

**BRITISH COLUMBIA UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE UTILITIES COMMISSION ACT**  
**R.S.B.C. 1996, CHAPTER 473**

**And**

**British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority**  
**British Columbia Utilities Commission Inquiry**  
**Respecting Site C**

**KELOWNA , B.C.**  
**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

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**COMMUNITY INPUT PROCEEDINGS**  
**KELOWNA**

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**BEFORE:**

<b>D.M. Morton,</b>	<b>Commision Chair/Panel Chair</b>
<b>D.A. Cote,</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
<b>K.A. Keilty,</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
<b>R.I. Mason,</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>

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**KELOWNA, B.C.**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 6:01 P.M.)**

1  
2  
3  
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening. Thank you for joining  
5 us as we embark on our two and a half weeks remaining  
6 of the Site C Inquiry Community Input sessions around  
7 the province. We started our scheduled sessions in  
8 Vancouver on Saturday and heard presentations in  
9 Kamloops last night. So far we've been very pleased  
10 both by the level of public interest and the effort  
11 that went into many of the presentations that we  
12 heard.

13 My name is Dave Morton and I'm the Panel  
14 Chair for this Site C Inquiry. I'm also the Chair of  
15 the British Columbia Utilities Commission. With me  
16 today are my fellow Site C Inquiry Panel members.  
17 There's Karen Keilty on my left and Richard Mason on  
18 my right.

19 These community input sessions are part of  
20 the second important phase of the Site C Inquiry. As  
21 you know, we spent the last six weeks collecting data  
22 and analysis from many parties that are interested in  
23 and affected by BC Hydro's Site C project. The  
24 quality of these submissions was commendable. Many  
25 people committed a great deal to producing a quality  
26 submission within the short time frame we provided.

1           And this affirms what we already know, that there are  
2           experts and affected parties who can bring us insight  
3           into the many complexities of evaluating the economic  
4           impact of the Site C project. We have the task of  
5           making findings in this inquiry and we recognize that  
6           are findings are better with your input.

7                        The Order in Council that directed us to  
8           inquire into this project specifically requires us to  
9           consider the cost implications on BC Hydro ratepayers  
10          of three scenarios: continuing the project,  
11          suspending the project, and terminating the project.  
12          And the suspending of the project consists of halting  
13          construction now and restarting the construction again  
14          in 2024. My Panel members and I recognize that there  
15          are many other implications of the project beyond cost  
16          implications. However, those implications are not  
17          within the scope of our inquiry.

18                       Considering this, we ask that in the  
19          interests of all parties in the room, you try to keep  
20          your submissions within the scope of our inquiry into  
21          Site C. The submissions made here today, as well as  
22          those made in writing, that are outside of the scope  
23          of our review, cannot be considered in our final  
24          report to government on November 1<sup>st</sup>. The scope of  
25          submissions during this phase of the inquiry is to  
26          provide feedback on our preliminary report. There's

1 copies of the Executive Summary at the entrance table,  
2 and the full report is available on our website or by  
3 making a request through our office if you don't have  
4 internet access.

5 I'd like to address just a couple of other  
6 housekeeping items. First of all you've met Mr.  
7 Bemister of Allwest Reporting. As he indicated, he's  
8 going to help us to organize the speakers and make  
9 sure that everybody finds their way up to the  
10 microphone. And his team is also recording and  
11 transcribing these sessions. Live audio will be  
12 streamed from our website, *SiteCInquiry.com*, and  
13 following these sessions all the presentations will be  
14 transcribed and posted, along with all the rest of the  
15 inquiry documents.

16 There's some tea and coffee at the back of  
17 the room. Please help yourself during the session.  
18 We're not going to have any formal breaks, or any  
19 scheduled breaks at least, so please feel free to come  
20 and go as you please, quietly, not to disrupt the  
21 session. The Panel will call a break however if we  
22 feel there is a need to.

23 For speakers, you'll see the list of  
24 speakers that appears on the screen in front of us and  
25 in front of you. When your name is within the next  
26 three to five speakers, please, as Hal asked you to,

1           come up to the front and he'll guide you from there.

