

Name: Linda McDonell

Date: October 11, 2017

Subject: Submission on Site C Dam

Dear British Columbia Utilities Commission,

I am writing to urge you to recommend that the Site C Dam be rejected. The project presents serious environmental problems, financial burdens for the residents of BC, will result in the destruction of invaluable food-producing land, and runs counter to the goal of seeking reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

The financial costs of continuing with construction are 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. Also, studies have shown the dam is unnecessary now and possibly for all time. The loss of valuable farm land is reason enough to stop Hydro's Site C plans. Remember, the Fraser Valley is being converted to industrial and residential land, with no thought to the future needs of the people of BC for farming land. Rather than spend so much money on a dam we don't need, the lowest cost option is to just cancel the damn dam!

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.

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.

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. And there is the loss of burial sites and traditional lands: we owe it to Canada's First Nations to honour their past and their ancestors.

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,
Linda McDonell

