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BCUC INQUIRY RESPECTING SITE C

F 113-2

Date: October 02, 2017

Subject: submission

Dear Panel Members,

I am writing to thank the BCUC for undertaking this review of the Site C dam, and for asking BC Hydro to provide much more necessary information within the BCUC's timelines.

As your preliminary report points out, BC Hydro's forecasts have repeatedly over-estimated demand, and its accuracy on this matter is "considerably below industry benchmarks." I am pleased to see that you are asking BC Hydro to consider alternative energy generation as well how potential disruptors may increase the risks for forecasting over 70 years. This kind of due diligence is what I would hope for from a public guardian.

It has been disturbing to see BC Hydro decrease its energy conservation programs at a time when demand-side management should be increased. As someone who is a Hydro ratepayer, learning about the wasteful destructiveness of the Site C dam has increased my motivation to become less dependent on BC Hydro.

I am writing to say that the benefits of terminating the dam far outweigh its costs, both economically and environmentally. The costs of the dam are far higher than the numbers on a spreadsheet, when we consider the dam's toll on the natural ecosystems that are needed in perpetuity for fostering resilience and biodiversity in the face of climate change. Whether one describes this as priceless "natural capital" or as a moral imperative given BC's responsibility to uphold Treaty 8, the Peace River Valley is crucial for the well-being of the Arctic Ocean watershed. Chris Wood's article "The Last Great Water Fight" offers an introduction into the complexity of this watershed (<https://thewalrus.ca/the-last-great-water-fight/>). As a ratepayer, I fear the incremental, ongoing destruction of this larger ecosystem comes with far larger costs that narrow accounting systems are not able to adequately convey.

Thus, I write to urge termination of the Site C dam. The Peace Valley has much more long-term perpetual value for the province of BC through increasing ecological resilience, strengthening food security through the Agricultural Land Reserve, and serving as a model for a genuinely respectful relationship between Indigenous peoples and the (un)settlers living on their homelands.

Thank you for your diligent efforts,
Rita Wong