

BC Hydro 2008 LTAP Hearing

**BC HYDRO UNDERTAKING NO. 3**

**HEARING DATE:**

February 23, 2009

**TRANSCRIPT REFERENCE:**

Volume 5, Page 660, Lines 1 - 24

---

**REQUESTOR:** PVEA (Mr. Gathercole)

**QUESTION:**

Can BC Hydro check if a reply has been made to the letter from Ken and Arlene Boon of Fort St. John dated January 26, 2009? If a reply has been made, can BC Hydro provide it prior to the seating of Panel 4?

**RESPONSE:**

BC Hydro confirms it has responded to the letter from Ken and Arlene Boon. A copy of BC Hydro's response is provided as Attachment 1.



FOR GENERATIONS

Susan Yurkovich

Senior Vice President, Corporate Affairs

February 24, 2009

Ken and Arlene Boon  
SS#2, Site 12, Comp 19  
Fort St. John, BC V1J 4M7

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Boon:

Thank you for your letter to Bob Elton regarding the consultation process for the Site C project. He has shared your letter with me and asked me to respond on his behalf. We appreciate you taking the time to write.

I would like to reaffirm that there has been no decision to build Site C. BC Hydro completed a feasibility review of the potential Site C project in 2007, and is currently in the second stage of review which involves consulting with communities, public, landowners, and First Nations. During this review, BC Hydro is also undertaking project definition work such as environmental, engineering and technical studies. These studies, in addition to the input we have received from consultation, will inform BC Hydro's recommendation to the provincial government on whether or not to move to the next stage of project evaluation – Stage 3, Regulatory/Environmental Assessment. It is the Province that will make a decision about whether to proceed to this next stage.

By way of background, BC Hydro's plan to meet our customers' electricity needs is focused on conservation and energy efficiency as the first and best option for the future. In fact, we have a target of meeting at least 50 per cent of our future electricity needs through conservation and energy efficiency. BC Hydro is also buying more clean and renewable electricity from sources such as wind, run-of-river and geothermal. Further, BC Hydro is making a significant investment in existing assets to enhance the efficiency and add capacity to the system. Site C is a contingency resource option in the current plans to meet future needs.

With respect to the public consultation process for potential Site C, the project team has sought feedback on a variety of issues and potential effects of the project. These issues have included such topics as worker housing, reservoir preparation and clearing, relocation of excavated rock and soil, reservoir impact lines, environmental effects, powerhouse access bridge, and potential community benefits. These topics were selected based on current project definition work by the project team, as well as input from Pre-Consultation, which asked participants what topics were of most interest.



**BC Hydro**   
FOR GENERATIONS

OFFICIAL  
SUPPORTER



The feedback forms used in the consultation were designed to provide participants with many opportunities to give feedback. In particular, each section of the feedback forms included space at the end for further comments. In addition, the last two pages of the feedback forms were left blank and invited further comments. For additional layers of objectivity, independent review of consultation questions and analysis was conducted by a nationally recognized polling firm.

To answer your specific questions regarding the public consultation firm used for the Site C Project, Kirk & Co. Consulting was selected following the issuance of a Request for Proposals and a competitive selection process. Included in the Request for Proposals was the scope of services expected from the selected contractor which included activities such as: working with the project team to assist in planning of the consultation program; execution of the consultation program – locally, regionally and provincially; and, development of public information, consultation and community relations materials.

As a regulated utility, the overall budget and plan for the Stage 2 review of the potential Site C project was filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission in the 2008 Long-Term Acquisition Plan (LTAP) filed on June 12, 2008. The project budget includes a breakdown of the overall cost of consultation, including First Nations and public consultation. Further, as a crown corporation, BC Hydro provides British Columbians with access to information through its website, such as our Annual and Quarterly Reports, Service Plan, and Financial Information Act Return. In BC Hydro's Financial Information Act filing, you may find all payments that amount to \$25,000 or greater made to contractors and others.

I hope this addresses your questions and I thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Susan Yurkovich

c: Bob Elton, President & CEO