

October 11, 2017

British Columbia Utilities Commission, Site C Inquiry Panel

David Morton, Chair, and Commissioners Karen Keilty, Dennis Cote and Richard Mason

Dear Members of the Commission Panel:

Re: **Inquiry into the Site C Dam Project**

Thank you very much for taking the time to conduct this unbiased and long overdue (2nd) inquiry into the Site C Dam Project, and for allowing all British Columbian rate payers/tax payers a fair opportunity to share their concerns and comments.

I am the second of three generations in my family who have been strongly opposed this costly and unnecessary project, since the 1970's.

Though I am not, in any way, an expert on energy or economics, I have been following the development of this project for many years, trying my best to keep informed and up-to-date via credible resources and materials. I am very concerned that continuing the construction of the Site C Dam will spell economic suicide for British Columbians.

As a long-time resident of Charlie Lake, B.C. (Fort St. John community) I attended many of the B.C. Hydro public pre-consultation meetings, project definition consultation meetings, and open houses that were held for the public between 2007 and 2015. My family and I 'reluctantly' filled out B.C. Hydro's feedback forms that were offered to the attendees at some of those meetings. I use the word 'reluctantly' because many of the questions in their (B.C. Hydro's) surveys were obviously worded to manipulate the public into approving this project by exaggerating the 'add on benefits' of this project to the community, particularly in an economic sense, to gain public approval. They (B.C. Hydro) alluded to the promise of economic prosperity to many local residents in the forms of high paying jobs that would fulfill retirement dreams, 'lake front' property, recreational opportunities, money for major infrastructure improvements for the city of Fort St. John, a boom for all current local businesses (I've noticed many food and supply trucks coming and going from the site are from Alberta), public use of new access roads (short-cut to the nearest ski hill?!), etc. The list of illusions and lies goes on and on...

So far, in the past year and a half, I have learned that there are only a handful of actual 'locals' working at the Site C Project construction site (benefit a few at the expense of many), that there are many brand new, but vacant, condos, apartments and housing units that were recently built in Fort St. John; speculators who were fooled into thinking that people from all over would converge on this area and buy and settle here. Unfortunately, these companies and new comers were also victims of B.C. Hydro's (and former B.C. Government's) empty promises.

The justifications for Site C seem to have changed constantly; for years it was for 450,000 homes, which are hardly ever mentioned any more. The threat of 'living in the dark' without Site C faded away as well. Christy Clark's LNG illusion came and went, and the export potential is debatable and questionable.

I am very concerned for many vulnerable people in this province who are on fixed incomes (seniors, people on disabilities, minimum wage earners, double income families who are barely making ends meet to sustain their families' basic needs) as to how they will be affected by the 'trickle effect' if this Site C project should continue. In order for the rate payers/tax payers to pick up the tab for this expensive and unnecessary project, they will see endless increases in many of their day to day government regulated expenses like utilities (B.C. Hydro bills), ICBC premiums, MSP premiums, property taxes, and the many government permits that small business owners must comply with and pay in order to make a living and work toward a self-sufficient retirement. The monies collected from these Crown (tax payer owned) Corporations will go into the government treasuries and will be spent, as in the past, in ways that we have no say about.

People have unfairly criticized the farmers and landowners in the Peace River Valley for not utilizing the full potential of the Class 1 and 2 Agricultural Land for crop production. This is because there has been a dark cloud over the Valley since the 1950's called the 'Flood Reserve', imposed by B.C. Hydro for the potential flooding of the Valley. If this ridiculous, horrible threat was to be removed, there would finally be agricultural and economic prosperity in the Peace River Valley.

The unscrupulous ways that the two former B.C. Government leaders seemed to slip this project through should have raised 'red flags' for many as well. How was it that the B.C.U.C. and the A.L.C. were so easily and secretly dismissed with what seemed like an easy 'stroke of a pen'?? Maybe that same magic pen could be used to change the name of B.C. Hydro to 'B.C. Energy' and we could all finally move forward into the 21st century in terms of power alternatives.

There comes a time in everyone's life when mistakes and poor decisions, that will affect many others negatively, must be admitted and remediated in a timely manner; before more damage is done. The decision(s), for whatever reason(s), to 'announce that Site C is a done deal' and to 'push it past the point of no return' was reckless and irresponsible to say the least. It is now time for B.C. Hydro and the previous B.C. Government leaders and decisions makers, who played a critical role in this decision and process, to admit that the Site C Dam Project is nothing but a 'White Elephant' that we, the rate payers/tax payers of British Columbia do not need or want. The current new government of B.C. has a

huge job ahead of them to terminate this economic and environmental disaster (known as Site C Dam) and to move us into the modern day world with acceptable forms of energy and power.

My recommendations regarding the Site C Dam are to:

1. Terminate the Site C Dam Project.
2. Remove the Flood Reserve.
3. Change the name of B.C. Hydro to 'B.C. Energy'.

Thank you very much for allowing me this opportunity to submit my concerns and comments regarding this matter.

Kind Regards,

Wendy Crossland

Charlie Lake, B.C.

