the routing of the highway away from two areas of significance to Indigenous communities. BC Hydro is working with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to confirm the new Highway 29 realignment options at Cache Creek/Bear Flat meet MoTI design criteria and safety standards. MoTI is responsible for tendering and overseeing the Highway 29 realignment construction work.

Melissa Holland reviewed the timeline for the Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek/Bear Flat, including consultation, geotechnical investigations, environmental studies, heritage groundtruthing, and assessing the costs and timelines for constructability of the two options. To allow more time to work on the options for the realignment at Cache Creek/Bear, a detour along Highway 29 in this area is required to be constructed for the river's diversion in fall 2020. The Highway 29 realignments must be completed prior to the creation of the Site C reservoir.

- a) A member commented that the Peace River Regional District is aware of the discussions between BC Hydro and property owners with regards to the realignment options at Cache Creek/Bear Flat and asked if BC Hydro and the property owners are close to reaching an agreement or resolution.
- b) Melissa Holland explained that BC Hydro started the process for discussing the two options and consultation with First Nations and property owners began in mid-January 2018. BC Hydro asked for input on the realignment options and the criteria BC Hydro will be using to assess the decision related to the options. Melissa explained that the goal is to have a decision on the alignment option in summer 2018.
- c) A member commented that the Peace River Regional District Board heard from property owners who are concerned about the realignment options. They said that it appears that the land being used within the new alignments was not included in the original Environmental Assessment for Site C and asked about the legal implications of BC Hydro carrying out investigations in these areas.
- d) Melissa Holland explained that one of the realignment options is located within the area that was assessed during the Site C Environmental Assessment process. One of the options is located outside the area that was assessed and BC Hydro needs to gather information through the investigations to present the option to the BC Environmental Assessment Office (BCEAO).
- e) A member asked if BC Hydro would require a statutory amendment to the Environmental Assessment Certificate for the new option.
- f) Shanna Mason explained that BC Hydro is meeting with the BCEAO to discuss how to proceed. Included within the discussions is the timeline for completing investigative work on the realignment options and if the investigative work should be completed prior to submitting the amendment application or after submitting the application. BCEAO has

said that BC Hydro should complete the investigative work to inform the application submission. If BC Hydro proceeds with an amendment application, BCEAO will strike a technical committee to review the submission.

Melissa Holland explained that BC Hydro is looking to advance some of the Highway 29 realignment work to meet the project schedule, including the western portion of the Cache Creek realignment, which may move forward to late 2018 or early 2019. Geotechnical work is ongoing at Halfway River and there will be geotechnical investigations for the Cache Creek/Bear Flat options this spring. The geotechnical work for all realignment segments must be completed in late summer/early fall 2018.

Melissa Holland reviewed the presentation slide map showing the reservoir clearing and infrastructure clearing areas and timing. There will also be hauling of merchantable timber that has already been cut, along with waste wood disposal.

- g) A member asked what happens to the timber that is not merchantable.
- h) Shanna Mason explained that there is a process to determine if timber is merchantable or non-merchantable, which includes an assessment by foresters. BC Hydro has a vegetation clearing and debris management plan and the location of the timber determines what can occur. Mulching is determined by the location, there will be some burning that is dependent on location and season, and some timber will be left as woody debris for habitat. The clearing and debris management plan includes guidelines for riparian zones and other areas of sensitivity.
- i) Melissa Holland added that the decked timber near Watson Slough will be hauled out soon.

Melissa Holland provided an overview of the transmission line and substation work, including clearing in certain sections of the transmission line right-of-way, the connection to the Peace Canyon substation and the construction timeline. She explained that the substation contractor is expected to mobilize in spring 2018 and the transmission line contractor is expected to start work in fall 2018.

- j) A member asked about BC Hydro's Peace Region Electricity Supply (PRES) project and a map that was shared with local government. It appears that there are two transmission line corridors leaving the substation until the line crosses the Pine River. The member asked why the two transmission lines are not following the same corridor between the substation and the Pine River.
- k) Action: Melissa Holland will follow up on the question with the PRES project manager to determine why the decision was made.
- l) A member asked how the transmission line corridor will be accessed, how much traffic will be traveling along the roads on the south bank and if the information will be shared with MoTI.
- m) Melissa Holland explained that the contract for the transmission line work has not been finalized or awarded. The staging areas will be determined by the contractor and they will provide BC Hydro with an access plan. The traffic will be determined by where the work crews are located. BC Hydro will share additional information on the traffic related to the transmission line work once the transmission line contractor is in place and the information is available.
- n) A member mentioned that BC Hydro met with their community to discuss clearing and debris management and smoke management. The member was able to find the vegetation clearing and debris management plan on the Site C website but was unable to find the smoke management plan, which is under revision. He asked if BC Hydro could share the draft of the revised smoke management plan.

