

BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION
IN THE MATTER OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT
R.S.B.C. 1996, CHAPTER 473

And

British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority
British Columbia Utilities Commission Inquiry
Respecting Site C

NANAIMO , B.C.
October 10th, 2017

COMMUNITY INPUT PROCEEDINGS
NANAIMO

BEFORE:

D.M. Morton,	Commision Chair/Panel Chair
D.A. Cote,	Commissioner
K.A. Keilty,	Commissioner
R.I. Mason,	Commissioner

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NANAIMO, B.C.
October 10th, 2017

(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 6:00 P.M.)

THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening. Thank you for joining us as we proceed through our two and a half week schedule of Site C Inquiry community input sessions around the province.

My name is David Morton, and I'm the Panel Chair for the Site C Inquiry, and I'm also the Chair and CEO of the British Columbia Utilities Commission. With me today are my fellow Site C Inquiry panel members: Denis Cote on my left, and Karen Keilty on my right. Richard Mason is unable to join us tonight.

This community input session is part of the second important phase of the Site C inquiry. As you know, we spent the first six weeks of this inquiry collecting data and analysis from many parties interested and affected by BC Hydro's Site C project. The quality of these submissions was commendable. Many people committed a great deal to producing a quality submission within the short time frame provided. This affirms what we already know; that there are experts and affected parties who can bring us insight into the many complexities of evaluating the economic impact of the Site C project. We have the task of making findings in this inquiry, and we

1 recognize that our findings are better with your
2 input.

3 You have already met Mr. Hal Bemister, the
4 gentleman over there. He's going to help organize
5 speakers and look after other logistics, which I can
6 see he's doing now, and his team is recording and
7 transcribing these sessions over at the table there.
8 The live audio can be streamed from our website at
9 SiteCInquiry.com and following these sessions all
10 presentations will be transcribed and posted with the
11 rest of the inquiry documents.

12 There is a list of speakers on the screen
13 in front of us here and, when you find your name
14 appears within the next two or three speakers, please
15 make your way to the front and have a seat in the
16 chairs at the front, and then come up when your name
17 is called.

18 If you're not prepared at the time you're
19 called upon, we'll go to the next speaker in line and
20 we'll return to those who weren't present when we're
21 finished the list, so you'll have your chance then.

22 Submissions made here, as well as those
23 made in writing, that are outside the scope of the
24 BCUC review cannot be considered in our final report
25 to government on November 1st.

26 When you're speaking, please don't use any

1 personal or confidential information. We will not be
2 able to record that. And personal information
3 includes individuals' names other than your own name,
4 of course.

5 On the confidential note, the information
6 that was redacted in the Deloitte report -- we are
7 aware of the circulation of the information in the
8 unredacted Deloitte report that was filed in the first
9 phase of the inquiry. This information was redacted
10 to ensure that current and future negotiations between
11 Hydro and its suppliers were not compromised as a
12 result of this information being publicly available.
13 The panel still considers the information confidential
14 despite its inappropriate disclosure in the press. We
15 may redact or refuse submissions that contain
16 reference to that confidential information, both here
17 tonight as well as in written submissions.

18 Speakers have a maximum of five minutes.
19 There is a timer in the front that you can see, and if
20 it gets towards zero, if it looks like you're not yet
21 in a summary part of your talk, I'll try to indicate
22 that you should please move it along and summarize as
23 soon as possible, and ask you to make a brief closing
24 statement.

25 And before you begin your presentation,
26 please state your first name and spell your last name

1 so that the transcribers can catch that for the
2 record.

3 With that, we are ready to open this
4 community input session in Nanaimo on October 10th,
5 2017.

6 Mr. Louhimo, could you please go ahead?
7 Thank you, sir.

8 **Proceeding Time 6:05 p.m. T02**

9 MR. LOUHIMO: Thank you for pronouncing my name exactly
10 right.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Right.

12 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. LOUHIMO (#0214):**

13 MR. LOUHIMO: Peter Louhimo, last name spelled L-O-U-H-I-
14 M-O. I'm a resident of Nanaimo. In 2013 I moved to
15 Fort St. John where I worked for two years. I have
16 friends that currently work on the Site C projects. I
17 do have a little bit of intimate knowledge and
18 understanding of the project. I've stood on the
19 footprint of Site C.

20 I've never seen a project where there's so
21 much misinformation being broadcast by special
22 interest groups. I've read that a million people
23 could be fed off of the footprint of Site C, which is
24 absolute rubbish. Anyone who's lived there or gone
25 there knows that area is largely scrub brush. The
26 farms that do exist, they're not actively farming

1 other than some cattle grazing.

2 So, again, I just wish that people had more
3 information. I wish that the joint review panel
4 report was more readily read, perhaps, because all
5 that information happens to be in that joint review
6 panel report.

7 It's disturbing to me that we've spent 30
8 years talking about this project. It's a third of
9 potentially five dams on the Peace River, and now
10 it's, you know, delayed again. I've got friends that
11 are getting layoff notices. And we as taxpayers and
12 citizens are going to suffer the consequences,
13 definitely financial ones. Let's face the facts.
14 We're into this project for over \$2 billion. We've
15 made financial commitments and contractual commitments
16 with local First Nations. Some of them are -- we
17 don't know, because those negotiations were done in
18 secret, but let's face it, there's going to be a big
19 bill to pay if we are stuck with canceling this
20 project.

21 BC Hydro has also made contractual
22 obligations with service providers and contractors. I
23 can tell you right now from people that I know, the
24 word is that if this project gets cancelled, if the
25 cancellation fees are not considered adequate, there
26 will be a class action lawsuit lodged by these

1 contractors against BC Hydro. So, guess what? Who's
2 going to pay? It's going to be the taxpayer.

3 The lowest prices for electricity are paid
4 in three provinces: Quebec, Manitoba and British
5 Columbia. The reason Quebec, Manitoba and British
6 Columbia have the lowest electricity prices in Canada
7 is because they adopted run-of-river technology, which
8 is building dams and allowing water to run through a
9 turbine. People call this old technology. It is old
10 technology, and it's proven technology. That's why
11 Quebec makes lots of money selling power into the
12 United States using their run-of-river resources.

13 British Columbia has the third lowest
14 electricity rates in Canada as a result of 95 percent
15 of our electricity coming from run-of-river. Guess
16 who has the highest and most electricity rates in
17 Canada? Ontario. Why does Ontario have the most
18 expensive electricity rates in Canada? Because they
19 went down that boondoggle that they were sold with
20 regards to wind power. It's very simple. This
21 experiment has played out. The evidence is in. The
22 Auditor General of Ontario chastised the province for
23 what they've done.

24 The Liberals in Ontario have more than
25 doubled the provincial debt since they were elected
26 into power. I'm concerned if we start going down that

1 path here, and start paying special-interest groups to
2 build these little niche projects, our power is going
3 to become just as expensive as Ontario's, and we're
4 going to lose a competitive edge.

5 Power demand is going to go up. The
6 province's population is growing. There is an
7 electric car revolution that we're told is coming.
8 For someone to say that ten years down the road B.C.
9 will need less or the same amount of power doesn't
10 make sense to me.

11 I hope that this Commission understands the
12 potential consequences of a cancellation if that's
13 what indeed politically is decided. Again, my concern
14 now, that we're here delaying the project again,
15 incurring costs, is that the taxpayer is going to be
16 left with an enormous bill. Remediation, class action
17 lawsuits, First Nations negotiations, payoffs, they're
18 going to have to take place, and all the commitments
19 made to the local municipalities.

20 I hope that we can do the right thing,
21 finish this project, have a GHG-free B.C. power grid.
22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

24 **Proceeding Time 6:10 p.m. T03**

25 Mr. Aikman.

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. AIKMAN (#0215):**

1 MR. AIKMAN: My name is Chris Aikman, and it is as
2 spelled, A-I-K-M-A-N. First of all I'd like to thank
3 the Commissioners for letting us have this forum and
4 to present our ideas. I think the last time I was in
5 this room was about a dozen years ago for a Utilities
6 Commission hearing on a big gas-fired generation plant
7 that was going to be built at the outskirts of Nanaimo
8 here. Thankfully that did not happen.

9 My own background is in astronomy and
10 astrophysics and astrochemistry. I've been retired
11 for some years. I live on Hornby Island.

12 Reading the preliminary reports, there's
13 one really shocking omission in the report, I believe,
14 and that is, nowhere in the report is the Paris Accord
15 mentioned. Now, I know this is a matter of an
16 international agreement, but we are all working
17 towards the reduction of our carbon emissions, and
18 that is a very important part of it.

19 When climate factors are mentioned in the
20 report, they're usually mentioned in a perverse way,
21 like our ability to generate power might be affected
22 by changes in climate. But that is actually the
23 solution to the problem we are facing.

24 One of the few acknowledgements in the
25 report is this following sentence: "Deloitte
26 considers that electric vehicle uptake in B.C. could

1 be greater than BC Hydro has estimated in its load
2 forecast." Well, actually, none of the load
3 forecasts, I think, are meaningful because they do not
4 take into account the rapid de-carbonization we must
5 do if we want to survive on this planet. There is,
6 you know, an awful lot of activity in the two months
7 since you began your work. Let me just outline some
8 of the things that have been in the news lately.

9 Many countries have announced they are
10 going to be removing internal combustion engines from
11 the vehicle market in the near future. Netherlands by
12 2025, Norway by 2030 -- probably before. Probably by
13 2025. UK and France by 2040. The whole demand
14 situation changes once we change our transportation
15 from fossil fuels to electrical power.

16 So, until that is factored in, the
17 protected demand is kind of meaningless. It's really
18 hard to imagine how, when transportation and heating
19 count for about two-thirds of our fossil fuel use, and
20 that we can phase out rather easily, meaning we will
21 have to triple -- double or triple our electrical
22 supply, how we can not have the demand and how we
23 could manage to lose money doing so, meeting the
24 demand.

25 In our universe, energy exists in many
26 forms. Primarily it comes from three different ways:

1 chemical energy, which is the energy that we see on
2 the surface of the earth in growing things and fossil
3 fuels; nuclear energy from the sun and from the inside
4 of the earth, although that's a little harder to
5 access; and gravitational energy. But overwhelmingly
6 the universe is powered by gravitational energy. How
7 can we use that on earth? It's called
8 hydroelectricity, and if you can store it and use it
9 when it's needed, that's an incredible advantage.

10 Now, a lot of stuff has been said about
11 there are cheaper alternatives, and we're going to
12 have super batteries. The reality of chemistry that
13 we have is, there's only one element that really packs
14 chemical energy really well and that's carbon. And
15 when you burn it, you get carbon dioxide. That's what
16 we're trying not to do.

17 So if, for example, you have a kilogram of
18 gasoline and you want the same equivalent energy from
19 a lithium battery, it's going to weigh 50 to 100 times
20 as much. Now, that's mitigated a little bit by the
21 fact that the electric motor running of the car on a
22 lithium battery is three times more efficient.

23 But batteries are not the answer to our
24 energy crisis. It has to be stored hydro. On my
25 website, greenteam.ca, I put a lot of documents that
26 you can look at, that relate to this problem and try

1 to answer some of the gross inaccuracies that have
2 been circulating.

3 Since there's been a lot of conflict over
4 this whole thing, perhaps this is a time to recall
5 what's sometimes called a serenity prayer, also known
6 as the alcoholics' prayer, and that's a good word for
7 it. Because like alcoholics, we are addicted to
8 fossil fuels. We know it's hurting us and we can't
9 seem to stop.

10 The prayer goes: "Give us the ability to
11 change what we can change, the wisdom to accept what
12 we can't change, and the wisdom to know the difference
13 between the two." So that's what we need.

14 In Site C, we have the perfect situation.
15 22 years of water supply behind one dam, going to two
16 days' supply behind the next dam, to 22 days behind
17 the Site C dam, we can have power whenever we want it
18 without fossil fuels. There is no other path to
19 sustainable energy that assures supply like Site C can
20 do.

21 I hope we do not forfeit our future by
22 cancelling this project.

23 **Proceeding Time 6:15 p.m. T04**

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

25 Mr. Stebing.

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. STEBING (#0216):**

1 MR. STEBING: Yes. I'm Alan Stebing, and the first name
2 is right.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry.

4 MR. STEBING: But the last name is spelled S-T-E-B-I-N-G.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Very good. Thank you, sir.
6 Please go ahead.

7 MR. STEBING: I want to thank everyone for allowing us
8 this opportunity to speak on this subject. I believe
9 it's very important. My wife and I moved to the Fort
10 St. John area and settled along the Peace River, where
11 actually where the dam is going to be, in the 1970s.
12 It was with an existing ranch there. Over the years,
13 I've probably walked every mile of that river that
14 will be flooded, so I understand a lot about what has
15 happened up there with people, with the land.

16 And I want to state one thing, because my
17 wife and I both worked just with contract jobs with BC
18 Hydro after they acquired the land for the Site C, and
19 they were just small jobs, you know. Seeding, and
20 fencing, and things like that. But BC Hydro has
21 planned well. I really believe that. I believe
22 they've done their homework. This isn't anything new.
23 Like the gentleman before stated, this is over 40, 50
24 years in the making. And first with the W.A.C.
25 Bennett Dam, and then with the Canyon Dam, and now the
26 Site C Dam. I believe there has been a lot of

1 misinformation surrounding the landowners in this
2 area, and also flooded farm land.

3 And I believe that truly the facts will
4 speak for themselves in these areas, that there is a
5 lot of good farm land along the Peace River, but there
6 is also a lot of gravel that will be flooded along
7 with that good farm land.

8 And the second thing I wanted to address is
9 the fact that -- of employment. I think it's way more
10 than just 2,000 workers that are being affected. The
11 local support businesses and the spin-off work that's
12 created by the Site C project is huge. It's way more
13 than 2,000 people, believe me. When I left the last
14 job I had up there was for a rental business about a
15 year and a half ago, and already that business was
16 doing a lot of work with people involved with the Site
17 C Dam.

18 It's not just the supply companies and the
19 rental companies, it's the trucking companies. It's
20 the pile-driving companies. It's the spin-off
21 oilfield businesses. It's the cement companies. It's
22 the restaurants. It's the barbers. It's the beauty
23 salons. It's the babysitters. It's the equipment
24 dealers. And the list is enormous of who this -- and
25 what this project is going to affect if it's stopped.

26 Not only -- I believe there's a north

1 benefited by BC Hydro, but I think all of B.C. has
2 benefited and been the recipients of good clean power.
3 And I believe that this third site, Site C, this third
4 dam on the river, will continue to supply those needs
5 for all British Columbians.

6 The other thing that I want to address real
7 quickly is the extreme climate and weather changes
8 that we're experiencing. I think we're going to need
9 clean power for future -- to meet all of our ever-
10 changing needs. I wanted to read to you just this
11 thing on the news, January 4th, 2017. "Between 5 and 6
12 p.m., as the cold spell continues in British Columbia,
13 BC Hydro says Tuesday evening broke an 11-year record
14 for the highest power usage by BC Hydro customers. It
15 breaks an all-time high." And I think that we have to
16 look realistically at these changing times, this
17 climate change and our changing temperature and
18 atmosphere, and power has a lot to do with that, with
19 air conditioning, the heating. And I don't think we
20 can overlook this area.

21 The last thing I want to look at here is
22 recreation. I think it's a river that's been managed
23 well. This new dam has not only -- it will produce a
24 lake that will be a much-needed resource for boating
25 and fishing and camping for the surrounding area and
26 for all of B.C. and visitors to B.C. I read those

1 signs for years and years about how they were trying
2 to stop the dam, and I always wanted to put up a
3 little sign underneath it that said, "What a beautiful
4 site this will be." I think I'm going to enjoy going
5 fishing there one day, if I live long enough.

