

January 14, 2019

Commission Secretary
British Columbia Utilities Commission
900 Howe Street
Suite 410
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

BC Utilities Corporation:

On behalf of Sandman Hotel & Suites Williams Lake we offer our support to Atlantic Power (Williams Lake Power Plant), as it is a major employer of the Williams Lake business community.

Since 1993, it has provided a stable source of electricity for the BC Hydro grid, well-paying long-term jobs and economic stability for its employees and the local economy.

A brief list of the positive impacts the Plant has had on the community include:

- The plant has helped to reduce particulate emissions in the Williams Lake Airshed by 90 % since it began operating in 1993;
- Lobbied for a 20% expansion of rail tie use to fuel their operation without any adverse impact to the environment and air quality;
- It directly employs 30+ fulltime employees earning above average wages;
- It supports many more jobs in the region through the annual expenditure of about \$8 million on goods and services;
- It is the Number One tax payer for the City of Williams Lake at \$1.2 million per year
- Spends 8 times this amount in the Region purchasing goods and services
- Atlantic Power is also a proactive corporate citizen contributing approximately \$12,000 each year to support community groups and projects.

Recently, we have learned of the continuing efforts of the Plant's extension of its EPA with BC Hydro to September, 2019. We understand that the completion of BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan will address the role of biomass in the future mix of resources which then appears to be subject of acceptance of the BC Utilities Corporation (BCUC).

The critical part of the BCUC process is that should acceptance not be forthcoming, the result could be termination of the short-term EPA extension currently in place. It would also risk the possibility of a longer-term extension of the EPA being negotiated with BC Hydro in the future.

As a business owner, I believe that the result of non-acceptance puts family supporting jobs, substantial annual economic activity and continuing cleaner air in the community at stake.

Accordingly, I strongly recommend that the BC Utilities Corporation approve a long term agreement with Atlantic Power to ensure the continued long-term presence of this valuable member of our community.

Yours truly,

Liz Klingbell
General Manager
Sandman Hotel & Suites Williams Lake

cc: Atlantic Power Corporation Williams Lake; BC Hydro; MLA's, City of Williams Lake