

**Name:** William Lindsay

**Date:** October 12, 2017

**Subject:** Site C - written submission

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

British Columbia Utilities Commission  
900 Howe Street, Suite 410  
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

**Re: BCUC Inquiry Respecting Site C**

I have been a resident of Hudson's Hope since 1998. During this August, 23 solar panels were installed on the roof of my house. Each panel is rated as 290 watts; so, the maximum output is 6.67 kWh. The cost was just under \$23,000 which included the design, the purchase, shipping, installation, taxes and permit fees. My system is "grid-tied" and any electricity generated by my photovoltaic panels, which is surplus to my needs, is automatically "fed" to the provincial electricity grid. When my demand for electricity exceeds what my panels are producing (or when the sun is not shining), I receive power from the grid. Essentially, the grid is my battery. I am one of 1,100 currently registered with BC Hydro's net metering program (<https://www.bchydro.com/work-with-us/selling-clean-energy/net-metering.html>).

There were 830,660 single detached houses in British Columbia at the time of the 2016 census. Accordingly, 1,100 metered accounts represent only a small fraction of 1% of that total. Site C has a design output of 1,100 Megawatts. I recognize that it would require approximately 275,000 single family dwellings equipped with solar panels producing an average of 4 kW to equal that output – quite a daunting objective. Nevertheless, I hope that the BCUC does not discount the potential of solar:

- The price for solar panels has been dropping. If I had undertaken my solar panel installation four years earlier, the cost would have been 50% higher.
- A substantial problem is looming for BC Hydro. I have seen a report that this Crown corporation will have a debt of \$23 billion by the end of this decade. The only way to pay this debt is to raise rates for electricity.
- Elon Musk is now manufacturing tempered glass solar tiles which are obviously more expensive than traditional asphalt shingles, but they are so durable they are warranted for the lifetime of one's house, or infinity, whichever comes first! Mass production will bring the cost down and they generate savings for the homeowner ([https://www.tesla.com/en\\_CA/energy](https://www.tesla.com/en_CA/energy)).
- For BC Hydro's Power Smart program to be successful, it required the majority of residents in this province to change their habits and attitudes when using electricity. That type of promotion is needed for solar power.

BC Hydro's Smart Meters track how much power is drawn from the grid and how much electricity is sent to the grid. On the anniversary of joining the net metering program, there is a settlement. Any surplus by the homeowner is paid at \$0.0999 per kWh and that is roughly equivalent to BC Hydro's Step 1 rate (\$0.0858 per kWh - before the 5% Rate Rider and GST).

There are potentially hundreds of thousands of dwellings to be constructed and renovated over the coming years and some encouragement should be given to them to include solar panels in their budgets.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this matter.

Yours truly,



William Lindsay  
Hudson's Hope, BC