6 And just to close, I'd like to just thank
7 the Commission and I believe that you will make sound
8 decisions based on the facts, looking to a healthy and
9 a productive future of all British Columbians for
10 years to come. Thank you very much.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

12 **Proceeding Time 6:21 p.m. T05**

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. HATFIELD (#0217):**

14 MR. HATFIELD: Hello. My name is Andrew Hatfield, that's
15 H-A-T-F-I-E-L-D. Yes, an "I" in there. Thank you.

16 I live here in Nanaimo, local B.C.
17 resident. And as a local British Columbian resident,
18 I have enjoyed greatly from both the beautiful
19 outdoors of B.C., but also working within the many
20 natural resources this province has got to offer. I
21 support Site C because it harnesses clean energy. It
22 is dispatchable energy. It provides a long-term
23 reliable and affordable answer to the growing energy
24 demands of British Columbia, and will also provide
25 jobs and revenue to many others, just like me, who
26 face constant opposition from a loud minority of

1 people desperate to shut down any major resource
2 projects that our government represents.

3 These groups of nay-sayers are neglecting
4 the importance of economic returns our province and
5 the hard-working citizens will benefit and desperately
6 need.

7 This project is already well underway. It
8 is on track to stay within budget. And it is what our
9 badly-hit energy sector in the northeastern B.C.
10 needs. To now go back and stop this project is not
11 only a big waste of time and energy, literally, but
12 the costs will be huge and completely backfire on us
13 taxpayers in an already tough economic situation, that
14 are desperate to see a positive turnaround in the
15 economy and get back to work.

16 I don't have much more to say; that's
17 pretty straightforward. I support the dam. Thank
18 you.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

20 **Proceeding Time 6:23 p.m. T06**

21 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. DESPREZ (#0218):**

22 MS. DESPREZ: Good evening. My name is Mary Desprez, and
23 it's spelled correctly, which never happens, so thank
24 you.

25 I've had the time to look through the
26 report, the preliminary report, and just some comments

1 on that if I may. If I may begin by thanking the
2 Snuneymuxw for being able to speak and be on their
3 territory. [non-English word]

4 We have in the report some concerns. The
5 panel has concerns, as do I. It is difficult to
6 assess if the project is on schedule, according to the
7 panel. There is insufficient information to determine
8 if it is on budget, according to the panel. There are
9 concerns about the amount that has been spent is not
10 accurately represented -- representing the activities
11 to date. And the panel has concerns that 45 percent
12 of the contingency has already been spent, two years
13 into an eight-year project.

14 The price of this project, which will
15 inevitably cost between 9 and 17 billion dollars, may
16 be used for some alternative energy, cleaner energy.
17 Yes, compared to fossil fuels, Site C dam may be
18 considered clean. But we've come a long ways in the
19 last 40 years from when this was first initiated, and
20 I think we've come up with a lot of better and newer
21 technology that can also help.

22 I think we have -- we have a damn problem
23 in this province. The dam will flood 83 kilometers of
24 the Peace River Valley, wiping out 13,000 hectares of
25 farmland and wildlife habitat. I believe this is our
26 true wealth, and I believe a termination cost to

1 remediate of 1 billion is pennies compared to what the
2 corporations rape and pillage out of our natural
3 resources on an annual basis.

4 I have a question for you, because it's a
5 little bit of a different topic. I'm trying not to
6 stray. But it's back to the dam problem that we're
7 having, and perhaps you can help me with this.
8 Progress Energy, a subsidiary of Petronas, has built
9 at least 16 unauthorized dams in northern B.C., to
10 trap hundreds of millions of gallons of water for use
11 in its fracking operations. Two of the dams tower
12 higher than five-storey apartment buildings.
13 Constructions on these dams began five years ago with
14 no due process. Last year, one of the dams showed
15 signs of failure at which point the Oil and Gas
16 Commission ordered it to be de-watered.

17 The dams are located close to natural gas
18 industry drilling and fracking sites.

19 The full extent of the unauthorized dam
20 building is not yet publicly known. But Mr. Jim
21 Madison, former comptroller of water rights for the
22 provincial government, who researched the problem
23 using satellite imagery, has told the CCPA that the
24 extensive network of energy industry dams and other
25 water impoundment structures is vast. Mr. Madison
26 reports that there are certainly more than 100 large

1 dams that have been built by or for energy companies
2 operating in the region, possibly 200 or more.

3 I read in your brochure that your prime
4 responsibility is to public utilities. I wonder if
5 that includes our public assets and whether or not
6 this dam problem that we're having in the province
7 falls under your umbrella?

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: No, ma'am, I'm sorry, it doesn't.

9 MS. DESPREZ: It doesn't?

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Public utilities are -- or companies
11 that create energy.

12 MS. DESPREZ: Just monitor -- okay. So back to the
13 dollars?

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: And sell energy to people. Yes.

15 MS. DESPREZ: Back to the dollars. Then I would
16 respectfully request that this be terminated and
17 remediated, as per the report that is in front of us
18 tonight. The panel finds it is not in a position to
19 assess the cost impact to ratepayers of continuing,
20 suspending, or terminating. Many questions remain
21 regarding the portfolios.

22 In conclusion, the panel has identified
23 numerous areas of information gaps which require
24 supplemental evidence and analysis. This is where it
25 gets really weird for me. From BC Hydro. Now, these
26 are the people that I've given a lot of challenging

1 information outlined in this report. So it's a wee
2 bit like the hen in the chicken coop for me.

3 I thank you for your time.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

5 **Proceeding Time 6:28 p.m. T07**

6 Please go ahead, sir.

7 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. PAUL MANLY (#0219):**

8 MR. P. MANLY: My name is Paul Manly, and it's spelled
9 correctly there, M-A-N-L-Y. And I'm from Nanaimo.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

11 MR. P. MANLY: I'm speaking against the Site C dam. This
12 project should have come before you before
13 construction started, and I think that if it had, you
14 would have rejected it, as happened in the 1970s. I
15 think it's highly problematic that this has gone
16 forward without the B.C. Utilities Commission
17 examining this project to begin with.

18 There's a process that's been happening in
19 the developing world and I see it happening here now,
20 and that is when you have mega-projects you indebt the
21 taxpayers, the ratepayers, the public utilities, and
22 you force privatization.

23 And I think that's what's happening here.
24 We already have a structural debt of over \$20 billion
25 with BC Hydro, and I understand from the economist,
26 Eric Anderson's analysis, that it's probably much

1 higher than that. And that is seriously problematic.

2 We just heard the other day that this
3 project is now \$610 million over budget. That's news
4 just in the last week, so it wouldn't be included in
5 your report. And so we're at \$9 billion. The former
6 BC Hydro CEO, Mark Eliesen, predicts that we may go up
7 to \$12 billion, and I think that it's time to pull the
8 plug now.

9 We don't need the power for the LNG
10 industry that originally this was planned for. The
11 Liberal government didn't say that that's what it was
12 about, but now BC Hydro has admitted that that was
13 something that they were considering. And the future
14 of energy is changing. You know, we know that we need
15 to move away from fossil fuels. I'm on the board of
16 Mid-Island Co-op. It's \$150 million a year business
17 selling fuel, and we know that the industry is
18 changing. And unfortunately, whatever we discuss
19 around the board table, putting solar panels on our
20 roofs and selling power for cars to plug in isn't an
21 option for us. That's not something we can do in
22 British Columbia, because only BC Hydro may sell
23 power.

24 That is something that needs to change. We
25 don't produce enough power on Vancouver Island. If
26 you look at what's happening in Europe, where, you

1 know, car manufacturers are saying that they're going
2 to stop producing fossil fuel vehicles, and countries
3 are saying that they're going to disallow the sale of
4 fossil fuel vehicles, what you see is solar panels on
5 roofs and electric cars plugged in. And those cars
6 are battery storage that can -- you can flip an app
7 and turn that into power that goes into the grid.

8 So you charge your car all day from your
9 solar panels on your roof, and then at night if you
10 decide that you don't need to drive 300 kilometers the
11 next day, you flip a switch and you're selling power
12 into the grid or you're turning on your light bulbs in
13 your home. And as we go through this energy
14 revolution that we're going through, we're going to
15 find that that becomes the way all over the world, and
16 not just in Europe, but California, and Oregon, and
17 Washington. Those places that BC Hydro sells power
18 to, that we're going to be selling power at a loss
19 from Site C. And that's going to bankrupt BC Hydro.
20 We're going to be stuck as ratepayers paying for this
21 project for years to come.

22 And we have the lowest rates right now in
23 North America, some of the lowest rates. That is
24 going to change, because the market is going to
25 change. And so I'm speaking against this, you know,
26 for a number of reasons. I think that the people who

1 talk about jobs, these jobs are three and a half
2 million dollar jobs. That three and a half million
3 dollars could go to a lot more other types of
4 projects. We're seeing that the geothermal, Canadian
5 Geothermal Energy Association report says that there's
6 enough geothermal power in British Columbia to power
7 all of B.C. We need to tap into that. We need to be
8 tapping into solar. We could be using tidal power
9 right here all along our coast.

10 How much energy does it take to lift a B.C.
11 ferry, you know? Ten feet and drop it another ten
12 feet. That's tidal power. We should be harnessing
13 that energy. We should be harnessing more wind, we
14 should be harnessing more solar. We should not be
15 building mega-projects that are going to bankrupt BC
16 Hydro. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

18 **Proceeding Time 6:33 p.m. T08**

19 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. GARTSHORE (#0220):**

20 MR. GARTSHORE: Good evening. My name is Ian Gartshore.
21 Last name is spelled G-A-R-T-S-H-O-R-E, that is
22 correct. Thank you for this opportunity to come and
23 address you today.

24 I am a former certified energy advisor.
25 That was my profession, and it ended, because -- not
26 only because I got tired of it, to be honest with you,

1 but because it was hard long work with very poor pay,
2 trying to do something that hasn't been mentioned so
3 far today, which is an item called "negawatt". It's a
4 term you're probably familiar with. It's much cheaper
5 to save energy than it is to create energy, usually.
6 Called "negawatt".

7 The kind of jobs, the kind of potential
8 that is available when we go into conservation through
9 demand-side management is incredible. We hear about
10 all the jobs that are occurring right now up in the
11 Peace River country. Take those jobs and spread them
12 out through the entire province as we gear up to get
13 serious about saving approximately 50 percent of BC
14 Hydro's power that is wasted.

15 We need the dams that are there now. We
16 don't need any more dams. We've got enough of that
17 backup power. What we need to do is create more
18 energy locally and save more energy locally. In other
19 words, to empower people such as those who are in this
20 room, to empower companies to become more clever and
21 use energy more widely and create their own energy
22 sources. And thereby create way more jobs, not only
23 in solar energy, tidal power, those other sources, but
24 in more jobs by saving energy.

25 What am I talking about? Here on
26 Vancouver Island, on the Sunshine Coast, most of our

1 buildings are heated with electricity. BC Hydro is
2 very important for us here. We use a lot of energy in
3 that way, and most of our homes and most of our
4 buildings are very inefficient. The windows, the air
5 leakages, the insulation levels, foundations alone
6 absorb a tremendous amount of energy from buildings.

7 If we were to get serious about saving
8 energy, and I'm not talking about the kind of
9 tinkering around the edges, you know, the low-hanging
10 fruit that has been touched on. But if we were to get
11 serious about saving that close to 50 percent of the
12 electricity that's now being generated, the number of
13 jobs, of good paying jobs, not for energy advisors,
14 because that's a poor paying industry, but the jobs
15 that come out of that for people who replace windows,
16 for those who put in insulation, for those who put in
17 heat pumps, for those who are into the construction
18 industry -- I'm just talking about houses and
19 buildings right now. It goes beyond that. But if
20 we're just talking about that one area alone, the kind
21 of jobs that would be generated in communities
22 throughout would be tremendous, and good-paying.

23 It's not sexy to talk about saving energy
24 as it is about solar power. That is a fact. It's way
25 harder to show your neighbours, "Hey, I saved a lot of
26 energy by putting in more insulation into the attic."

1 "Okay, well, that's very nice. Let's talk about
2 sports, shall we?" But when neighbours see somebody's
3 got solar panels up on the roof, oh, that's really
4 something. So it's way easier to do that. And we're
5 going to hear lots, I'm sure, tonight about how we can
6 generate more electricity locally.

7 But if we don't save that power, then when
8 we have cars coming on line -- yes, that will need
9 solar panels as well -- then we're going to need some
10 more power for the first time in over ten years.
11 Because the power consumption in this province has
12 been flat-lined for ten years, and nobody has shown to
13 me that we need more, except for maybe with
14 automobiles.

15 Nobody has shown that. There is no
16 business case that I've seen that says we need more
17 power. Why do we need another dam? We don't. What
18 we need to do is to make sure that we use the power
19 more intelligently.

20 And so I'm going to invite you to look more
21 seriously at how we can ramp up that industry, not
22 just for a year or two, but for 10 or 20 or 30 years,
23 and create the kind of potential that's going to
24 empower people and businesses locally.

25 Thank you for your time.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

1 **Proceeding Time 6:38 p.m. T09**

2 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. RALPHS (#0221):**

3 MR. RALPHS: My name is Richard Ralphs. It's spelled
4 correctly, R-A-L-P-H-S.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

6 MR. RALPHS: I live on Gabriola Island, I'm a retired
7 home builder. And I'm grateful that we've had this
8 meeting here this evening, because it says to me that
9 you're sincerely committed to making an informed
10 decision regarding the Site C dam. And when I learned
11 that this was going to happen this evening, I
12 immediately went to the BC Hydro website, and among
13 the first statistics there that stood out for me was
14 the fact that we're going to try and generate 1.1
15 billion watts of power at a cost of \$8.8 billion
16 dollars, which equates to \$8 per watt of generating
17 capacity.

18 Two years ago at our house we installed
19 10,000 watts of solar power at a cost of \$2.20 per
20 watt. In 1976 a cost of 1 watt of solar power was
21 \$76. The cost of our solar panels was \$190 for 250
22 watts, or 76 cents. And that cost has dropped since
23 then. It's forecast to drop another 27 percent in the
24 next seven years.

25 So the cost of solar is considerably
26 cheaper and getting cheaper every day than Site C.

1 There is a wind farm called Wind Catcher
2 being built on the panhandle of Oklahoma as we speak,
3 started in 2016, to be completed in 2020. They're
4 going to generate \$2 billion watts of power at a cost
5 of four and a half billion dollars U.S. Again, we're
6 talking \$2.25 for the generating capacity of one watt,
7 and falling.

8 Alberta is actually doing us one better.
9 Alberta has introduced a rebate program to encourage
10 Albertans to install solar on their homes and small
11 businesses, and they're offering 75 cents a watt
12 rebate. In other words, Albertan taxpayers are going
13 to pay 75 cents for a watt of generating capacity, not
14 \$8.

15 So these numbers imply to me that we are
16 already deep into cost over-runs at the Site C dam.

17 Additional thoughts around the need for us
18 to pay attention to these numbers. We have in fact
19 built a greenhouse around this planet. If our human
20 produced emissions fall to zero tomorrow, that
21 greenhouse will still be here. Depending on which
22 scientists you want to listen to, that greenhouse will
23 be here doing what greenhouses do for the next 10,000
24 to 90,000 years.

25 We've got far bigger things to worry about,
26 and we have desperate other needs for our money.

1 Some other interesting facts, just in the
2 last week, that came through my computer on the
3 internet. Tesla has contracted with Kauai and Hawaii
4 to help them manage peak demand periods. They have
5 been contracted to build a 52 megawatt solar battery
6 installation that will contribute significant power to
7 reduce Kauai's need to run diesel generators during
8 peak demand periods.

