



October 16, 2020

Re: COMMUNITY AGREEMENT WITH BC HYDRO - SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and BC Hydro share the common objective of ensuring that Site C benefits all residents of the Peace region. The Regional District welcomes the jobs and economic benefits that Site C is bringing to our region. The PRRD also wants to ensure any adverse effects of Site C on the Regional District, its services and residents are fully addressed.

The PRRD is pleased that most local governments and First Nations experiencing impacts from Site C have been able to negotiate community measures agreements to mitigate any negative impacts. BC Hydro has concluded community agreements with the municipal governments most directly affected by the Site C project – the City of Fort St. John, and the Districts of Chetwynd, Hudson’s Hope and Taylor – and has signed a regional legacy benefits agreement with the PRRD and its member municipalities which will come into effect once Site C becomes operational. BC Hydro has also signed agreements with First Nations communities in the Peace region. Finally, BC Hydro will provide payments in lieu of taxes to local governments in the region – again once Site C becomes operational.

A number of impacts on Regional District services and residents arising from Site C are taking place now during the construction period, but BC Hydro has not concluded an agreement with the Regional District to address these negative effects on PRRD services and residents during the period of construction, and in some instances beyond. Fortunately, it is not too late to do so. Plus, we have the benefit of working from actual, rather than forecast, impacts to guide us.

Specific issues to be addressed:

- Financial compensation for costs incurred to manage Site C solid waste.
- Financial compensation for lost property tax revenues.
- Measures to eliminate in perpetuity the effects from Site C on the Charlie Lake sewer system, including the depth at which the system’s outfall line (which previously discharged to the Peace River) will now be located within the newly-created Site C reservoir.
- Plan to address detrimental effects which Site C will have on regional aggregate supply.

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PLEASE REPLY TO:

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PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

- Ensure the right to future community water licenses for Regional District systems drawing on the Site C reservoir are protected and free from any charge for lost generation capacity.
- Provide finished site grades and elevations to clarify the finished site profile of the 85th Avenue lands in order to ensure that the commitment to level the site for future industrial land uses will be fulfilled.
- Provide a right of first refusal to the Regional District for provision of fire protection services during Site C operations.
- Minimize the role of the Regional District in the emergency management program for Site C with BC Hydro taking responsibility in a manner similar to oil and gas and other industries in the Peace region.
- Address Site C related traffic safety concerns at Wuthrich Quarry on Beatton Park Road and other traffic issues which may arise at other locations.
- Design, construct and maintain new boat launches at no cost to the Regional District.
- Continue and as necessary enhance dust suppression efforts, especially in the Site C dam construction area.
- Develop and implement a plan to retain heritage, cultural and archaeological artifacts in the region.
- Determine whether Two Rivers Lodge worker accommodations assets should be transferred to the Regional District once the Lodge is decommissioned, and engage the Regional District in planning for decommissioning of Site C.
- Additional financial compensation in recognition of the effects of Site C on the Electoral Area of the Regional District where Site C is located – Electoral Area C lying generally south of the municipal boundaries of the City of Fort St. John, very near the Old Fort Road neighbourhood.

(For more details refer to BC Hydro/Regional District Site C Community Measures Agreement, Background Brief on Regional District Requests, March 2020.)

The PRRD is not asking for extraordinary measures: we simply want to make sure that Regional District services be maintained at least at pre-Site C levels, and that no additional burdens are placed on the Regional District so that residents and the Regional District are no worse off, and preferably better off, after Site C construction and operation.



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Over the last several months the PRRD has been engaging with BC Hydro to address these concerns. Progress has been slow, meanwhile construction – and the negative impacts on the Regional District – continue.

- 1) If you are elected, will you work with us to ensure BC Hydro comes to the table and negotiates a Community Measures Agreement with the PRRD as it has with other local governments and First Nations?**

- 2) What specifically will you do to ensure these negotiations are started and concluded expeditiously?**

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and for answering this questionnaire. We would appreciate receiving your response by October 21, 2020.

Sincerely,

Chair Brad Sperling