- o) Shanna Mason will share the draft smoke management plan with the District of Taylor.
- p) A member asked if BC Hydro has considered allowing a year for the waste wood debris to dry out prior to burning, as it will then burn with less smoke.
- q) Shanna Mason explained that BC Hydro has considered options that would allow the waste wood to burn more efficiently, including curing (drying) and stacking the wood in tight vertical piles.

Nancy Pepper provided an update on the community and social mitigation programs, including the Agricultural Fund, the Fort St. John housing project, the daycare facility in the new elementary school in Fort St. John and the Generate Opportunities (GO) Fund.

Dave Conway provided information on procurement, employment, regional business participation and the regional request for quotes process.

- r) A member asked if the number of businesses shown in the presentation is all the businesses that have worked on the project.
- s) Nancy Pepper clarified that the number of businesses shown in the presentation represents the number of companies engaged by Site C contractors to provide goods and services in relation to Site C construction for the fourth quarter (October – December) of 2017. A list of the northern B.C. businesses participating on Site C construction as contractors, sub-contractors or suppliers since the start of construction (July 2015) is provided on an annual basis in the Site C Business Participation Plan Annual Report.
- t) A member asked if the Committee will receive a list of that categorizes the employment statistics/job numbers by community.
- u) Dave Conway explained that BC Hydro is looking at the feasibility of creating and providing a list that categorizes the employment statistics by community.

Action: BC Hydro will share the Highway 29 realignment overview map included in the presentation with Committee members.

Action: BC Hydro will follow up with the PRES project manager with regards to why the decision was made for the transmission lines between the substation and the Pine River to not follow the same corridor. The information will be provided to the District of Chetwynd.

Action: BC Hydro will share additional information on the traffic related to the transmission line work once the transmission line contract is in place and the information is available.

Action: BC Hydro will send the draft smoke management plan to the District of Taylor.

Action: BC Hydro will provide a response to the question of whether the employment statistics provided to the Committee can be categorized by community.

4. Public Enquiries & FAQ report

Dave Conway reviewed the Public Enquiry and FAQ report with the Committee.

5. Local Technical Engagement on Project Components

Shanna Mason requested feedback from the Committee members on how BC Hydro works with the communities, shares the large volume of information available on Site C and provides

information that can help the members respond to enquiries from their communities. She also asked if there is a need to receive more targeted information on specific work activities and if those conversations should occur at the Regional Community Liaison Committee or with communities at the staff-level.

Shanna Mason also provided an overview on the Environmental Assessment Condition amendment for the Generating Station and Spillways (GSS) component of the project. BC Hydro is submitting an amendment application to change the design of the GSS component from the design in the Environmental Assessment Certificate. The BCEAO will review the application and will set up a technical committee, potentially including a Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) representative, technical experts, community representatives and indigenous representatives.

- a) Shanna Mason asked how the Committee would like BC Hydro to engage them on the technical work that is coming in the years ahead.
- b) A member commented that for those on the Committee who were involved in the environmental assessment process it is important to know what changes are being made to the project. The member also commented that the communities who were intervenors during the environmental assessment process should be formally notified of amendment applications. This would help them decide if they need to engage their consultants/experts to review the changes and determine if the changes would result in impacts to the community.
- c) Shanna Mason responded that the BCEAO will conduct a formal referral, but BC Hydro does not know what that will look like yet. The BCEAO will communicate their process publicly.
- d) A member asked if there was an opportunity for the public to make submissions to the BCEAO during the amendment application review, similar to the initial environmental assessment process.
- e) Shanna Mason responded that BC Hydro will check with the BCEAO. BC Hydro expects the process to occur over 4-5 months.
- f) A member commented that it was their understanding that if there are changes to the project or Environmental Assessment Certificate, that there will be a mini-review process that includes those who were initially engaged in the environmental review process, along with the BCEAO, CEAA and technical experts. The member asked if the process would be similar to the initial environmental assessment process and also asked what motivated the change to the Generating Station and Spillways design.
- g) Shanna Mason responded that BC Hydro will talk to the communities who are interested in learning more about the amendment application. She explained that the changes in the Generating Station and Spillways design are to the gates used (changed from radial to drop-down) and the number of spillways (the original design had seven narrow spillways, the new design has four wider spillways). BC Hydro does not anticipate that there will be many amendments to the Environmental Assessment Certificate and with the Generating Station and Spillways design being the first amendment, BC Hydro will learn from the process. She also mentioned that if there is an amendment to the Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek/Bear Flat, BC Hydro expects that there will be a high amount of public interest.
- h) A member commented that there should be a formal opportunity for communities to provide input to the BCEAO as part of the amendment process.
- i) Shanna Mason responded that she will speak to the BCEAO about the process and the opportunity for broader consultation. BC Hydro will provide an update to the Committee on the process, once more information is received from the BCEAO. BC Hydro will set

up technical meetings with communities who are interested in learning more about the amendment.