9 This kind of thing is also going on in
10 California and Australia.

11 According to the international energies
12 renewable market analysis broadcast on NBC a week ago
13 Wednesday, 2016 was the first year that a full two-
14 thirds of all new generating capacity around the
15 planet was made up from solar and wind.

16 And that trend is going to get bigger.
17 This represents not just a healthy market share of the
18 energy industry, but a shift in behaviour among energy
19 producers.

20 There's a number of other concerns that are
21 certainly difficult to manage. We're talking about
22 electric vehicles and the likelihood of the demand
23 that they're going to impose on us. One of the things
24 we need to keep in mind there is that on average
25 throughout North America the average daily commute is
26 only 40 miles or less. The amount of energy required

1 for an electric vehicle to travel 40 miles in a
2 commute is quite minimal.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sir, I just want to remind you your
4 time has run out. If you could summarize.

5 MR. RALPHS: Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

7 **Proceeding Time 6:45 p.m. T10**

8 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. JIM MANLY (#0222):**

9 MR. J. MANLY: My name is Jim Manly, M-A-N-L-Y. First of
10 all, I would like to acknowledge our presence here on
11 the unceded land of the Snuneymuxw First Nations. And
12 I would secondly like to thank you for this
13 opportunity to express my opposition to the continued
14 construction of the Site C Dam on the Peace River.

15 During the 1980s, as a Member of
16 Parliament, I was Indian Affairs critic for the NDP,
17 and I remember the difficult struggle of indigenous
18 peoples to have their aboriginal and treaty rights
19 recognized in Canada's constitution. Since then,
20 several court decisions have spelled out some of the
21 specifics that those rights include. And basic to all
22 of these decisions is the need for meaningful
23 consultation if First Nations people believe that
24 their rights are being infringed.

25 We have just observed the tenth anniversary
26 of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of

1 Indigenous Peoples. The Truth and Reconciliation
2 Commission has called on all levels of Canadian
3 government to adopt this declaration as a framework
4 for reconciliation. Both the federal government and
5 B.C.'s new provincial government have committed
6 themselves to this, although unfortunately the federal
7 government has since backed away from this commitment.

8 The UN Declaration calls for the free,
9 prior, and informed consent of any project affecting
10 their lands or territories and other resources. This
11 has not happened with respect to the Site C Dam.
12 Quite the opposite. Treaty 8 assured the First
13 Nations involved that they would be entitled to
14 continue their traditional way of life. The joint
15 review panel established in 2012 by federal and
16 provincial ministers of the environment, determined
17 that Site C would cause significant adverse effects on
18 these First Nations in terms of fishing, hunting,
19 trapping, and other traditional uses of the land, and
20 that these effects cannot be mitigated.

21 However, the panel was not allowed to make
22 any conclusions or recommendations as to whether or
23 not the project infringed on Treaty 8 or if the Crown
24 had fulfilled its duty to consult. In fact,
25 subsequent actions by both governments bypassed the
26 entire question of infringement of rights. The B.C.

1 Utilities Commission was not required to examine the
2 proposal, and the final decision was left to the
3 Governor in Council.

4 When the Prophet River and Moberly First
5 Nations -- West Moberly First Nations took the issue
6 of infringement to court, they lost in the lower
7 courts and the Supreme Court of Canada refused to hear
8 their appeal.

9 Where is the justice in this example of 19th
10 century colonialism? I believe that no major issue is
11 more important for Canada than to develop a more
12 respectful relationship with First Nations people.
13 The proposal to build the Site C Dam and the way that
14 this project has proceeded so far is a prime example
15 of why and how that relationship needs to be repaired
16 and renewed. Quite apart from cost overruns and all
17 the other issues that are important, I urge your
18 Commission to recognize that the failure to obtain
19 free, prior, and informed consent is a major flaw in
20 the Site C project this far. Will you require that
21 such consent be obtained before any further work can
22 be resumed?

23 Finally, may the spirit of truth, courage,
24 wisdom, and justice be with us all. Amen.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

26 **Proceeding Time 6:49 p.m. T11**

1 SUBMISSIONS **BY MS. MANLY (#0223)**:

2 MS. E. MANLY: My name is Eva Manly. Manly is spelled M-
3 A-N-L-Y. I also would like to acknowledge our
4 presence on unceded Snuneymuxw territory.

5 I am an active member of the Nanaimo
6 community and do not speak here for any particular
7 organization. I want to thank the B.C. Utilities
8 Commission for undertaking to review the Site C
9 project.

10 Last year, I traveled, along with others,
11 up to the Peace River to see for myself what is at
12 risk with the Site C dam, and to meet with some of the
13 stakeholders, with First Nations, with farmers, and
14 with ranchers. We heard the concerns of the Treaty 8
15 people, the West Moberly and Prophet River First
16 Nations, whose very life and future is at risk. Their
17 fish, wildlife, cultural, sacred, and burial sites.

18 At the Bennett Dam museum, we gained some
19 understanding of the devastating and continuing impact
20 of the previous dams on the lives of First Nations
21 people. We need to remember that at sequa, SFU
22 archaeologists conducted a dig that carbon dated
23 evidence of human habitation in this area for 10,500
24 years. How will Site C impact their descendants? And
25 how can we speak with integrity about working for
26 reconciliation with First Nations people yet continue

1 without consent to ravage their traditional
2 territories? We must honour First Nations treaties.
3 In short, we need to recognize our treaty obligations
4 and their aboriginal rights.

5 Only one-third of the land of British
6 Columbia is suitable for agriculture. The land to be
7 flooded by the Site C Dam is part of that three
8 percent. The 31,528 acres of farm land to be flooded
9 could produce enough food to feed over a million
10 people. The issue of food sustainability in B.C. is
11 becoming increasingly urgent as places like California
12 continue to experience more drought and water
13 shortages. The unique micro-climate of the Peace
14 River is suitable for growing many crops that are not
15 normally found that far north. Field tomatoes,
16 cantaloupe, watermelon, and other foods.

17 Where will B.C. ratepayers be able to
18 source fruit and vegetables when other food-producing
19 lands are depleted by the effects of global warming?

20 According to many experts, the Site C Dam
21 is not needed and not economically viable. Not only
22 will we ratepayers face runaway Hydro bills and higher
23 taxes, but we will deprive future generations of the
24 possibility of food sustainability. Cancelling the
25 Site C dam project could divert financial resources to
26 retraining workers who would be laid off; retraining

1 MR. PURDEY: My name is Don Purdey, P-U-R-D-E-Y.

2 I've got a copy of a letter printed in the
3 *Times Colonist* October 3rd, "Loss of Farmland Simply
4 Not True." This is a letter written by James D.
5 Anderson who was a director of farmland resources for
6 the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests and Fisheries
7 from 1980 to '85. In here he states that less than
8 400 hectares that are being flooded are actually being
9 cropped, and that is for producing food for animals.
10 It's not food for people. It's pretty cold up there.
11 Their growing season is pretty short. We are hearing
12 a lot of exaggerated mistruths on here. The total
13 area actually being flooded is about 9200 hectares.

14 The idea of this dam and to visualize it,
15 just look at your bathtub. If you've got an inch of
16 water in it and you fill it to the top, you've stored
17 a lot of water and the area of that water at the top
18 has changed very little. We're looking at narrow,
19 deep valleys. You plug one end and it fills up. The
20 total area flooded will be a little over twice the
21 current area that is flooded by that river.

22 There is nothing the government has done
23 with my tax dollars. And like most of you, I work six
24 months a year to pay direct and indirect taxes. I
25 can't think of anything the government has done with
26 my money over my lifetime that has continued to give

1 me a return on that investment. My children, my
2 grandchildren and my great-grandchildren will see a
3 benefit from this. This site will pay for itself.
4 It'll take time and it will return a benefit.

5 We have all lived in a pristine part of the
6 world. This is an environmentally wonderful place to
7 live. The rain comes down, cleans our air and washes
8 the province pretty frequently. It also enables us to
9 generate hydroelectric power. We are the envy of most
10 places in the world. If we didn't have hydroelectric
11 power, which is the result of the true visionaries of
12 the early 1950s that built this great province --

13 Now, a lot of people that have no down
14 payment and live in cities don't grasp long-term
15 investment and long-term return. This is proven. You
16 may call it old technology, but they're able to get
17 more power out of it all the time. And yes, I am
18 somewhat friendly with a solar panel. I've got one on
19 the top of my 38 foot diesel pusher, and I assure you
20 I use less power, less energy to run my bus than I do
21 to heat my home because I use it very little.

22 Site C will return not only keeping our
23 homes cool in the summer and warm in the winter, it
24 enables to preserve or keep our food, to grow food.
25 We are the envy of the whole world. If we didn't have
26 Site C we'd be burning coal. We've got lots of coal.

1 It comes by trainloads to Roberts Bank every week.
2 Site C, we're past the point of no return. It will
3 benefit us all.

4 If you are arrogant enough to use your
5 landslide victory to waste millions of our dollars,
6 next time we will flush the orange. Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

8 **Proceeding Time 7:00 p.m. T13**

9 Okay, please settle down, please. Thank
10 you.

11 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. THORBURN (#0225):**

12 MR. THORBURN: Hi, my name is Hugh Thorburn. It's
13 spelled correctly, T-H-O-R-B-U-R-N. I don't have any
14 financial stake in Site C, just a personal stake as a
15 citizen of this province concerned about the economic,
16 cultural and environmental costs of this project.

17 I have been opposed to the Site C dam for
18 at least three or four years now, ever since I first
19 did a bit of research on the project. I was always
20 suspicious of it when I heard that it would not be
21 reviewed by you, the B.C. Utilities Commission, when
22 it had been rejected twice before. Once I did a
23 little reading on the subject it became clear to me
24 that there was not and is not a clear demand for the
25 power. We certainly don't need the power to come from
26 a single publicly owned megaproject, not when

1 innovation is giving us breakthroughs in solar and
2 wind generation and in energy storage systems. These
3 new technologies can be privately financed and are
4 decentralized, providing jobs in our communities and
5 at a far lower cost per kilowatt hour.

6 While we can and should expand the use of
7 solar and wind power, we can also explore the use of
8 geothermal and tidal power, for which we have great
9 potential. I understand that you have been asked to
10 focus on the costs in dollars, but I think you also
11 have to pay attention to the non-monetary costs
12 involved with flooding so much land. First Nations
13 rights cannot be ignored, especially by those of us
14 committed to reconciliation, committed to forging a
15 better relationship with indigenous peoples than our
16 forebears. Their treaty rights, their claim to the
17 land must be respected, not destroyed, as they will be
18 by this project if it is allowed to continue through
19 to completion. We should not delude ourselves into
20 thinking there will never be a monetary cost as to
21 ignoring First Nation rights. Too often we see our
22 government make half-hearted apologies and reparations
23 to First Nations people for the mistakes of the past,
24 even as their own costly mistakes are being made. It
25 is time to end that cycle of mistakes and apologies,
26 to own up to our responsibilities to each other. I

1 think your final report must acknowledge that the
2 completion of the dam against the wishes of local
3 First Nations people may well present a financial
4 liability to future ratepayers and taxpayers of
5 considerable magnitude.

6 Finally I'm concerned about the
7 environmental damage that will be done by the creation
8 of this dam. As I'm sure has already been testified
9 at other places, the Peace Valley is home to unique
10 ecosystems and high value farmland that we should seek
11 to preserve. While we think of immediate consequences
12 first, we must always endeavour to think long term of
13 the consequences of our actions, seven generations and
14 77 generations down the road. After you have died and
15 I have died and after this white elephant has been
16 paid for by the people of this province, we will have
17 to tear this dam down and clean the site up. Those
18 are costs that are real and will have to be paid for
19 one day, and I think that those costs should be
20 included. At that time, the damage done by the dam --
21 I think that should be acknowledged in your report
22 even if it is hard to quantify, hard to put a hard
23 number on it.

24 For those reasons and more, I hope that you
25 recommend that they scrap this project. Thank you for
26 listening to what I have to say. Thank you.

1 **Proceeding Time 7:03 p.m. T14**

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

3 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. LEE (#0226):**

4 MS. LEE: Good evening, my name is Joyce Lee, L-E-E, and
5 I speak tonight as a representative of myself but also
6 as the voice of nature here in this room. I speak
7 directly to your goal of analyzing this project from
8 economics. I would just say that your economics does
9 not include the earth, the spirit, and the love of the
10 land that people express, and that is worldwide, that
11 we are represented as one of the last places on earth
12 that is truly green. So green economics is not within
13 your parameters. The deep soil of the Peace Valley,
14 the plants and animals that are there, I looked at the
15 Hydro report and it is very superficial. We in this
16 province have never invested the money to know the
17 plants and the animals that are here. They select
18 particular plants and animals, but there are many
19 others that form the interrelated network of life in
20 the Peace that we know nothing about because we simply
21 have not put the economics into knowing what is there.

22 Within that ecosystem is a changing
23 environment. It is the conduit of life between east
24 and west. And that's where plants and animals are
25 moving through, and as well the clean air that's
26 there, we are set to destroy a jewel, a treasure of

1 British Columbia that most southerners know nothing
2 about. And this is where BC Hydro comes in as a
3 megaproject to completely change fundamentally some
4 part of the north of British Columbia that is a
5 treasure to the world.

6 So I speak against this project because it
7 has not been fundamentally analyzed from a true
8 economic perspective. We are in 19th and 20th economic
9 models. The theories of economic needs to be broader
10 to understand the full ecological footprint of our
11 society here in the north and demands on the northern
12 part of our province. And we need to respect the
13 First Nations and their rights on the land that go
14 back, as we do with the plants and animals there, to
15 glacial times that gave us that valley.

16 And I would like to close by saying that
17 megaprojects have never been good for the economics of
18 any community. I represent one of those communities
19 where there was a megaproject that happened in
20 Vancouver and that was the Georgia Viaduct. And if
21 you look at that neighbourhood, it was saved because
22 the citizen action. It is now a valued part of
23 Vancouver and it wasn't something that was valued in
24 those days in the fifties and sixties, and that's when
25 Site C was spawned, out of those times. I think in
26 the 21st century we need to look forward to something

1 that we can look to a broader economic understanding
2 of the ecological footprint, and many have stated
3 there are other sustainable ways of looking at energy
4 and clean energy as BC Hydro says, or green energy is
5 not what other people see. They see dams as being bad
6 energy. In the States, dams are being pulled out
7 right, left and centre.

8 And for that man that spoke about
9 recreation, those huge megaproject lakes are only good
10 for power boaters because they use more energy. It
11 just does not make sense, whatever way you look at it.

12 Thank you very much for your time,
13 everyone.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

15 **Proceeding Time 7:08 p.m. T15**

16 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. SISSON (#0227):**

17 MS. SISSON: Good evening. My name is Lindy Sisson, and
18 it is spelled wrong. It's S-I-S-S-O-N.

19 I grew up in the town of Peace River in
20 Alberta, part of Treaty 8 territory, and I am a
21 newcomer to Nanaimo and Snuneymuxw territory. And I
22 thank you for your time this evening.

23 There are already two dams on the mighty
24 Peace; the Peace Canyon Dam and the W.A.C. Bennett
25 Dam. In my research I read about the possibility of a
26 fourth dam, the Amisk Dam, and tonight we heard the

1 first speaker mention a fifth possible dam.

2 In my children's social studies book, it
3 was reported that dam number three, Site C, had
4 already been stopped, and someone said it had been
5 stopped twice, and for very good reasons. So we -- a
6 lot of people are here tonight to stop it a third
7 time.

