

Name: Andy Sinats

Organization: BC Environmental Network

Date: October 11, 2017

The 'ouch' factor of halting Site C dam is the several billions of dollars spent so far. Of course not all of the money is a loss as the taxes and increased economic benefit of that spending have generated a positive return to the Province. Had some of that effort been spent on installing geothermal power in some of BC's schools, hospitals, and public offices it would be providing a permanent benefit.

Where will Hydro find the energy to replace the 1.1 Gw of Site C? A sixth turbine in the Revelstoke dam is the obvious answer. Instead of waiting until 2024 that capacity could be online a year from now and would add half the Site C output without requiring new transmission line corridors. A floating solar array on the reservoir would increase the efficiency and increase the capacity even more.

The reclamation of the earth moving at Site C thus far can be repurposed for agriculture. Selling the ALR-excluded farmland back to farmers would help balance the accounts. The Peace Valley farmland that would be otherwise flooded needs to be repurposed to Agriculture. Canada needs a new Agricultural Research Station for the north to develop new crops for a changing climate. Dauphin, Manitoba has insolation and climate similar to that of Fort St. John. Manitoba is where most of the Hemp in Canada is grown. Hemp seed is the most lucrative crop in terms of return per acre and could be grown on land cleared by Hydro around the Peace River.

Lost opportunity is what we get if we continue with Site C, it should be stopped. Sunk Costs can not be recovered by spending more good money after bad. Corporations like Syncrude have written off billions of dollars for their projected upgrader rather than continuing a losing proposition, as has Petronas. BC Hydro has to stop spending BC ratepayer's money on Site C and redeploy resources to distributed energy sources and microgrids, instead of putting all its eggs into a vulnerable supergrid. Geothermal, wind, solar and conservation will reap a greater return and make a resilient infrastructure for BC. The days of top-down mega projects are over.