



An association of individuals and groups committed to engaging with community, government, and industry to advocate for the conservation and expansion of parks and protected areas within the Mount Arrowsmith watersheds.

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

Dear Commissioners:

Re: BCUC Inquiry Respecting BC Hydro's Site C

The participants in Arrowsmith Parks and Land-Use Council are pleased the government of B.C. Has finally decided to submit the Site C project on the Peace River to a review by the B.C. Utility Commission. The current project should have been reviewed several years ago before the first contract was awarded.

We now wish to put forth our concerns that we hope the Commission will be able to examine in detail.

1. As a group that is very concerned about land-use issues we do not feel that the project has properly accounted for the loss of environmental, economic and social capital. We feel the costs in perpetuity will dwarf any supposed economic benefit from the project.
2. We feel the sunk costs of construction to date will be almost insignificant in comparison to the very likely huge ultimate cost overruns and the losses on initial commodity sales to an oversupplied market.
3. We question why residential electricity costs over the past ten years have more than doubled when natural gas costs have remained steady?
4. We are concerned that there has not been sufficient analysis of the substitute effect of new technologies, never mind the demand destruction of higher electricity costs.
5. We feel the Agricultural Land Reserve must be fully protected and possibly expanded. Canada produces and processes insufficient foodstuffs for its population i.e. it is reported that Vancouver Island produces much less than 10% of it daily food needs.
6. We would suggest that mechanisms need to be found to encourage (force?) the adoption of energy-saving technologies into new construction. Would innovative tax policies encourage the development and adoption of new technologies so that we would not need to keep building old-style power plants?

7. Finally, we feel the Peace River and its nearby residents have “done their job” by providing low-cost power for over forty years. It has more than carried its share of the load. It is time to call upon other resources to participate in the supply of new and replacement energy.

We appreciate the opportunity, finally, to be able to contribute to the review of Site C in the appropriate forum.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Jessen, P.Eng.
on behalf of

Arrowsmith Parks and Land-Use Council