8 So, why all these dams? When other places
9 in the world are decommissioning dams, to try to
10 reverse the environmental damage and to begin
11 important investment in alternative energy
12 technologies and employment rather than rely on this
13 particular type of power generation.

14 If you want to understand this future
15 trend, I highly recommend that you watch John
16 Guffman's film, *Return of the River*, about the Elwa
17 River in Washington state. www.elwafilm.com.

18 So, my family's experience in dealing with
19 the consequences of the Bennett Dam is what I'm
20 partially here to talk about. With Site C, we are all
21 once again extremely concerned about the upstream loss
22 of the precious farm land, which I will talk about
23 later. But what my 90-year-old mother, who lived
24 there for 40 years, wants me to ask you to think about
25 is that everyone forgets about the downstream
26 consequences.

1 The house I grew up in was right on the
2 banks of the Peace River. When a river is used for
3 varying needs of power, this changes the pattern,
4 timing, and power of its flow, changing everything
5 downstream, causing silt to increase the height of a
6 river's bottom and changing its depth. The increasing
7 or decreasing water flow at unusual times of year,
8 especially once the river is frozen in the winter,
9 create the consequences of too low or too high water
10 levels and dangerous ice jams at break-up every
11 spring, often causing serious flooding.

12 During my 18 years living in the town of
13 Peace River, I experienced the devastating effect of
14 three floods that caused my home and downtown Peace
15 River to evacuate; causing great expense to the city,
16 to insurance companies, to individuals. And my
17 brother, who still lives there, has experienced two
18 more floods and my mother before me a number of other
19 floods.

20 Okay. So the negative consequences
21 upstream and downstream are irreversible, and the B.C.
22 government and BC Hydro are not understanding the
23 value of what they are sacrificing. As they force
24 outdated and ill-advised power generation against the
25 will of First Nations people and many people in B.C.
26 and Alberta.

1 If other forms were invested in, we would
2 be investing in a more sustainable future. The money
3 could pay for solar panels on everyone's houses if the
4 money was spent on something else. There's so many
5 ideas here tonight and I'm really happy I'm here to
6 listen to them.

7 So, I was recently awarded the Maple Ridge
8 business leader of the year last year. And I can't
9 imagine a business leader, let alone a government,
10 using taxpayers' dollars to back an endeavour that
11 will cost more than its returns promise, and that all
12 future projections indicate that the product is not
13 needed.

14 Okay. So now I'd like to quote from *The*
15 *Carbon Bubble: What happens to us when it bursts?* By
16 Jeff Rubin. In the chapter -- in the section called
17 "Opportunity knocks", Bread Basket chapter.

18 "The shift to richer diets and the
19 projection increase in world population will
20 require a doubling in world crop production
21 by 2050. ... The resultant economic incentives
22 could soon be a powerful force in spurring
23 new agricultural production in the higher-
24 latitude countries like Canada. Facing the
25 almost certain decline in crop yields in
26 tropical countries, world food production

1 MS. ANDERSON: Good evening.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

3 MS. ANDERSON: Can I be heard? I can't tell from here.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: We can hear you.

5 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. ANDERSON (#0228):**

6 MS. ANDERSON: I'm Gillian Anderson and that is the
7 correct spelling.

8 Cancelling Site C will result in an initial
9 loss of jobs, as well as costs to date, and perhaps
10 closing costs. But those jobs and costs will be
11 recompensed over the years through the sustainable
12 economic returns from the area's ecosystems and farm
13 land, and through sounder investments of Site C funds
14 into clean technology and infrastructure.

15 B.C. receives as much as \$8.6 billion a
16 year from farm land and environmental benefits in the
17 Peace watershed. The dam will alter or flood almost
18 25,000 acres of forest, permanently removing a carbon
19 sink that will likely soon be a valuable economic
20 asset for greenhouse gas credits. Site C will affect
21 over 31,000 acres of farm land, and I believe it was
22 Wendy Holmes who said that this would feed a million
23 people. And as I understand it, she's one of the most
24 respected agrologists in Canada. So if she says it
25 will feed a million people, it will feed a million
26 people.

1 Planted in potatoes, for example, and this
2 is a very, very rough figure, 31,000 acres would yield
3 roughly \$300 million, and that's a 2006 B.C.
4 Agriculture figure. And since then, the price of food
5 has really risen. In sustainable annual income, much
6 of it spent locally.

7 Stack the 165 permanent Site C jobs against
8 the enormous economic losses from the destroyed
9 natural landscapes, including all the local jobs that
10 we lost in food production, transport, processing, et
11 cetera, cancelling Site C will maintain all these
12 permanent local jobs and economic benefits, which will
13 become more valuable as the decades pass.

14 Juxtaposed against the jobs to be lost to
15 Site C is the drain of the dam's cost of billions of
16 dollars that should be spent instead on just
17 transition to tens of thousands of skilled jobs all
18 over B.C. in the clean energy market, including
19 conserving major amounts of power by retrofitting
20 millions of buildings and building new energy-
21 efficient low- and middle-income housing. Building
22 safer public health infrastructures and energy-
23 efficient transportation, including rapid transit.
24 Providing co-op programs, grants, and tax credits for
25 research and start-up clean energy technology
26 companies. Making B.C. a real competitor in that

1 world-wide projected market of \$790 billion -- and
2 that's billion.

3 Site C is projected to cost as much as 15
4 billion. Shortly after its approval, two wind farm
5 corporations withdrew their proposals and left B.C.,
6 taking their jobs with them. The geothermal industry
7 could supply the same power for \$3.3 billion, with
8 1870 permanent jobs, to the 165 from Site C, and far
9 fewer greenhouse gas emissions. So clearly innovation
10 can produce more jobs with far less cost and
11 environmental disruption.

12 The steadily growing B.C. tourism industry
13 made 14.6 billion in 2014 and provided 128,000 jobs.
14 The proposed Okanagan National Park would create over
15 700 jobs with annual benefits of 35 million in labour
16 income, 50 million in sustainable GDP, and 4 million
17 in tax revenues. Some of the Site C money would
18 provide a much better return invested in tourism
19 infrastructure that would create more jobs all over
20 the province, including northern and rural areas, both
21 in building or improving the infrastructure and from
22 the resulting increase in tourism. Better ferry and
23 transit service. Restoring the Vancouver Island
24 railway. Creating cycling, horse-riding and walking
25 trails all over the province. Support for historic
26 areas and improvements to our bedraggled parks and

1 campgrounds.

2 Had Christy Clark submitted Site C to the
3 full scrutiny of the Utilities Commission, a credible
4 environmental assessment and a rigorous public and
5 scientific review, we would not have incurred the
6 costs of both the work to date and the legal fees to
7 obstruct the indigenous people and farmers fighting
8 for their heritage.

9 In refusing to follow these procedures of
10 government that are a precept of our democracy, Clark
11 imposed her dictatorial and short-sighted vision for
12 make-work megaprojects that destroy our sustainable
13 industries for a rush of short-term jobs that trickle
14 away, leaving a debt that British Columbians will not
15 pay off until the close of this century, 2094. But we
16 don't have to continue down this reckless path. We
17 can stop. We can backtrack. We can repair and heal,
18 and choose instead a better vision for a 21st century
19 prosperous economy based on the immense value of the
20 natural world. All over the North American continent
21 people are removing dams to reclaim the benefits of
22 natural river flows, and so I ask you to delete Site
23 C, not once, not twice, but to triple-delete Site C.

24 Thank you.

25 **Proceeding Time 7:20 p.m. T17**

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. OAKLEY (#0229):**

1 MS. OAKLEY: Thank you. That was wonderful.

2 My name is Sue Oakley, S-U-E, O-A-K-L-E-Y.

3 I bow to all the previous speakers. Your speech is
4 much more researched and filled with facts and
5 figures. I've been absorbing like a big sponge up
6 here. Thank you for listening to all our concerns and
7 comments, and we're really hoping that you're
8 listening with an open mind and an open heart.

9 The B.C. Utilities Commission is an
10 independent body. It oversees ICBC and BC Hydro.
11 They're both Crown corporations that use public funds.
12 Look around the room, please, will you. Because we
13 are the public. We are the public whose funds you're
14 trusted with.

15 Power rates are already starting to make
16 people choose between food and heat. All of this is
17 forecast to exponentially increase with the added
18 burden of the Site C debt. And all to export
19 subsidized power for decades.

20 I've been reading a fellow named Harry
21 Swain. I'm sure you remember him. He says that
22 selling power that we generate for one-third of what
23 it costs to generate just doesn't make sense. Anyone
24 here who manages their budget at home knows that those
25 types of decisions just don't make sense. You just
26 want to look at the economics. We want you to look at

1 the beauty of the river, and many, many uses that
2 river can have.

3 We won't be able to afford to import from
4 California forever, and flooding top-quality Class 1
5 farm land in a unique east-west oriented microclimate
6 is truly shameful.

7 Renewables such as solar, geothermal, wind,
8 tide; these costs have all decreased exponentially
9 since this dam was first thought up. So there's no
10 economic justification for it any more. And I
11 challenge you to tell us that there is.

12 Thank you.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

14 **Proceeding Time 7:22 p.m. T18**

15 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. CHATWIN (#0230):**

16 MS. CHATWIN: My name is Trudy Chatwin. And my name is
17 spelled correctly. I'm a master of science biologist
18 with over 30 years working in applied conservation
19 biology, species at risk conservation research and
20 wildlife management.

21 While others at this hearing may speak to
22 some of the economics of the power, power production
23 and proposed Site C dam construction, as a biologist
24 I'm going to focus on the natural capital values of
25 the Peace River, which were not considered in BC
26 Hydro's submission to the B.C. Utilities Commission.

1 The Peace River Valley is a unique
2 ecosystem in British Columbia. The report, *The Peace*
3 *Dividend*, assessing the economic values ecosystems in
4 B.C.'s Peace River watersheds, authored in 2014 by
5 Sarah Wilson, estimates that the Peace River watershed
6 contributes \$7.9 billion annual through ecosystem
7 services. Most important is mitigation of climate
8 change. The storage of carbon in the lower Peace
9 River forest is estimated to be worth \$621 million
10 annually.

11 However, water supply, air filtration,
12 flood and erosion control, agricultural habitat, and
13 habitat for wildlife and plants are also important
14 economic factors in assessing natural capital values.

15 I will speak to the habitat values, as that
16 is my expertise.

17 As it cuts through the Rocky Mountains, the
18 Peace River provides both important and unique habitat
19 for wildlife as well as a special corridor for a suite
20 of eastern bird species which occur nowhere else in
21 British Columbia. The warmer micro-climate, longer
22 frost-free seasons of the Peace River and south-facing
23 aspects of the river are critical habitats for mule
24 deer, moose, and elk. There are over 300 wildlife
25 species and 400 vascular plant species which occur in
26 this valley. Most of these species occur at the

1 northern limit of their range, which will allow
2 species to shift in response to climate change.

3 One may not have heard of the Canada
4 warbler, or imagined that the rare and red-listed
5 Connecticut warbler migrate along the Peace River
6 valley corridor to nest in the Aspen and spruce
7 forest. 17 to 30,000 breeding songbirds are expected
8 to occur in the footprint of the Site C dam. Colonies
9 of cliff swallows will be flooded in the reservoir.
10 42 species of wildlife use the Peace River corridor --
11 or waterfowl, sorry, as a migratory stop-over.

12 Thirty-nine provincially red, which is
13 threatened or endangered, or blue-listed vulnerable
14 plants grow in the wetlands, upland forests, riparian,
15 or upland grasslands in the Peace River. The unique
16 south-facing northern grasslands even support prickly
17 pear cactus at the northern limit of their range.
18 Botanists found one plant not described in B.C.
19 previously; three species of rare mosses, and 29 rare
20 lichens.

21 Significant large live and dead cottonwoods
22 on the valley floor of the proposed flooded Site C
23 valley bottom are key elements of biodiversity for six
24 species of bats, the fisher, great grey owls, northern
25 saw-whet owls, and fully half the nests for bald
26 eagles in the whole Peace River. It is estimated in

1 Keystone Environmental's report that 3,032 mule deer
2 use the habitat in the Peace River corridor. The
3 south-facing warm aspects are especially important for
4 female deer at all times of years. Elk use these
5 break areas, but moose also use the island habitat for
6 calving and the flood plains and valley spokes in
7 winter.

8 Amphibians in the footprint of the dam are
9 western toad, boreal forest frog, and a unique species
10 of wood frog called the wood frog, which actually
11 freezes in the winters and thaws in spring.

12 Butterfly experts have identified 14 red-
13 or blue-listed species of butterfly in the Peace River
14 corridor, notably the Alberta arctic, which only
15 occurs in the Peace River in British Columbia, in the
16 grasslands above the Peace.

17 I first visited the Peace in 1977, working
18 with ecological reserves in British Columbia. Our
19 visit was memorable. Our common nighthawks, now a
20 species at risk, swooped overhead. The grasslands of
21 the river supported and supplied forage in the river
22 -- and the riverine vegetation was very notable.

23 Although I was a young and learning
24 biologist, I recognized something very special about
25 this part of British Columbia. I returned to the area
26 in 2015, 2016, and this year, and was bird-watching in

1 the evening near the construction site for the Site C
2 facility.

3 Hermit thrushes sang their melancholy song
4 in the aspen beside a very big recent swath excavated
5 road. It was a particularly poignant moment for me.
6 It is not too late to put a stop to the construction
7 of Site C, and let the Peace River provide ecological
8 and economic benefits for future generations of
9 British Columbians.

10 Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

12 **Proceeding Time 7:28 p.m. T19**

13 MR. ANDERSON: Good evening.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening, sir.

15 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. ANDERSEN (#0231):**

16 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Erik Anderson. I'm a retired
17 economist. And I'm mostly here because Rafe Mair made
18 me come, bless his soul; he's not here to see it.

19 Anyway, the thing I want to say is probably
20 not going to -- it's going to rub fur the wrong way,
21 but here goes. It's normal to pay attention to those
22 who have a record of giving good advice.

23 Recommendations that are well-grounded and generally
24 have proven on the public record to be mostly correct.
25 It's also of importance that when reporting on
26 financial matters, that acceptable accounting

1 standards be a matter of expected behaviour,
2 especially when you deal with the public's money.

3 On the evidence that follows, BC Hydro has
4 failed miserably to conduct good practices and
5 therefore it is requested by me, as a private
6 intervener, that all contributions from BC Hydro to
7 this discussion be rejected as biased and flawed.

8 Here's the evidence. I take from BC
9 Hydro's posted public record for the year 2007, and
10 2017, a ten-year span, residential customers'
11 consumption of reported energy, electrical energy, by
12 BC Hydro up 8.5 percent. Now, if you turned that into
13 a per-capita, it would be down. And light industrial
14 and commercial customers up zero percent. Large
15 industrial customers in the province up -- or down
16 nearly 18 percent. On balance, all those three
17 together, it's a negative 2.4 percent. So that's the
18 record of consumption, sold.

19 Annual reported revenues. Residential
20 customers for the same two years I talked about, after
21 2017, up 88 percent. Light industrial and commercial,
22 up 75 percent. Large industrial, up 38 percent. All
23 three categories up. Combined, 72, nearly 73 percent.
24 On the record of no increase in usage or demand, for
25 ten years.

26 The numbers in the global sense were --

1 they took in \$2.65 billion in 2007 and 4.58 in 2017,
2 all because of rate increases that had no relationship
3 to the increase in usage.

4 Total regulatory assets to be collected by
5 BC Hydro from us, customers, in 2007 it was \$862
6 million. In 2005 it was zero, because every year
7 before that they zeroed it off. It was never an
8 accumulated thing. So where did regulatory assets get
9 to in 2017? Six billion 1.27. That is an
10 unconscionable increase in that category of assets,
11 really debts, accounts receivable, that we all have to
12 pay by nearly 620 percent.

