

Name: Susan Ellard

Date: October 10, 2017

Subject: Opposed to the Site C Dam

Dear British Columbia Utilities Commission,

I would like to express my opposition to the Site C Dam project, as a citizen of BC, and as a parent, physician, and scientist. I am concerned about the loss of agricultural land, destruction of habitat, expropriation of land from First Nations, ranchers, and other property owners, risk of worsening methane emissions from submerged plant life, and enormous sunk costs. I'm also worried about the lost opportunities to invest in clean energy and innovation, because of the enormous and lengthy cost commitments.

I would like BC to instead invest the monies that would be poured into this unnecessary and harmful mega project, in distributed clean renewable energy projects around the province of BC, which could bring jobs and clean energy to the whole province on an as needed and more economical basis. Much could also reasonably be invested in energy efficiency and reductions in energy use through more thoughtful community planning.

It seems clear the main motivation for building this enormous dam was to create the power for an LNG industry expansion that BC also can't afford, and shouldn't pursue, in light of implications for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The secondary motivation may have been vote-buying from those industries and communities which would preferentially benefit, over those communities which will be captive to the exorbitant costs and direct losses.

When green energy opportunities and innovation have so clearly rapidly advanced in the timeframe that this huge project has been lumbering forward, it makes no sense to continue down a reckless and expensive path. I don't believe we have got to the point of no return, and should urgently turn aside from this path.

When the federal government offered provinces funding toward green energy projects, the then Energy Minister Bill Bennett (in 2016) noted that BC's electricity needs hadn't increased in 8 years, and that BC didn't have a need for green energy projects.] Why then was his government bulldozing over opposition, to claim we need to sink in excess of 10 billion dollars into the Site C dam? It makes no sense, unless the purpose of the dam is not to provide citizens with secure electrical energy sources, but to amp up a dirty energy industry dependent on huge power intakes.

The Site C Dam is clearly not in the public interest. Please recommend to the BC Government that this project be canceled. On ethical, scientific, and economic grounds, citizens should be spared the disaster of this ill-conceived project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Ellard