2                     Other than stating your name, please  
3           refrain from including any personal information or  
4           confidential information in your submission.  
5           Everything you say will be a matter of public record,  
6           so please be conscious of not using any personal or  
7           confidential information. Please also refrain from  
8           using profane or offensive language in your  
9           presentation. If there is profane or offensive  
10          language or any other disruptive behaviour, it may  
11          result in the early close of this session.

12                    We ask that you try to limit your remarks  
13          to five minutes. There's a big timer up in front of  
14          us here. And when you've got 30 seconds remaining  
15          I'll try to remind you of that, so that you can frame  
16          some brief closing statement at that point.

17                    And if you've heard other speakers say what  
18          you are intending to say, you may wish to simply  
19          register your support of what they've said rather than  
20          presenting repetitive material, so that that doesn't  
21          cut into the time that you would need to tell us any  
22          other things that you would like to say.

23                    And finally, before beginning your  
24          presentation, please state your first name and spell  
25          your last name so that the people that are doing the  
26          transcribing can make sure that they get it correct

1 for the transcription record.

2 So with that we're ready to open this  
3 session in Kelowna, B.C. on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. And  
4 our first speaker and that's Mr. Paynter, I believe,  
5 please, if you could state your first name and spell  
6 your last name for the record, and please let us know  
7 what's on your mind.

8 **Proceeding Time 6:08 p.m. T2**

9 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. PAYNTER (#0052):**

10 MR. PAYNTER: Farlie Paynter, P-A-Y-N-T-E-R. I wasn't  
11 sure about the -- if it was all going to be about  
12 economic part of it, but anyway I think it all --  
13 everything affects economics. First of all I'd like  
14 to say that if people haven't watch a movie, a video  
15 called *About Yellowstone National Park* and the  
16 reintroducing of wolves there, everything we do in  
17 every way affects everything else. So they when  
18 introduced wolves into Yellowstone National Park, it  
19 changed the whole ecology of that whole system.

20 So I think that when we build dams we  
21 should consider the huge heat sink effect on winter  
22 temperatures and summer temperatures, and the grain  
23 growers, they were saying maybe they can't grow wheat  
24 any more. They might end up growing turnips and  
25 potatoes instead of wheat because of the cooler  
26 summers. So, but there's many effects to building a

1 dam, and we know that unless we consider all of them  
2 we are in danger of making mistakes and errors in  
3 everything we do.

4 And I think even with the cutting of our  
5 forests has reduced the rainfall so much so that maybe  
6 our dams won't be filling up like they used to,  
7 because we all -- we know that trees attract moisture,  
8 and if we're cutting too many trees we're not going to  
9 have enough water to fill our dams. We know the  
10 flooding this year was caused by lack of shade by a  
11 lot of the clear-cutting. So we know everything we do  
12 in British Columbia affects not only all the people  
13 but everything else going on in our environment. So  
14 it's really important that we consider all these  
15 factors, especially what we do to nature.

16 My studies a little bit have come from just  
17 what I've heard, so, but I know that we -- most of us  
18 knew there was a danger in privatizing the hydro and  
19 the -- you know, in 2015 we paid independent power  
20 producers 17 and a half million supposedly to not to  
21 produce any power. So we have a lot to learn  
22 considering what we're doing, and independent power  
23 producers may not have been the best way to go. But  
24 we know, after studying say the annual general report  
25 from say 2012, BC Hydro can produce power at a quarter  
26 of a cent a kilowatt. So, and we're charged over 10

1 cents a kilowatt. So we're trying to figure out  
2 what's happening to our utility here, because it's  
3 owned by British Columbia, even though we've sold off  
4 part of the transmission part. We have to be -- the  
5 people have to be more connected with what's going on,  
6 I think, and take more interest, and it's our problem  
7 that we have this problem maybe right now, is we  
8 haven't been on top of what BC Hydro has been doing.  
9 So it's up to each one of us to try to figure out what  
10 can we do.

11 There has been reports that maybe we could  
12 take power instead of cash to do with the Columbia  
13 River Treaty. That's an idea that has been mentioned.  
14 I don't know how valid that is. Also, have we ever  
15 looked into modernizing the dams, the pens -- adding  
16 penstocks, or making the generators more efficient?