13 Balance sheet liabilities. The ones -- all
14 liabilities, not just debt. In 2007, 11 billion and
15 062. In 2017, nearly 27 billion. Up 143 percent.
16 That's what they acknowledge.

17 Now, if you go and bring in the Auditor
18 General's report of earlier this year, he'll tell you
19 that on top of that we have 58 billion of liabilities
20 under their contractual obligations, mostly to
21 independent power producers. Take that together and
22 that's \$91 billion of obligations that we now have
23 with BC Hydro.

24 So, what I'd like to say is the ten-year BC
25 Hydro record shows B.C.-only annual sales declining by
26 two and a half percent, concurrent with a 73 percent

1 increase in revenues from all increased rates, not
2 from volumes. And they increased liabilities by plus
3 800 percent.

4 So along the way, what did BC Hydro tell us
5 would be the volume of electricity needed, and when?
6 The BC Hydro-authored forecast, done in '06, had
7 domestic demand at 57,200 gigawatt hours by 2012 and
8 63,865 gigawatt hours by 2018. That is a forecasting
9 error of 13,000 gigawatt hours to what is actually
10 reported, or about 25 percent way out of line. Now,
11 I've done forecasting in governments and private.
12 That is total rubbish. Rubbish work. Again, in 2007,
13 the forecast for 2012 was 57,000. How much greater,
14 that it was actually recorded -- a lot. The pattern
15 is extremely bullish -- BC Hydro forecasting for
16 future demand has prevailed over the past decade and a
17 half, suggesting a conscious determination to present
18 a misleading and aggressive narrative of future demand
19 which is likely has been used to support the \$58
20 billion in ITP contracting. There is no other reason
21 to make that gross error.

22 In the case of BC Hydro it is now
23 extracting about -- not quite 2 billion extra a year.
24 Had we not embarked on that IPP process, we would have
25 that 2 billion in our pockets right now.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sir, I just want to remind you of the

1 submit.

2 So my background is, I'm a certified
3 community energy manager from Saltspring Island. I'm
4 one of the founding members of the Saltspring
5 Community Energy Group, and in my submission, my
6 written submission, I mentioned that we've built one
7 of BC Hydro's largest solar PV net-metered systems in
8 2014. We raised the money and had it built within a
9 year.

10 The value of the energy from that
11 installation creates an annual scholarship for the
12 high school students.

13 I'm particularly interested in the
14 opportunity costs of the Site C dam, and I think that
15 was wise of you to pick up on the 70-year time-frame
16 that that project's been calculated along. Because
17 that's a huge amount of time.

18 When we look at solar, how it -- how
19 rapidly it's developing and what the time scale is,
20 there is a very interesting example from Dominion
21 Power of Virginia, one of the largest utilities in the
22 U.S. It's not an outlier in this example, it's just a
23 notable example. They do their integrated resource
24 plan once a year. In 2016, they decided they would
25 build one gigawatt of solar PV. In 2017, they decided
26 they were going to move that up and build 4 gigawatts.

1 They quadrupled how much solar PV that they want to
2 build, because they noted in one year a 24 percent
3 drop in the cost. One year, 24 percent drop.

4 I'm not we're being realistic when we're
5 asking Hydro to look to 2040 for a 60 percent drop. I
6 think it's wise to look forward to see what kind of --
7 how did you put it? Disruptors might be on the
8 horizon. I'm not -- this example tells me that we're
9 not really in the ballpark yet.

10 I will be submitting that evidence in
11 writing.

12 Part of this rapid shift, I credit to the
13 Department of Energy's SunShot Initiative. It was
14 founded in 2011 and its goal was to drive the costs of
15 utility-scale solar to 6 cents a kilowatt hour. They
16 just recently announced that they're confident they're
17 going to meet that target, so they've set a target for
18 2030 of 3 cents a kilowatt hour. So this is the U.S.
19 Department of Energy. They're actually saying for
20 Seattle 4 cents a kilowatt hour unsubsidized. This is
21 radical, and it's coming fast, and we need to get a
22 handle on it. That's why my recommendation is, five-
23 year planning process for integrated resource plans
24 for BC Hydro is completely missing the pulse of the
25 industry. And that should be -- well, ideally that
26 would be reviewed.

1 Nanaimo resident. Vancouver Island gets a lot of its
2 power from undersea and overhead transmission lines.
3 They're highly susceptible to icing and failing, in
4 which case we're in a lot of trouble. We need
5 distributed generation. There's a wind farm up at the
6 northern tip of the island. We could certainly use
7 more wind farms locally, but as has been noted the
8 wind industry left the province because of Site C.

9 We definitely need them back. We
10 definitely need geothermal. We were -- my wife and I
11 were in New Zealand two years ago, saw a geothermal
12 system there that was built in the 50s. This is not
13 cutting-edge technology. We can do this now. It's
14 tried and true, proven technology. Could be done
15 closer to where we need the power.

16 BC Hydro's load projections, highly
17 suspicious. Let's face it, LNG is dead. It's just
18 not going to happen. They were going to give the
19 power to the LNG industry. That's not there now.

20 Thank you very much.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

22 **Proceeding Time 7:42 p.m. T22**

23 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. NEADS (#0234):**

24 MR. NEADS: Thank you very much to the Commission for
25 this opportunity. And I think it's good that you're
26 trying to take all this information in. My name is

1 Dave Neads, N-E-A-D-S. They've got it correct.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

3 MR. NEADS: I built my first solar array in 1986, and
4 that tells you how old I am. I sometimes don't want
5 to tell people that's when I did it, but that's when I
6 did it. And so I moved down here, as part of an
7 outfit called GabEnergy. We are a non-profit society.
8 We install solar systems, we design, install, and cost
9 them out. We have over 70 systems in place in the
10 past two years, from 75 kilowatts down to 5 kilowatts.

11 All that just to tell you that we're
12 professionals when it comes to solar.

13 So, the thing about Site C demand, for
14 example -- I just bought an electric car. All
15 electric. It's not a hybrid. So now I've got to plug
16 in my car whenever I want to go somewhere, so my
17 demand's going to go up, right? Well, I also bought
18 16 solar panels. And it turns out that those 16 solar
19 panels provide twice the energy I need to drive my
20 electric car.

21 So with the electric car and the solar
22 panels, my demand is actually going down
23 significantly. I have a heat pump. My demand is
24 going down.

25 Elasticity in prices -- if you raise your
26 prices for BC Hydro, your demand's going to go down.

1 All this to say that I'm not at all convinced that the
2 band out there that we're told is out there actually
3 exists.

4 So I just want to give you a quick example.
5 Suppose we targeted 500 megawatts in the next year,
6 rather than 1,100 by 2024. What would that look like
7 in terms of solar costs?

8 As I said, we install systems at the rate
9 of \$2.90. Now, that's at the high end. Low end is
10 lower than that. Now, the electricians get paid \$75
11 an hour; the roofers get \$45 an hour. Our markups are
12 considered equal in the industry; this is not a
13 sweatshop operation. This is a model that's used in
14 Germany. It's used in many parts of the world. It's
15 successful and it's a good business model.

16 So at that rate, suppose you decided that
17 you wanted to do 500 megawatts in the next eight
18 years, at \$2.90 a watt, that would cost you about \$1.5
19 billion. That's compared to what the Site C would
20 cost you 4.5, so you're saving a whole bunch right
21 there.

22 So, there's the idea I'd like to put
23 forward. Rather than continue the government to spend
24 all that money, let's do what's been popular for a
25 long time, let's partnership. If the government put
26 in 50 percent of new solar systems -- like, when I

1 bought my -- built my system, for example, if the
2 government said, "Okay, we're going to rebate you 50
3 percent of that," all of a sudden you're getting
4 double the bang for your buck, right? You're getting
5 all that solar and all that energy put back into the
6 system, and you're getting it put in with zero
7 increase in infrastructure. You're not building
8 something 500 miles up in the northeast and putting
9 power in it to bring the energy here. Just think
10 about that. 500 megawatts into the system with zero
11 infrastructure cost. No maintenance costs. And the
12 carbon footprint of solar is pretty well zero, as we
13 all know.

14 So, that's -- you know, the benefit from
15 that would be distributed generation, which is where
16 the world's going. And we've heard a lot here
17 tonight. The idea of the big centre and the big
18 octopus going out, that's gone, long gone.

19 With solar, too, there's a natural match
20 for the seasons, because in the summer when the solar
21 power is high you can put more water behind your
22 existing dams, and in the winter when the solar power
23 goes down a bit you've got more release. So there's a
24 match between the systems at the large scale.

25 You can build as required and be flexible,
26 and that's really a big important thing. Try and

1 forecast that we need that amount of electricity 30,
2 40 years out. You start with 500 megawatts here the
3 next 8 years, which is quite doable, and it's going to
4 put your costs by 80 percent, and you get into year 9
5 or 10 and you think, okay, we need some more, add a
6 megawatt. No problem. Solar is -- it's buildable
7 out. You don't have to commit yourself to very long-
8 term stuff.

9 In terms of economics, for every two
10 megawatts you install -- I've got references for all
11 this stuff -- creates 30 person-years of employment.
12 So that 500 megawatts I spoke of, there's 8,000
13 person-years of employment. And that goes in Osoyoos.
14 It goes up north. It goes on Vancouver Island. It's
15 spread all over the province. And you can imagine the
16 economic boost that that gives communities.

17 And the infrastructure, the abilities that
18 are there, the technological -- the people learn, and
19 be able to export that. And it would take B.C. --
20 right now, B.C. is the last in the line. Believe me.
21 I've been an environmentalist for 40 years. We're in
22 the last in the line when it comes to green energy and
23 forward thinking. We do something like this, we'll
24 flip -- we'll jump to the front of the line. We'll be
25 respected both across the province, across the
26 country, and across the world, as being a leader and

1 going where we need to go. And I really urge you to
2 think about those issues. The cost, and all those
3 other issues that I mentioned.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

6 **Proceeding Time 11:08 a.m. T23**

7 MS. NICKASON: Good evening.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good afternoon. Or good evening.

9 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. NICKASON (#0235):**

10 MS. NICKASON: I'm not sure if this is working.

11 Hi, my name is Millie Nickason. Thank you
12 very much for the Herculean effort that you are
13 undertaking to have all of these community input
14 sessions. Your schedule must be quite daunting.
15 You've taken on quite a task and it's just terrific
16 that you're giving us the opportunity to speak, and I
17 thank you.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

19 MS. NICKASON: I would also like to acknowledge that we
20 are on the traditionally territories of the Sneneymuxw
21 people, and I would also like to thank them for being
22 our host First Nation.

23 I'll start by giving you my credentials. I
24 am a PhD candidate, Faculty of Law at UBC. I started
25 the PhD program after I retired from the federal
26 public service. I've been a lawyer since 1981 and I

1 have worked as general counsel in a number of federal
2 departments including -- I've worked with Indian and
3 Northern Affairs as legal advisor, policy advisor and
4 I have been a senior general counsel of a large
5 operations branch for one of Canada's largest service
6 delivery departments.

7 In the context of the career I have been a
8 manager of litigation and I have managed litigation
9 budgets. And I want to just make a few remarks this
10 evening about the risk of litigation that faces BC
11 Hydro and the province of B.C. if this project
12 proceeds.

13 No doubt in the last few months before the
14 government changed hands, there were a number of
15 measures taken, a number of transactions concluded
16 that may actually have provided for penalties in the
17 event of contracts having been terminated early. If
18 that was done after that election, then any provisions
19 built into contracts for penalties for early
20 termination would have been done in bad faith and
21 would not have been done in the public interest.

22 But as an aside, I want to focus more
23 particularly on the risk of litigation related to the
24 breach of the treaty rights of the Treaty 8 First
25 Nations, particularly because there are certain
26 aspects of the obligations that are imposed by the law

1 on federal and provincial governments that have not
2 been met up to this point.

3 I know that your mandate in the context of
4 these hearings is to look at costs and financial
5 impacts, and so the remarks that I'm going to make are
6 intended to focus on what those costs will be related
7 to potential litigation. Those costs, of course,
8 would be among others that would be passed on to
9 ratepayers in the future.

10 So I'll just make a few remarks about the
11 context in which we find ourselves. The previous B.C.
12 government had a practice of violating
13 constitutionally protected rights in pursuit of its
14 political agenda, and I give you three examples. They
15 have violated the collective bargaining rights of
16 healthcare workers and teachers. They violated the
17 equality rights of primary, secondary, and special
18 needs students. And they have violated the aboriginal
19 rights of the Tsihlgot'in people.

20 When those individuals fight back, and seek
21 remedies for the breach of their rights, the B.C.
22 government has a very poor track record. Losing at
23 the Supreme Court of Canada much more often than they
24 win. And those losses by the provincial government
25 result in significant costs to B.C. taxpayers.

26 It's been in the news the last few months

1 about the increased costs to reinstate the
2 teacher/student ratios in primary and secondary
3 classrooms and the provisions of supports to special
4 needs students. That's just one example of the kinds
5 of costs that can be incurred when governments do not
6 observe their proper responsibilities. And when we
7 are talking about Aboriginal and treaty rights,
8 provincial and federal governments, the Crown at
9 large, has a fiduciary relationship to those peoples.

10 The litigation costs can include the cost
11 of litigation themselves, and I understand that the
12 provincial government records -- distributes those
13 costs to individual Ministries and individual
14 agencies. I have looked for information, public data
15 on the costs related to Aboriginal rights litigation
16 and the data are aggregated at too high a level to
17 make that information transparent. But there will be
18 Ministries that will have -- should have that
19 information. And BC Hydro should have access to the
20 information about the litigation costs. They should
21 have information about estimated future potential
22 liabilities related to First Nations Aboriginal Rights
23 litigation, not to mention other litigation associated
24 with proceeding with this project if it continues.

25 The Aboriginal and treaty rights of the
26 Treaty 9 peoples are constitutionally protected by

1 Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* as you probably
2 know. And the federal and provincial governments have
3 identified their relationship with indigenous peoples
4 as being of high priority and they have both promised
5 to implement the United Nations Declaration on the
6 Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

7 Now, I would like support the comments made
8 by Jim and Eva Manley earlier tonight and particularly
9 their references to the importance of respecting our
10 relationship with First Nations in Canada.

11 I'll only mention briefly a few of the
12 aspects of the United Nations Declaration that are
13 relevant here. There's a duty on states to prevent
14 and offer redress for any action that affects --
15 results in disposing them of their territories or
16 resources. So even if it doesn't dispossess them of
17 land, per se, if it dispossess them of their
18 resources, access to the resources, the United Nations
19 Declaration provides for redress. It provides that
20 states should provide redress.

21 Indigenous peoples who are deprived of
22 their means of subsistence are entitled to just and
23 fair redress. They are entitled to redress,
24 restitution, fair compensation, for lands, territories
25 and resources that are taken without their free, prior
26 and informed consent. And both governments have

1 promised recently to implement the declaration.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: I'm sorry to interrupt, but again,
3 we're quite a bit of time here and we've got a long
4 way to go.

5 MS. NICKASON: Okay, my apologies. So let me -- I will
6 skip right ahead then.

7 The federal and provincial governments have
8 failed to conduct the justification test that is
9 required by law when they infringe aboriginal and
10 treaty rights. The joint review panel found that
11 there were significant adverse impacts on Treaty 8
12 people's treaty rights. That then obliges the Crown,
13 at both levels, to assess whether or not the
14 infringement is justified. If it's justified, then
15 there's an obligation to determine how to accommodate
16 the concerns of the First Nations, how to compensate
17 them. That has not yet been done.

