

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [John Fyke](#)
To: [Site C Submissions BCUC:EX](#)
Subject: Submission on Site C Dam
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:16:38 PM

Dear British Columbia Utilities Commission,

I urge you to carefully consider the impact any decisions or actions regarding this issue will have.

I am writing to urge you to recommend that the Site C Dam be rejected. The project has serious financial and environmental problems, and runs counter to the goal of seeking reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

Please suspend all federal licenses and permits for the Site C Dam project to flood the Peace Valley for the following reasons:

1. The Peace Valley has productive soils and a unique microclimate ideally suited to sustainable production of a wide range of crops.

The BC Provincial government recently reclassified rich agricultural land in the Peace Valley to enable Site C construction. According to the Ministry of Agriculture's own 2007 assessment, titled BC's Food Self-Reliance, BC grows just 48% of the food it consumes. Vegetable production per capita has fallen to half of what it was in 1970. And the problem is only getting worse. Over the last 10 some-odd years, there's been a serious and alarming decline in agricultural land area, driven by everything from urban encroachment, industrial projects, and declining productivity.

The combination of a shrinking food supply and growing population has put BC on a path to serious food security challenges.

Agriculture experts who testified before the Joint Review Panel, cited the east-west Peace River Valley's deep alluvial soils, long northern daylight in the growing season and microclimate for agriculture could produce fruits and vegetables to meet the nutritional needs of over a million people a year.

The California snowpack in 2016 was 30% of normal which means a 3rd year of extreme drought there. B.C. already imports over 57 per cent of the fresh vegetables that British Columbians consume each year, much of which could be grown in the province. The situation is similar elsewhere in Canada with the cost of imported California produce estimated to increase over 30% in the next year.

2. The financial costs of continuing with construction are just too high. According to a report prepared for your commission by Deloitte, there is a growing chance that the project will go significantly over-budget. Rather than spend so much money on a dam we don't need, the lowest cost option is to just cancel the dam.

3. There are better alternatives. BC can meet all its energy needs through building retrofits, energy efficiency, and investing in renewable energy. The BC NDP's own Power BC plan lays out how we can create more jobs and better value.

4. The environmental impacts are not justified. 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.

5. 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
John Fyke

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