

Greetings;

I am writing to register my ongoing opposition to the Site C dam.

1.

Over the next century, as glaciers disappear and droughts further disrupt the American West's water supplies, BC's healthy hydrologic systems will become increasingly precious.

And so will well-watered arable land. Currently, only about 3% of BC's land base is arable.

The Peace River Valley has some of the most fertile land in the province and, as the climate warms, the growing season there will lengthen. Indeed, the number of frost-free days is already decreasing.

As we saw over the past couple of years, the great agricultural valleys of California were devastated by drought. Due to population growth and climate instability, food and water security will become increasingly pressing and conflicted issues through this century.

For these reasons, the Peace River Valley is poised to play a far more important role in feeding Canadians.

But not if it's under water.

In the hierarchy of needs, food and water rank higher than electricity, which can be generated in many other ways:

2.

We are currently at a pivotal moment in the history of energy generation. Big dams are 20th century solutions to 21st century problems.

As the efficiency of wind and solar increases, along with the viability of tidal generation, the cost of manufacturing and integrating them is dropping rapidly. In this regard, Site C is a major step backward. It's not 1960 anymore, and BC is not a third world country.

Furthermore, we know a lot more about the importance of rivers to watershed ecosystems than we did in the hey-day of big dam-building, and BC is in a very strong position to learn from and apply those lessons.

Dams are extraordinarily disruptive, socially and environmentally. They are also colossally expensive - as we are discovering yet again with the current cost-overruns on this project, which are sure to grow.

For these reasons, the Peace River Valley is worth more alive than dammed.

Please consider BC's future and the ominous direction current trends are going with regard to food and water security.

Sincerely,

John Vaillant
Author of *The Golden Spruce*, etc.

Vancouver, BC