18 The litigation that went forward to the
19 Federal Court of Appeal, where the appeal to the
20 Supreme Court was denied, dealt with the procedural
21 rights, it didn't deal with their substantive rights.
22 So those issues have not yet been addressed by the
23 courts, and that is where there is a significant risk
24 of litigation.

25 There's also a litigation risk from other
26 groups coming forward, not just the First Nations.

1 But I urge you to consider what those costs are, to
2 find out from BC Hydro and from the provincial
3 government what their estimates are, future costs,
4 what their estimated risks and potential liabilities
5 are, and to build that into your cost assessment.

6 Thank you very much.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Thank you very much.

8 **Proceeding Time 7:57 p.m. T24**

9 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. WHITTAKER (#0236):**

10 MR. WHITTAKER: Good evening. Jim Whittaker, W-H-I-T-T-
11 A-K-E-R.

12 Deloitte LLP has stated that the cost of
13 Site C by the end of 2017 will be \$4.8 billion. The
14 cost of restorations to the site if the project is
15 cancelled will be another 1.2 billion, for a total of
16 \$6 billion. 2,400 jobs will be lost. A \$6 billion
17 loss without any chance of recovery; \$6 billion just
18 thrown away, and we will get nothing for our money.

19 I'm not a corporation, I'm a taxpayer. I
20 cannot write off a loss of \$6 billion against future
21 earnings. If the project was cancelled, then \$6
22 billion would be added to our already large provincial
23 debt. I, and you, will be paying for that
24 cancellation for the rest of our lives. This would
25 place a huge financial burden on B.C. families and
26 individuals.

1 However, if Site C goes to completion, the
2 wealth and jobs it generated will pay for Site C and
3 also help reduce our provincial debt.

4 The October 8, 2017 Angus Reid poll of 680
5 people shows that 45 percent are in favour of Site C,
6 27 percent against. The rest, undecided. That's a
7 two-to-one ratio that are definitely in favour of Site
8 C being completed. Oh, have you remembered to charge
9 your cell phones today? Your tablets? The growth in
10 communications have created a new demand and
11 dependence upon electricity. When I was growing up,
12 the concept of people with portable communication
13 devices was science fiction. Now Gen X and
14 millennials won't be without them, and they are
15 everywhere.

16 Another growth industry will follow the
17 path of cell phones are electric vehicles. This year,
18 there are 30,000 EVs in Canada, an increase of 56
19 percent since 2015. The 2018 Nissan Leaf can go 260
20 kilometers on a single charge. That means that the
21 Leaf, as one example, can go from Nanaimo to Victoria
22 and back on a single charge and have power left over.
23 Comparing this EV to a car that gets 20 miles per
24 gallon, the car's round trip will cost \$28 and the
25 Leaf's costs on the two-tier Hydro rates will be \$8.

26 For people from Duncan South, they're now a

1 bedroom community of Victoria, the cost would be \$7; a
2 car, \$20. That's \$20 per day, five days a week.
3 Annual cost \$5,000 compared to \$1,750 for the EV. And
4 that's just the gas costs.

5 And with the EVs, B.C.'s carbon footprint
6 would decrease. More electricity needed for this
7 growth is needed now.

8 Thirteen major car producers have committed
9 to increase the production of electric cars by 2020.
10 The city of Vancouver is updating building bylaws to
11 include EV charging infrastructure requirements to
12 install electric vehicle charging in new multi-family
13 buildings and new office buildings.

14 In the U.S., there are 570,000 EVs, an
15 increase of 72 percent since 2015, and I mention this
16 because of our ability at Powerex to sell electricity
17 on the North American grid.

18 Now, with climate change, the winter will
19 be colder, as is predicted, and of course the
20 increases in heating costs will be high, for more
21 additional demands on electricity.

22 Just switching to another thought, the
23 people interviewed after the devastation caused in
24 Caribbean, Texas, Florida, by hurricanes all said that
25 the number-one thing they needed the most is
26 electricity. Number two, drinking water.

1 In my little town I sit and look at my
2 computer and I see headlines that concern me very
3 much. January 13th, 2017 we even made the New York
4 Times as the "wild west" of B.C. political cash. The
5 Tyee, May 6, 2017, tried to get full information on
6 who won contracts for Site C, and if those contracted
7 were Liberal donors. At that time they found 20
8 contractors were found to be donors, and a number of
9 individuals involved had provided additional
10 donations.

11 The Tyee subsequently published an article
12 July 24th, 2017, "Big Money Corruption, Inquiry Needed
13 Fast." Layla Uwell wrote and published an article "No
14 Strings Attached," which was very interesting in
15 questioning how PetroWest got a contract from that
16 government given their previous corporate failures.
17 Now, of course that PetroWest is in receivership.
18 That AC has Acrona out of Madrid and Samsung of course
19 was still involved to my knowledge.

20 I think we need an investigation, and I
21 would hope that as a result of these proceedings, one
22 of your recommendations may be a solid, clean, in-
23 depth investigation as to how this whole mess has been
24 created.

25 In April of 2016, the *Vancouver Sun* put the
26 cost of paying dividends to the B.C. Liberal

1 Government at \$852 million and BC Hydro was to get a
2 loan in order to pay those dividends to the B.C.
3 Government. Mr. Bennett at the time who was
4 supporting the need for that loan, said that the plan
5 was to pay a hundred million a year, but they couldn't
6 do that because "We are on a fiscal plan to balance
7 the budget."

8 Now, my God, I'm not as educated,
9 sophisticated, lubricated, or fabricated as Mr.
10 Bennett, but it would seem to me that means I could
11 take my BC Hydro bills, not pay them, and use them to
12 pay my income tax, because that's my fiscal plan.

13 The Commonsense Canadian on March 20th 2017,
14 puts the real BC Hydro debt as having grown 1,337
15 percent under the B.C. Liberals. I won't even go into
16 smart meters, but they should be part of this
17 investigation that I am requesting. No other entity
18 in British Columbia would get away with these kind of
19 shenanigans, and our province is the laughing stock of
20 intelligent societies worldwide.

21 Thank you.

22 **Proceeding Time 8:06 p.m. T26**

23 Is there a -- thank you.

24 MS. GRAY: I have my -- my letter is here. Who do I give
25 it to? It's my letter.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Your letters?

1 MS. GRAY: Yeah.

2 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. GRAY (#0238):**

3 MS. GRAY: Okay, thank you. Great. So thank you very
4 much for allowing us to speak here tonight. We didn't
5 get an opportunity under the previous government, so
6 I'd like to thank the new provincial government as
7 well. Yeah, it's great. Thank goodness.

8 In 1982 I wrote a letter outlining my
9 concerns about the loss of farm land if the Site C Dam
10 went ahead. That's a copy of my letter in there and
11 the responses from the various provincial and federal
12 governments.

13 That same year the B.C. Utilities
14 Commission deemed the construction of the Site C Dam
15 unnecessary and the project was shelved. However,
16 most of us knew that unless BC Hydro changed its dam
17 ways we were going to be back here fighting this
18 battle again and here we are, back again almost 40
19 years later fighting the same battle. It's most
20 unfortunate.

21 I've been a BC Hydro residential customer
22 since 1978. I live on Quadra Island and I'm also a
23 nurses' aid, I work in health care. My husband and I
24 have been practicing energy conservation for decades.
25 Our bimonthly bill reflects our efforts, averaging \$60
26 or \$30 a month. We believe in conservation. We have

1 made a conscious effort to conserve electricity for
2 decades. And we want to be part of the solution,
3 that's why we've done it.

4 We also want our publicly funded
5 provincially owned and regulated utility to move away
6 from constructing large, horribly expensive mega-
7 projects that have significant environmental damage
8 and we don't want to pay for it. We don't want to pay
9 for it. Because we're going to be paying for it if
10 this continues. It's unacceptable.

11 Two years ago when I was in Ontario I saw
12 thousands of solar panels on homes and businesses.
13 They were everywhere, in both the city of Ottawa and
14 in the surrounding countryside. And I think Ontario
15 got into trouble because they started building nuclear
16 40 years ago and that's what really got them into
17 trouble.

18 But I did -- on a side trip I went to
19 Kingston and I counted over 80 giant windmills on
20 Wolfe Island in Lake Ontario. It's the windiest place
21 in Ontario. Those windmills were not there in 2005
22 when I was last there. So Ontario has made progress.
23 And unfortunately, as I said earlier, a lot of their
24 trouble comes from being involved in the nuclear
25 industry. Those things are incredibly expensive to
26 build and they're unbelievably expensive to maintain.

1 So now that solar panels have come down in
2 price, my husband and I are looking to actually have
3 them installed on our property because we're really
4 uniquely positioned on five acres to have this
5 installation. I looked everywhere, for years now I've
6 been looking on the BC Hydro site to see if they can
7 help us with this project. Well, there's just
8 nothing, absolutely nothing. You can get some subsidy
9 for insulation, you can get a couple lightbulbs, and
10 some weatherstripping, but it's just woefully
11 inadequate to help us with our project.

12 Since the announcement of the construction
13 of the Site C Dam in 2014 and more recently the
14 debates about the soaring costs, far-reaching
15 environmental damage, the expropriations, the native
16 land claims, and the technical problems, I have come
17 to the conclusion that this dam is not needed and will
18 likely never be required, especially if we change our
19 course, and we need to do it now.

20 It's unconscionable the project was started
21 when we already knew there was going to be problems
22 and cost overruns. And now we're faced with having to
23 pay to have the site closed down and remediated, and I
24 believe even -- that that's the only option now,
25 because it's going to be too expensive to build. And
26 we already have dams. You know, our rates should

1 actually be going down. We should be making use of
2 the infrastructure that we have, and what's happening
3 is it's being exported out of the province. So
4 there's something wrong with this picture.

5 I think the -- you know, Hydro's mandate is
6 to move now, I believe -- and they have a mandate, but
7 they need to start moving quickly to the next
8 generation of alternatives and one of them needs to be
9 an aggressive conservation program. If they had done
10 this in the early 1980s when many people suggested it,
11 just imagine where we'd be today if we'd had, you
12 know, an aggressive conservation program. Just that
13 alone would've saved us from building this dam.

14 The task of the B.C. Utilities Commission
15 is to ensure that we have safe, reliable and non-
16 discriminatory access to power at fair rate. And I
17 don't believe this incredibly expensive project is
18 going to leave us with a fair rate in the end. It's
19 going to increase our rates and it's going to be a
20 real hardship for families. So I don't think -- and
21 we haven't made really any progress on the alternate
22 energy front.

23 So, I just wanted to mention, only because
24 it hasn't been mentioned here yet, I was just
25 listening to CBC Radio this morning and I heard that
26 New Zealand has just declared one of their -- their

1 third largest river as a person with rights, the same
2 rights as a human being. It's hard to believe, it was
3 declared in March 2017. It's the most underreported
4 news story of 2017. And so what we could do here in
5 B.C. is we could be the first jurisdiction in Canada
6 to declare the Peace River a person, which would
7 provide the river with the same protection as we
8 humans enjoy.

9 So I thank you, Commissioners, for
10 listening to us.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Thank you, ma'am.

12 **Proceeding Time 8:12 p.m. T27**

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. WYTON (#0239):**

14 MR. WYTON: Hi, my name is Keith Wyton, W-Y-T-O-N. I'm a
15 regional director in the Alberni Clayuquot Regional
16 District, where I represent the Bamfield electoral
17 area. I am encouraged that the B.C. Utilities
18 Commission has been assigned this task.

19 There is an LNG project proposed in my
20 electoral area. I am interested in the relationship
21 between the Site C load forecast and the proposed LNG
22 plants on the coast. The Steelhead LNG project at
23 Sarita Bay has a National Energy Board export permit
24 for 24 million tonnes per year. If a plant were
25 running on electricity, it would require 1200
26 megawatts of secure supply.

1 I've been told by the Site C project team
2 that Steelhead has not requested electrical supply
3 from BC Hydro, and it is not included in their current
4 load forecasts. I was curious when I heard that there
5 was a mystery fourth LNG plant referred to in the
6 confidential information, which I was not able to
7 obtain. That's a matter of public record, that that
8 claim was made by Hydro. If Steelhead did request
9 1200 megawatts of secure power, the determination of
10 security would involve more than just the type of
11 generation. That is, it would require transmission
12 and switching investments would have to be considered
13 in order to provide that secure power to feed LNG
14 plants.

15 Now, it seems that *de facto* we have the
16 case being made by the province initially, and by BC
17 Hydro, that none of the other generation methods will
18 offer this secure power for LNG. So what we have is a
19 pretty tight linkage between hydroelectricity and the
20 LNG industry potential.

21 So I would like to request that the cost of
22 the upgrades and investment in transmission that
23 apparently is going to provide 60 percent of the Site
24 C power for LNG that was claimed by BC Hydro, that the
25 cost of transmission and upgrades would be included in
26 the cost of the Site C project. Because in fact, the

1 claim is made that no other form of generation would
2 supply that would supply that industry, therefore all
3 the costs of the downstream would have to be assigned
4 to the Hydro project.

5 Now, I support an incremental approach to
6 generation that fits the scale. We have now the
7 technology to respond to near-term needs without
8 claiming to be able to predict our demand 40 years
9 into the future. 15 years ago, I knew one person who
10 had an electric car, and nobody had a smart phone.

11 In the broadest terms, I think the main
12 challenge is to determine if these grand projects will
13 be considered wise in retrospect. I think it is
14 prudent to have the B.C. Utilities Commission review
15 the facts and measure the costs and benefits by
16 standards which extend beyond the next political
17 mandate. Our wealth as a society is at stake, and
18 there are sufficient reasons to give pause and
19 consider if this project is going to take our gold and
20 turn it into lead.

21 I want to thank you for the opportunity to
22 be here, and good luck in your work. I will be
23 waiting for your final report. Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

25 **Proceeding Time 8:16 p.m. T28**

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. COOPER (#0240):**

1 MR. COOPER: Good evening, my name is Jim Cooper, last
2 name C-O-O-P-E-R, just as it's on the board.

3 A couple of things that have come to my
4 attention I wanted to talk about. One was scenario
5 three in the OIC 244 about terminating and
6 remediation. It seems to me there is no other course
7 available to us. When we talk about sunk costs and
8 recovery of sunk costs, of course by definition if we
9 recover them they're not sunk anymore. And sunk costs
10 are the result of us making a mistake. We had to pull
11 the pin on it, and move ahead in a different
12 direction.

13 So, we're going to say here that the
14 guidance would be to recognize we made a terrible
15 mistake by leaving BC Hydro without adequate
16 oversight, and they've basically gone along on a path
17 which is described perhaps no more charitably than
18 incompetence, and done a project that has been turned
19 down several times in the past for very good reason.
20 And as we move ahead, we see that there is more
21 reasons with geotechnical instability issues, why that
22 project should have never been proceeded with.

23 The second thing I wanted to talk about is
24 opportunity costs. Many people have brought this
25 forward. By focusing, as they have done, BC Hydro has
26 focused a hundred percent on hydro projects, whether

1 it is the failed IPP projects where we are paying
2 three times the cost of traditional hydro with the
3 run-of-river projects, and we're under long term
4 contracts with people like Brookfield Asset
5 Management, they're going to persist for 25 years, we
6 have no recourse against those other than the courts.
7 And because of that kind of malfeasance, what we have
8 now is a situation where the world is moving ahead.

9 For example, the Bonn-Cologne area is
10 roughly the same latitude as Kamloops. If you look at
11 that surrounding area, lots of solar installations,
12 lots of solar farms. How many in Kamloops? Zero.
13 And people say, well, you know, maybe they get more
14 sunshine? No, as a matter of fact, 30 percent more
15 sunshine in Kamloops than in the Bonn-Cologne area.
16 They've just prioritized things differently.