- j) A member commented that intervenors in the initial Environmental Assessment process should have an opportunity to present to the BCEAO. They also commented that the Committee should receive an overview or general understanding of the changes to the project so they can communicate with their community. The Committee should also be informed of how any changes will impact the safety and design of the project. The member would like to know about activities that affect residents outside the footprint of the dam site, as that is in the interest of the Committee members and public. The member also commented that communities should receive intervenor status in the amendment application process, that BC Hydro should share the amendment application information with the Committee and that the information should then be shared with the public.
- k) A member commented that they file all the information that BC Hydro provides to the Committee and the community and that BC Hydro should share as much information as possible on the project.

Action: BC Hydro will provide a link to the Committee of the Generating Station and Spillways amendment application package. The application package includes a cover letter which summarizes the changes as well as more technical detail.

Action: BC Hydro will discuss the amendment process, along with the opportunity for broader consultation, with the BCEAO and share the information with the Committee.

Action: BC Hydro will set up technical meetings with communities who are interested in learning more about the Generating Station and Spillways amendment application.

6. Roundtable

- a) Rob Fraser asked to receive the Smoke Management Plan from BC Hydro.
- b) Lori Ackerman asked that BC Hydro include the 85th Avenue Industrial Lands on the Action Items Tracking Log and provide a response to her question on the employment statistics being categorized by community.
- c) Merlin Nichols asked if BC Hydro is currently using Jackfish Lake Road to haul equipment to site.
- d) Melissa Holland responded that there is currently no hauling of equipment occurring for the transmission line.
- e) Ed Gohl responded that Jackfish Lake Road is not being used very much by the project at this time. Currently, chips are being hauled out along Jackfish Lake Road but that is anticipated to be complete by the end of the week (February 2, 2018).
- f) Andre Lavoie commented on business opportunities and the decision of Peace River Hydro Partners to self-perform certain aspects of work. He read a letter from a Pouce Coupe company who is no longer working on the project.
- g) Dave Conway responded that Peace River Hydro Partners has decided to self-perform certain aspects of work on the project and that Peace River Hydro Partners discussed this decision at a previous meeting. Dave Conway said that BC Hydro could set up a meeting with Pouce Coupe and Peace River Hydro Partners to discuss their decision about self-performance.

- h) Lori Ackerman commented that the City of Fort St. John would like to further discuss Peace River Hydro Partners decision to self-perform certain work and would like this discussion to take place with the whole Committee and not individual communities.
- i) Dave Conway responded that BC Hydro will include the topic of Peace River Hydro Partners' procurement process and the decision to self-perform on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.
- j) Dave Heiberg asked if the MoTI and BC Hydro have discussed improvements to the rest of Highway 29, not just the portions that require realignment for the project, in particular the switchbacks at Bear Flat.
- k) Katherine Styba responded that improvements to Highway 29 that are not related to the Site C project would be outside the scope of BC Hydro participation. She added that MoTI and Hudson's Hope should discuss the topic at a separate meeting.
- l) Brad Sperling commented that he would like to receive information and updates on the 85th Avenue Industrial Lands drainage plan and Peace River Hydro Partners decision on self-performance of work.
- m) Dan Rose commented that he would like to see the number of Peace River Regional District residents employed on the project increase as the project proceeds. He also asked if the requests for proposals for Site C contracts include any social aspects. He said BC Hydro is providing community benefits through the GO Fund and community measures agreements but asked about the community benefits that are being provided by Site C contractors.
- n) Shanna Mason responded that BC Hydro set up the social components of the project through the Environmental Assessment process and have received direction from the BCEAO and CEAA in the conditions of the Environmental Assessment Certificate. The plans that BC Hydro has developed to meet the conditions must be followed by Site C contractors, which is why BC Hydro is not including additional requirements for social components in their contracts.
- o) Dan Rose asked if BC Hydro could encourage the Site C contractors to participate in Peace region communities and provide more visibility through social interactions.
- p) Shanna Mason responded that there may be an opportunity for greater community engagement by the Site C contractors going forward.
- q) Rob Fraser referred to the presentation slide on regional business participation which showed that there were 334 regional area businesses engaged by Site C contractors to provide goods & services in relation to Site C construction. He commented that community engagement by the Site C contractors is linked to the decision by Peace River Hydro Partners to self-perform certain work and also to how many local businesses are being used by Site C contractors to provide services or work on the project. He said local businesses typically provide support to the local communities in a variety of ways.
- r) Nancy Pepper clarified that the Site C BC Business Summary provided to the Committee is a quarterly list and that BC Hydro also provides an annual list in the Business Participation Plan Annual Report in July of each year.

Action: BC Hydro will include the topic of Peace River Hydro Partners' procurement process and decision to self-perform certain aspects of work on the project on the agenda for the next Committee meeting.

Action: BC Hydro will request its contractors to provide an update on their community outreach in the Peace region at the next Committee meeting.

7. Next Steps

- a) The Committee discussed the next meeting dates. Two options will be sent to the Committee for review:
 - i) Wednesday, May 16
 - ii) Friday, May 25
- b) The action items will be sent to the Committee.