Dear British Columbia Utilities Commission,

Such large scale utility projects require careful consideration of wider energy needs and socioenvironmental needs of people affected by the construction, as well as within the context of climate change.

I am writing to urge you to recommend that the Site C Dam be rejected for the second time in BC’s history. The project has major financial and environmental pitfalls. It contravenes the province’s commitment to meaningfully reconcile with Indigenous peoples.

Deloitte suggested there is a growing chance that the project will go significantly over-budget.

Moreover, BC can meet all its energy needs through building retrofits, energy efficiency, and renewable energy infrastructure investments into solar and wind. The BC NDP’s own Power BC plan lays out how we can create more jobs and better value in this way.

The environmental impacts are staggering. The project’s environmental assessment concluded that the dam would “cause significant adverse effects on fish and fish habitat...birds and bats...rare plants, and sensitive ecosystems.” Given that there are alternatives, these impacts can not be justified.

The project does not have the consent of the Treaty 8 First Nations. This project will have a devastating impact on the treaty and Aboriginal rights of Treaty 8 First Nations. The project will eliminate these First Nations’ ability to continue their way of life and will severely curtail their treaty-protected constitutional rights to hunt, fish, trap, harvest and carry out their practices on their land.

The Site C Dam is clearly not in the public interest. Please recommend to the BC Government that this project be canceled. Only risk-assessment based decisions taking these issues into consideration will help push BC forward as an environmentally conscious entity moving forward to a future where dependence on renewable resources does not cause irreversible devastation to plant, animal and human communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Hannah Barron