17 Unfortunately, same thing with geothermal.
18 24 years ago or so, MIT did some research on
19 geothermal potential in British Columbia. Some of the
20 best geothermal prospects in North America happen to
21 be in areas like Pemberton, pretty darn close to the
22 Lower Mainland, ideally situated. How much has Hydro
23 spent on that? A little bit. I think they spent a
24 few hundred thousand bucks doing some preliminary
25 research, and stopped right there, because their focus
26 has been single-mindedly on these mega projects. And

1 perhaps it is entirely because of political
2 interference.

3 Other things that could have happened here,
4 people have talked about wind generation, like
5 Holberg. All you need to do is find a kite surfer,
6 ask them where the wind is blowing, and you'll have a
7 good location for a windfarm. And many people have
8 talked here about the potential of other storage
9 systems, generation systems and that kind of thing.

10 And then the third thing I wanted to get to
11 was talking about employment. I've been a carpenter
12 for over 40 years. I've worked on some of the largest
13 projects in British Columbia, and one thing we all
14 know, a project starts, and project finishes. And we
15 don't sit around crying and whining about, oh we don't
16 have a job anymore. We get in our pickup trucks and
17 we do what journeymen do, we travel to where the next
18 job is. So, I'm not going to spend a whole bunch of
19 time feeling sorry for 2500 guys who have all got nice
20 pickup trucks, that know how to turn the key and go to
21 the next job site. That's a joke.

22 So then because of my experience in the
23 construction industry, I'm going to talk about why
24 Site C has failed so miserably. Because of the simple
25 equation that you have to manage in construction time,
26 and you have to manage resources. And some of those

1 resources might be people resources, and they might be
2 financial resources. But they are still resources.
3 And if you're going to fail to do adequate planning
4 from the get go, if a project is going to take four
5 years, you should have spent four years planning
6 before even initiating the project. You're going to
7 have to plan for budgets, you're going to have to plan
8 for scope and drawings and specifications, you're
9 going to have to do some site research. You're going
10 to have to carefully screen qualified, pre-qualified
11 contractors. You're going to have to have an open
12 public tender process if you want to do this above
13 board. If you don't want to do it in the corrupt
14 fashion that happens in many third world countries,
15 and apparently even happens in British Columbia.

16 You want to hire people based on five and
17 six, which is carefully screened and qualified people,
18 and you want to be sure that you have those people
19 resources available to you.

20 Now, it would seem to me kind of ridiculous
21 to start a project, multi-billion dollar project, even
22 from the outset, when we're coming up, as anybody will
23 tell you in the educational sector, one of the
24 critical times where there is a shortage of skilled
25 tradespeople, and we're going to try to employ 2500 of
26 them and get the best? Who in their right mind, if

1 you're a really good trades guy, is going to travel
2 from beautiful Vancouver Island, to work in Fort St.
3 John? I'm not, and a lot of people won't. So, who
4 are getting up there? That's what I would suggest.

5 So, how do you offset that? You put more
6 money out. Your costs are going up, you're hiring,
7 and paying more money for these guys to get them to go
8 from Victoria or Vancouver, up to Fort St. John. And
9 then you need to proceed at a sensible pace. As soon
10 as a politician jumps in, and says "We must reach a
11 point of no return before such and such a date..." i.e.
12 the next election, that project is damned. Because
13 now you cannot carry on with some kind of a rational,
14 sensible project schedule, you have an impetus behind
15 you to just move dirt, make it look good, do the press
16 releases, get the photo ops for politicians, and spend
17 the money.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sir, I just want to remind you your
19 time, just if you might think about summarizing.

20 MR. COOPER: Sure, so I'm just going to stop by saying
21 how you fail a project is to have inadequate scope,
22 inadequate planning, inadequate specifications, and
23 inadequate due diligence. It seems to me Hydro did
24 all those things. I wouldn't spend any time worrying
25 about sunk costs or reviving a dead project. Start on
26 something better.

1 our grandparents' generations built for us.

2 As its inheritors we have a pretty strong
3 stake in BC Hydro and how its managed into the future.
4 Because of how much more knowledge we have in 2017
5 than we did thirty, forty, fifty years ago around
6 climate change, around environmental degradation, my
7 generation is more concerned than previous ones about
8 energy footprints and energy use and as such, the
9 leaders of tomorrow are going to demand and legislate
10 using less energy, not more energy.

11 Site C represents continuing an endless
12 increase in energy and that's at odds with what many
13 my age want.

14 Site C also represents wasteful spending of
15 public money in an instance when we know better. This
16 project is only a fraction of the way through
17 construction, through its construction schedule and
18 it's already behind schedule and over-budget. Any
19 other project that ran through fifty percent of its
20 contingency fund in the first two years would be
21 cancelled, and to not do that with Site C would be a
22 decision driven not by science, not by economics, not
23 by what's best for B.C., but by politics.

24 This dam is a pet project of a premier and
25 a government that my generation rejected once enough
26 of us were old enough to vote, and I'd go so far as to

1 argue that it's undemocratic to saddle us and our
2 utility with massive debt for a project that none of
3 us want.

4 On Saturday this past weekend I had the
5 opportunity to take tour of the T'Souke Nation, a
6 small indigenous community on Southern Vancouver
7 Island that in the past decade has become one of the
8 most solar powered communities on the planet,
9 producing more electricity than it uses over the
10 course of the year.

11 The T'Souke have a unique agreement with BC
12 Hydro through which they sell excess power for most of
13 the year to the grid and then buy some back in the few
14 winter months when the Nation can't supply its full
15 demand.

16 These are the innovative community-based
17 energy solutions my generation craves. Only a public
18 utility in stable financial shape and one trusted by
19 the public will have the flexibility to be part of
20 these types of projects. A BC Hydro that has buried
21 itself in debt and bankrupted itself in terms of
22 public trust and social licence won't be able to
23 deliver in the future we're going to build.

24 So my request is simple. Please recommend
25 that the B.C. government cancel the Site C dam. Use
26 part of these vast savings to offer compensation to

1 and their health rights. Our well-being is connected
2 to the land, and I understand that you have no concept
3 of what that means, but that is an economy. It's an
4 economy of self, it's economy of our families, it's
5 economy of our culture and our traditions that are
6 vastly connected to our health, and you have no right
7 to take away that health and well-being. Especially
8 for a project that we have seen, through countless
9 reports, that it is not required. The economics
10 simply don't support it.

11 As we've heard by many other speakers
12 before, we've gone through 75 percent of the
13 contingency fund in the first two years. It's well
14 over budget. Any other mega-project dam that's been
15 built in the world has gone extensively over budget.
16 So it is a very safe presumption that ours is going to
17 do the same, for power that is proven to be not
18 needed.

19 The fact that we're even having this
20 discussion is simply because of the exploitation of BC
21 Hydro and fraudulent information that it's been giving
22 the people. We've heard from Erik Andersen about the
23 mass amounts of money that BC Hydro has hidden in its
24 contractual obligations that have not been reported to
25 the public. Two-thirds of the B.C. government
26 financial reports haven't even been approved by the

1 Auditor General because they don't pass simple basic
2 standard accounting practices. That is irresponsible
3 and reckless practice.

4 The fact that BC Hydro has got so much
5 power to use and abuse the funds of B.C. taxpayers is
6 just -- it needs to be stopped, and we need to have
7 clear accounting on what those numbers are. As B.C.
8 taxpayers, it's a right to know those numbers in a
9 much more accurate and transparent way.

10 As far as an emerging economy goes, there
11 is many, many alternatives to this dam that we need to
12 get behind. If we choose to invest this money in
13 conservation, it would be one-third the cost of Site C
14 -- that's taking \$6 billion that can be used in other
15 ways to support jobs and education, if we invest in
16 photobiotic [*sic*] education for people and get on
17 board with these new technologies, our young people
18 will be able to take advantage of this emerging
19 economy rather than lag behind in a dead-end industry
20 that is again not needed.

21 Quebec and Manitoba are now selling their
22 power at a loss to the United States, and a
23 significant amount of BC Hydro gets sold to the United
24 States at a loss. And it's not fair to our upcoming
25 generation to saddle them with this kind of burden.
26 It's just reckless accounting, and I simply ask you to

1 not go ahead with this project.

2 **Proceeding Time 8:32 p.m. T31**

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ma'am. Thank you.

4 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. STIFF (#0243):**

5 MR. STIFF: Good evening, my name is Howard Stiff, S-T-I-
6 F-F.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

8 MR. STIFF: Thanks to the panel for hosting us. I want
9 to thank all the speakers for their insights and ideas
10 today, the supporters that are here, as well to the
11 First Nations who have welcomed us here to speak.

12 I live on Gabriola Island, B.C. I'm a
13 professional biologist. My current research is
14 focused on climate impacts on the health of various
15 West Coast salmon populations.

16 I've been up to the Site C area several
17 times in the past few years, and like others here, I
18 am increasingly concerned about what is at stake,
19 ecologically, economically and culturally, if we
20 continue with this project.

21 Already the Site C dam project has been
22 roundly criticized for unreliable load forecast to
23 justify its development, spiraling cost to the
24 geological stability and safety issues, lack of
25 management transparency, trampled treaty rights,
26 threats to irreplaceable cultural sites, court

1 challenges, and escalating BC Hydro debt loads. Each
2 appears to result in surging electricity rates for
3 major -- for most British Columbians.

4 However, I believe it is also important to
5 identify and incorporate the costs of the
6 environmental impacts of flooding thousands of acres
7 of prime farmland and wildlife habitat in the Peace
8 River area. Itemizing all environmental costs should
9 be part of any balanced assessment of the cost
10 benefits of a project of this scale. Doing so sheds
11 light on the true costs of completing versus
12 terminating the project, as well as identifying
13 potential financial mechanisms to recover the cost of
14 cancelation, as specified in the BCUC terms of
15 reference 3(a.1) and .3 and 3(b.3).

16 On our last trip to the Peace River region
17 we met with local professional biologists and learned
18 more about the irreplaceable ecology of the Peace
19 River watershed, how it is unique amongst large rivers
20 in British Columbia in that it flows west to east out
21 of the mountain ranges, as a key wildlife migration
22 corridor and how it's east/west orientation to the sun
23 enables a highly diverse variety of fauna and flora
24 over a relatively short north/south geographically
25 distance, providing vital habitat for many species, 63
26 of which, I believe, are listed under the *Species of*

1 *Risk Act.*

2 So we have now learned that the ecological
3 values of the Peace River watershed may be
4 conservatively valued at about \$8 billion a year
5 according to a recent report by the David Suzuki
6 Foundation.

7 These estimates, of course, need to be
8 confirmed by further independent research, but the
9 point is, there exists multiple economic benefits in
10 maintaining the Peace River as it is, especially in
11 the climatologically changing world. And these
12 benefits can and should be quantified where possible.
13 Though not simple to do, this is not a new science.
14 For any given watershed, minimum estimates can be
15 reasonably derived for the economic value for the
16 ecological services of rivers, such as watershed and
17 airshed quality control, habitat maintenance and
18 carbon sequestration, the benefits of which extend
19 beyond regional and national levels.

20 I have references also for this stuff.

21 Even if we set aside significant and urgent
22 climatological benefits of carbon storage, valued by
23 some at about \$7 billion per year, the total value for
24 other ecosystem services, wildlife habitat management,
25 et cetera, in the Peace River system has been
26 estimated at about \$1.2 annually.

1 THE HEARING OFFICER: State your name for the record,
2 please. State your name for the record, please.

3 MR. BERRY: Oh, my name is Alistair James Berry, B-E-R-R-
4 Y.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

6 MR. BERRY: Anyway. I used to live in a thatched cottage
7 with a paraffin heater, and little oil lamps, and
8 thatch on the roof. Look at this now here. How many
9 solar panels are working tonight to give us this, and
10 to keep this room warm?

11 But anyway. To cut a long story short I
12 came across to Ottawa in 1957. I've been in the
13 military in Britain, a conscript. And they sent me
14 out to Iraq and Egypt and these places. And I got
15 interested in flying, so I said, "Hey, I'd like to
16 fly." I was in for two years, by the way, a
17 conscript.

18 Anyway, the Canadians said, "Yeah, we'll
19 teach you to fly." So I came across here in about
20 '57, and they put me in a jet fighter and made me a
21 night fighter to defend Ottawa in the height of the
22 Cold War, '59 and '60.

23 Anyway, I saved a lot of money, the pay was
24 good. I bought shares in B.C. Power. Now B.C. Power
25 owned Hydro here, and then "Wacky" Bennett, much as I
26 know as, nationalized it. And he offered me \$33. He

1 said, "Take it or leave it, son." So being a good new
2 Canadian, I said, "I'll take it." But certain people
3 in Ottawa and Toronto said, "No, we're not taking
4 that. We want \$55. We're not going to give you it."
5 And in the end, he paid them \$55. I lost my BC Hydro,
6 but I've been watching it ever since. And he said
7 that the profits from BC Hydro would be directed back
8 in the rates, and B.C. would have the cheapest hydro
9 in North America.

10 Now, and for a few years that happened.
11 And BC Hydro had a kitty full of money, and it
12 actually went into overseas contracting. I don't know
13 if you remember about 30-odd years ago, they were in
14 Pakistan building dams there, and one of the engineers
15 got cancer in his back, and the Pakistanis said, "Oh,
16 it's just lumbago." And there was a hell of a
17 kerfuffle to get that guy back into B.C.

18 But anyway, about 1992 the socialists came
19 to power, and they -- I know a lot about socialists,
20 I've come here from Britain -- they lust after money,
21 and they looked at BC Hydro, and they said, "We own
22 this. Give us the profits and we'll distribute them,
23 at election time, to the poor, and make ourselves more
24 or less unremovable."

25 Anyway, they went through the kitty and
26 then they ordered a tax on the capital, a capital tax

1 on everything BC Hydro owned. So they got the capital
2 tax, distributed that. Fast ferries, god knows what-
3 all.

4 Anyway, then when that was gone, they
5 forced Hydro to sell Hydro bonds on the world market,
6 and give them the proceeds that were raked in. And
7 this is why now we are paying tremendous rates for
8 power. And Wacky Bennett suggested that we would be
9 getting it for one cent a kilowatt-hour. And I'm
10 paying 18, I think, on a rate that is supposed to stop
11 me from buying more power.

12 I don't know if you remember little Reddy
13 Kilowatt, one of these little gizmo things that they
14 had in advertising. Live better electrically, use
15 more power, do this, that, and the next thing. And
16 now we get the opposite. We have high rates so we
17 won't use so much power, because we want to sell it to
18 the Americans.

19 One other thing that's happened, about
20 1964, LBJ, Wacky Bennett, and Mr. Pearson --

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sir, you're running out of time, and
22 can you bring this back to Site C? Is there something
23 in particular that --

24 MR. BERRY: I apologize, sir. I'm deaf too. I'm crazy,
25 but I'm a little bit deaf too. But anyway, the Arrow
26 Lakes Dams.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

2 MR. BERRY: The Americans built the Arrow Lakes Dams,
3 paid us rental for them, and they said, "At the year
4 2000 we will get free all the electricity that was
5 developed from that water by the Bonneville
6 Electricity Authority down the river." And we got
7 that power free, and we've been getting it since 2000.
8 But now Hydro, as people noticed, is deep in debt.

9 But anyway, what I'd like to say is, this
10 dam has to go forward. There's only one thing --
11 people need energy and the bigger the population, the
12 more energy we're going to need in the future.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Great. Thank you, sir.

