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To: [Site C Submissions BCUC:EX](#)
Cc: info@icba.ca
Subject: Site C is a good project for BC
Date: Monday, September 4, 2017 12:52:13 PM

Please accept this email as a simple and informal submission supporting the construction of the Site C Hydro Project.

Along with many others, I consider that the Site C Power Generation project is an excellent investment for BC. Site C synergistically utilizes existing Peace River water storage, enhancing and expanding system management efficiency and profitable power trading opportunities with other contiguous power systems. Reaching the correct conclusion is much more complex than taking in the arguments proposed by parties with vested interests: including green advocates, politicians, and business advocates.

There are two distinct classes of power: Dispatchable Power (like power produced by large hydro, eg Site C) that can be turned on and off like the lights in your house; and Non-dispatchable Power (power produced by solar panels, windmills and small run-of-the river power generators) that is produced when the sun shines, the wind blows or when the rivers run. Your ability to get light when you flip the switch requires your power supplier has sufficient Dispatchable Power to meet the variable demand of residential, commercial, and industrial customers. Demand varies substantially during the day and by the day of the week as well as seasonally.

Large hydro power generation, like Site C, provides spinning reserves and thus enhances system stability; whereas solar and wind power generation destabilize the power grid. Site C Dispatchable Power clearly has a substantially higher value per kilowatt-hour (kWh) than solar, windmill, and small hydro power.

To put this into context, consider that the productivity of fossil fuel and nuclear power generators can exceed 90% (annual power produced vs nameplate capacity) compared to 15-35% for windmills and less than 20% for solar panels. A project cost of \$10 billion dollars for a 1100 megawatt (MW) hydro power plant cannot be directly compared to \$5 billion for 1100 MW of installed windmill capacity.

Available public information, including from BC Hydro and others, tends to be complex, but with some effort can be understood by all who have a basic understanding of economics and finance. Public BC Hydro documents show that the decision to build Site C was based on rational information, albeit including forecasts for future power demand. As Yogi Berra said forecasting is difficult - particularly for the future. Forecasts are prone to error and even more so when forecasters have a favored result in mind and a strong ideological bent. The downside for BC residents if BC Hydro cannot reliably meet provincial demand easily exceeds potential costs associated with some excess capacity.

Green advocates are ideologically convinced that all fossil fuel energy is bad and all green energy is good. It is clearly not that simple and since 80% of all primary global energy consumption is currently provided by fossil fuels, we are not going to be living in a fossil fuel free world in the immediate future - Canada has neither the will nor the monetary and physical capability to expand green energy to meet aspirational global goals promoted by Andrew Weaver and other ideologically driven politicians.

I trust that the BCUC will provide sound recommendations based on facts and professional non-partisan analysis.



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Doug Fromson

