

Name: Rodney Polden

Date: October 11, 2017

Subject: The future of the Site C dam project

Dear British Columbia Utilities Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to address you regarding the Site C dam project. I sincerely request that BCUC recommend to the BC government that this project should be cancelled as swiftly as possible, since it emphatically is not in the public interest.

The cost issues that attend the construction are of themselves sufficient reason for the project to be abandoned, since it seems there has never been a strong case to be made for why the gigantic expenditures of public money would be justified by the quite modest benefit of any kind that may be obtained.

Yet, more significant and of much greater importance are the irreversible damage that would be caused by continuing the construction, and the total disregard for the rights and clearly stated opposition of local residents, especially First Nations communities, whose way of life and livelihoods would be severely impacted.

I am in full agreement with the following statements made by many others, that detail more extensively the reasons why this project needs to be cancelled forthwith. I very much hope that BCUC will see fit to make exactly that recommendation to the government.

Thank you.

RATIONALE

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.

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.

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,
Rodney Polden