15 **Proceeding Time 8:42 p.m. T33**

16 How many other people would like an
17 opportunity to speak? Okay, if there are just two
18 more, three more people? Okay, we're going to have to
19 take a break then. We'll be back in five minutes,
20 thank you.

21 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:44 P.M.)**

22 **(PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 8:51 P.M.)**

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry about that. Are you okay sir?

24 MR. REINHART: Can I start?

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please.

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. REINHART (#0245):**

1 MR. REINHART: My name is Neil Reinhart, and I had no
2 intention of speaking at this tonight. I came to
3 listen to a friend of mine who was making a
4 presentation --

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me, I'm sorry, could you spell
6 your last name please, sir?

7 MR. REINHART: R-E-I-N-H-A-R-T.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Sorry, go ahead.

9 MR. REINHART: Okay, I had some awareness of this whole
10 area for a long time. Nothing specific, but tonight I
11 heard some really valid reasons why, from a moral,
12 from a legal, and from an economical point of view why
13 this project should not go ahead.

14 To give you an explanation, I'm a senior,
15 was a geologist, studied geology, left geology in
16 1958. I spent some time in the oil business, and I
17 left because I wasn't happy with what I was seeing
18 going on in Alberta. I went to the University of
19 Alberta. And so -- but my interest in geology have
20 never left, and so I followed the development of
21 geology as a science in terms of all the technical
22 stuff, but also the information that was coming out in
23 terms of the geological awareness, how the planet was
24 formed, and all the rest of the stuff that has really
25 just come to light in the last 15 or 20 years because
26 of our technology.

1 And so, one of the things I did, I followed
2 through with that, and I became very interested in
3 archaeology, because it fits in with the whole
4 development of resources, of life on this planet, and
5 of people in the last two or three hundred years,
6 thousand years. And so I studied, I started studying
7 South America first, and then India, and Egypt
8 particularly.

9 And what I discovered there, as many other
10 people have, is that some of the things that were
11 happening in those civilizations, those things were
12 developed in the 25,000 years ago period. We were
13 stone age people, we didn't even have the wheel, and
14 yet if you look at some of the things that were done
15 in Egypt, hundred ton pieces of granite were carved
16 and quarried out, and moved up to 50 and 60 miles and
17 a lot of that stuff was used in the building of the
18 pyramids and other large areas in South America,
19 Central America, and in India, and other areas.

20 When you look at all of that stuff, it
21 becomes aware, if you're really looking at it, that
22 those stone age people could not possibly have done
23 those things without some kind of help. And the
24 obvious thing is extraterrestrial. And so this has
25 been a thing that has come up time and time again.
26 The governments, particularly the American government

1 has pooh-poohed it like crazy, except that now there
2 is an explosion of information, there is a Dr. Greer,
3 he has a website that you can go to. He has been
4 making presentations to Congress, and talking about
5 the UFOs, and people in the military, high end of the
6 military who are now retired, who are speaking up and
7 saying yes, we are aware of the UFOs, we are
8 associated with them. We had something to do with the
9 ones that crashed.

10 We also know that the United States has
11 been utilizing information in terms of their energy
12 process, in terms of some of the other things they
13 were doing. All of that information has been withheld
14 from the U.S. government as has happened in Canada.

15 Now, the point I'm getting to, it's all
16 about energy. And what they have discovered, and of
17 course these people have been coming here for
18 hundreds, perhaps thousands of years. They have been
19 observing life on this planet, and it is now coming
20 out, and the information is going to explode on the
21 public, but so far the government has been concealing
22 it, that information from you and I. The fact is that
23 these people have done no harm, they've done no harm
24 to us, and what is happening is that they have --
25 obviously they have developed energy, and I understand
26 how you're smiling, because it took me a little while

1 before I grasped this. They have obviously developed
2 energy source that can give the ability for them to
3 travel at light speed or faster, because they are
4 obviously not from our solar system. They are from
5 another system. And so they had to get here.

6 I mean, I know, I know you're probably as
7 skeptical as I was.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me, sir, regardless of whether
9 we're skeptical or not, this is an inquiry into the
10 economic implications of building the Site C dam.
11 It's --

12 MR. REINHART: Can I get to that in a minute?

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Well, if you could please get to it
14 quickly, because we are running out of time.

15 MR. REINHART: But I had to explain this about the
16 energy, because they've developed a system of
17 developing energy that doesn't cost any money. And
18 we're talking about energy here. We are eventually --
19 maybe this site doesn't need to be going ahead today,
20 but eventually we are going to need the energy. And
21 if someone has the intelligence, and wants to look at
22 this stuff, it's available on the internet now, and it
23 is available -- we know now that the government has
24 been concealing this information. They have developed
25 -- in their society, they have developed a form of
26 energy development that can transport them from

1 another solar system to this one. The closest one is
2 eight or ten light years away. That means they have
3 had to have been able to go at light speed or faster.
4 They're here, and so I'm going to leave it at that.

5 It is only something -- I hesitated to
6 bring it up, because I know that it's not out there
7 yet, but if this is true, and I strongly believe that
8 it is true, that this information is there, and when
9 it comes out, all of this stuff about developing
10 electrical energy using dams will be not needed.
11 We'll be able to heat our homes for nothing. We'll be
12 able to run our vehicles for nothing.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sir, I'm sure that's true, but --

14 MR. REINHART: So I suggest that maybe -- somebody is
15 going to laugh. I did. But I started to listen to
16 what the facts are, and the U.S. Government, it's
17 there now, it's already there now if you dig into it,
18 and I don't know whether that is within your area to
19 look at, or to think about or to ask people who are
20 aware of it.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: I don't think it is, sir, but we
22 appreciate you.

23 MR. REINHART: Pardon?

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: I don't think it is, but we appreciate
25 you bringing it forward.

26 MR. REINHART: Okay, well maybe it will die now, and that

1 will be a shame. But here is an opportunity even if
2 it just hits -- even if it just hits the airways for
3 once, it's not being reported by any one of the media
4 in the States, because they're not allowed to talk
5 about it. That's why.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: All right, thank you sir.

7 MR. REINHART: I appreciate the time, thank you so much.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

9 **Proceeding Time 8:59 p.m. T34**

10 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. SHILLITO (#0246):**

11 MS. SHILLITO: Hi, my name is Allana, A-L-L-A-N-A, last
12 name Shillito, S-H-I-L-L-I-T-O.

13 I'm here because my mom signed us up. But
14 I'm also here -- I have a picture. This is my
15 husband. He and I have paddled the Peace River since
16 2008. He died of cancer this year. He died a little
17 over a month ago, and we didn't do the paddle this
18 year. I'm wearing the shirt that he has in the photo
19 here.

20 I was born and raised on Vancouver Island.
21 I have a degree in chemistry, I have a degree in
22 biochemistry and microbiology. I've been a Chemistry
23 teacher for 21 years in the public school system, and
24 an earth science teacher. I'm going to take a little
25 bit different directive.

26 When I first went up to the Peace River and

1 paddled the river, I thought, "Oh, it's like a river
2 on Vancouver Island." I can swim from one side to the
3 next. The Peace River, if you've ever been up there,
4 a bend in the Peace River is like a cove in the Ocean
5 here. It is huge. It's gorgeous. It has beaver, it
6 has these islands that the moose and the deer hide on
7 to raise their young. And if they flood the valley
8 those ungulates will not have any place to raise their
9 young.

10 Another interesting point about the Peace
11 Valley and the Peace River is the way that the valley
12 was formed through glaciers, and a lot of the hill is
13 glacial till. And if you look at the glacial till
14 under the microscope – and this is proven – the
15 individual pieces of sand that are in those hills look
16 like tiny golf balls, absolutely beautifully round
17 with little dimples in them, just like golf balls. If
18 we took golf balls here, right now, and tried to stack
19 them, they don't stack very well, and that's what's
20 happening the Peace River right now, is the banks of
21 the river slough constantly because the particles have
22 been ground into absolutely fine dimpled little balls.

23 And right now in your report I read that
24 there's two very large cracks in one of the banks of
25 the Peace River, and that's natural because it isn't
26 clay, it's not going to stick together.

1 And when you look at the dams in Nelson or
2 Castlegar or Trail, the dams are built between two
3 very large solid pieces of mountain, and the wall of
4 the dam is very small, and it does use gravity to
5 drive that water downwards. The Peace River is flat.
6 Flat, flat, flat, flat. There is no gravity to use
7 the water with.

8 So, we might need electricity. Could we
9 look at a different river in B.C.? Maybe the Fraser
10 River at Boston Bar. Maybe Hell's Gate. It's very
11 narrow, lots of rock, you could make your fish
12 ladders. We need to look at a different river because
13 that's a really inappropriate place to put a dam
14 because of the building material that they are using.
15 There is constant sloughing of the cliffs and those
16 turbines will constantly be mucked up with grime.

17 As far as fishing on a recreational man-
18 made lake, the Williston dam was made in the '60s and
19 the indigenous people of Treaty 8 often ate fish every
20 day. When you put water, large amounts of water on
21 land that isn't used to water, you squeeze the mercury
22 out of the land, and the water is so heavy it squeezes
23 the mercury up to the surface and into the water.

24 To this day, 60 years after the Williston
25 dam, the W.A.C. Bennett dam has been built, people are
26 only to eat fish twice a week because of the mercury

1 content. The fish are still poisoned with mercury.
2 They don't tell you that.

3 Go up there. They are only allowed to eat
4 those fish twice a week.

5 So there's a number of things there that
6 really, if we do need electricity, we need to look at
7 a different river.

8 There's a run-of-the-river project up in
9 Campbell River right now that is being paid by BC
10 Hydro not to produce any electricity. We have a
11 number of run-of-the-river projects that aren't
12 running.

13 We need to look at a different river. If
14 we need electricity we need to look at a different
15 river. We need to look at a different set of building
16 materials other than round dimpled pieces of grain of
17 sand, glacial till, and we also need to conserve our
18 energy.

19 My husband raised his children canoeing on
20 the Peace River and he was incredibly passionate about
21 it and he's made me a believer as well.

22 Also, a non-status indigenous person, and
23 how the hereditary chiefs have been overlooked in this
24 process has been almost criminal and it's really,
25 really embarrassing and it's pretty hard to starve
26 your people and then also come to the table and have

1 them lose face at the table.

2 So if we do need electricity, please, let's
3 look at different rivers. Let's look at what we have:
4 The Columbia project, Campbell River, something other
5 than Site C. And I don't believe BC Hydro has
6 extended -- Site C was an easy pick. It was low-
7 hanging fruit. But we could do any other river and it
8 would be much better than where it's at.

9 Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

11 **Proceeding Time 9:06 p.m. T35**

12 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. DUMOULIN (#0247):**

13 MS. DUMOULIN: Hi there, my name is Lisa, and my last
14 name is Dumoulin, D-U-M-O-U-L-I-N.

15 So, I hadn't intended to speak, but I'm
16 happy to have the opportunity, so thank you very much,
17 and thank you for holding these community
18 consultations or hearings. I want to acknowledge that
19 we are here on the ancestral and unceded territories
20 of the Snueymuxw, and Snowas First Nations here in
21 Nanaimo.

22 My connection to the Site C project goes
23 back a number of years now. I did my master's
24 research as a graduate student at the University of
25 British Columbia in geography around the hydroelectric
26 history on the Peace River. And in particular, I

1 worked with teachers in the North Peace region who
2 were teaching about the history and about just
3 hydroelectricity in their classrooms. And through
4 those I think I got a really interesting perspective
5 on how hydroelectricity impacts communities in ways
6 that don't go assessed. It's some of those intangible
7 costs that we don't see, haven't been accounted for in
8 the way that energy projects are run. I think just in
9 our society it is not part of what is included yet.

10 And just a note about that, was being in
11 children's classrooms, everywhere from Grade 3 to
12 Grade 8, where kids were studying very real social and
13 environmental changes that have happened where they
14 live, and are going to potentially happen with the
15 Site C dam was really interesting. Teachers, as you
16 probably know, try to teach in a very depoliticized
17 and balanced way. And seeing the kids weigh these
18 questions that they had -- they were not included in
19 the community discussions about how things were
20 impacting them, and just some of the things that the
21 kids were bringing up where how this was going to
22 impact their schools, and their community, and their
23 streets with lots of transient workers. Things that
24 kind of go un-thought about. So, that is something
25 that I always keep with me when I think about this
26 project. It is not something you probably account for

1 in your report, but just something that connects me to
2 it.

3 I am here to speak against the Site C
4 project, and I advise the BCUC would cancel the
5 project. I am opposed to the project for a number of
6 reasons. In particular for the irreparable and
7 cumulative impacts of this dam. I think it is
8 important to note the impacts of this dam aren't from
9 this Site C project alone, both upstream and
10 downstream. The impacts are related to the existing
11 two hydroelectric dams on the river, the Williston
12 Reservoir, the ongoing release of greenhouse gasses
13 from the reservoir into the atmosphere, methane in the
14 fish. The destruction that has happened to habitat.
15 But in addition, because of oil and gas, and all the
16 fracking wells up in that landscape, the Site C dam
17 adds an extra layer of impact, given that for things
18 like the caribou migration route, it is not this
19 project alone. And my understanding in the way that
20 the project and the costs have been calculated doesn't
21 include the cumulative impacts, and of ongoing oil and
22 gas and fracking that is happening in the region.

23 I am also deeply opposed to this project
24 because of the violation of treaty rights, and the
25 Treaty 8 First Nations who are opposed and pursuing
26 this project in court, and in other ways. Again, the

1 impacts I think are cumulative, not just from the Site
2 C project alone, and need to be considered in that
3 context. As well as for wildlife as I mentioned,
4 impacts for other people who live around the Peace and
5 are directly impacted by the project, as well as for
6 the cumulative impacts into the atmosphere.
7 Reservoirs aren't necessarily clean energy, they
8 release large amounts of greenhouse gasses from the
9 amount of water that is being held there, and it kind
10 of happens in a straight release. I'm sorry, I wish I
11 could talk to that more scientifically, I'd be happy
12 to submit something on that.

13 My understanding is that the Site C dam has
14 been pursued because it is the only thing that BC
15 Hydro has been mandated by the government to pursue
16 since around 2002. So, that is for me since becoming
17 familiar with this project has always been concerning,
18 is that BC Hydro can't actually pursue other projects
19 because of the mandate right now. And as someone who
20 is going to be a certified teacher in B.C. at the end
21 of December, I am concerned about the deterioration of
22 our public utilities, both BC Hydro, similar to our
23 education system. And that there seems to have been a
24 politicized move to deteriorate these public goods,
25 particularly for the sake of privatizing, and that is
26 deeply concerning for me.

1 The last thing I want to say is that I
2 would advise the BCUC that a review of conservation,
3 and the economic -- I don't know what to call that.
4 The savings that could come through best practices of
5 conservation practice in Canada and around the world,
6 I'd like to see that incorporated into your report. A
7 real review of what the economics look like if we
8 talked about real conservation, conservation programs.
9 From everything I've read, I do not believe this
10 project has ever been needed. The fact that it was
11 going to be used entirely -- the energy entirely
12 towards LNG tells me that as well. And so I'd really
13 like to see us talk about conservation, not the need
14 for new energy, I think we can do a lot better in our
15 province.

16 Thanks.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

18 **Proceeding Time 9:11 p.m. T36**

19 Well, I'd like to thank everyone for
20 coming, including those who have already left. And
21 especially those who spoke. It's very much
22 appreciated. And I hope you all have a very good
23 evening.

24 Thank you. Thanks for coming.

25 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 9:12 P.M.)**

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING
is a true and accurate transcript
of the proceedings herein, to the
best of my skill and ability.



A.B. Lanigan, Court Reporter

October 11th, 2017