17 And I was also wondering, I've checked into  
18 free energy. One of my interests is free energy and  
19 new energy, and we know a lot of good work is being  
20 done and they're replicating Tesla's technology now,  
21 and the top is high voltage DC power. And people are  
22 duplicating that right now and they're able to do  
23 that. So we have to look into all of these things, I  
24 think, and try to search into more answers that will  
25 keep our hydro rates as low as possible in the future.  
26 So, but I'm very much against continuing this project

1 at all and I think it should be terminated and  
2 terminated as quickly as we can. I think it's very  
3 important that we do terminate it.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

5 **Proceeding Time 6:14 p.m. T3**

6 Mr. Vulcano.

7 MR. VULCANO: Good evening, panel. Thank you for letting  
8 me speak.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

10 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. VULCANO (#0053):**

11 MR. VULCANO: In the report, it was mentioned that First  
12 Nation communities have interest in solar heating.  
13 And other residents would like it as well. Mentioned  
14 as a way of creating electricity from wind or solar,  
15 but there's not a distinguishing how solar can produce  
16 heat much more efficiently than could electricity.

17 About one-quarter electrical domestic usage  
18 is for heating. Much of this could be replaced with  
19 solar heating systems. Unfortunately due to the  
20 rarity of those pursuing this line of savings  
21 installation is just about the same as the cost of the  
22 system, roughly 5,000 each.

23 Example, the only installer in the Interior  
24 of northern B.C. is located in Williams Lake, so a  
25 large part of the expense is travel and accommodation.  
26 If multiple installations were encouraged by BC Hydro,

1           then the installation costs could be reduced to \$1,000  
2           per unit, plus per-unit material costs would likely be  
3           reduced.

4                       Perhaps the Commission requests BC Hydro  
5           provide an estimate of savings of electrical needs if  
6           many more housing places have solar heating systems.

7                       There are a number of costs completing the  
8           Site C project that don't seem to be considered. They  
9           are related to violating rights and taking away  
10          benefits upstream and downstream from the project.  
11          Please refer to page 7 of 121 of the preliminary  
12          report, which mentions the Commission Panel is not  
13          going to concern itself whether consultations are  
14          adequate. It should. Or at least it should consider  
15          the consequences, the costs if the consultations are  
16          not adequate. There will be a right to sue, and  
17          possibly undo the project.

18                      The possibility of decommissioning the  
19          project is already mentioned in page 85 of 121 of the  
20          report. The *Delgamuukw* decision of 1997 was that  
21          consultation had to be meaningful. They did not  
22          define "meaningful". Meaningful is when the consulted  
23          party says it's meaningful.

24                      Think of the transportation part. Holding  
25          a public meeting, discuss an intersection, and asking  
26          preferences. Then they build a costly detour when the

1 large majority of participants favoured a traffic  
2 light.

3 The purpose of the transportation session  
4 was to convince residents of the costly detour, and  
5 failing that they claimed they had consultations.  
6 Having a number of token consultations does not make  
7 it meaningful but it could be termed adequate in that  
8 there is recognition the consulting party isn't going  
9 to accommodate the consulted party.

10 There is a tendency among consulting  
11 parties to host many meetings, for which they are paid  
12 to attend. The consulted parties are not. In  
13 claiming they've had many consultations, which they  
14 are implying are adequate. After dozens or years of  
15 such meaningless consultations, the consulted parties  
16 decline to participate any more. The government  
17 agency then declares that there are no more  
18 objections.

19 I have noted this occurred as a member of  
20 the working group on the proposed offshore Hecate  
21 Strait wind farm, where B.C. Environment allowed  
22 approval account -- opponents gave up saying the same  
23 thing over and over, and getting the run-around. A  
24 panel such as yourselves would be mistaken to think  
25 that because there were many consultations, that they  
26 were adequate, when they were meaningless.

1                   Synonyms for "meaningful" include  
2                   "significant", "relevant", "important",  
3                   "consequential", "valid", "worthwhile", "sincere",  
4                   "serious". The word "adequate" is not included.

5                   The need for meaningful consultation  
6                   illustrates that some years down the road the decision  
7                   to go ahead without acceptance in non-ceded, non-  
8                   treaty territory is going to have consequences. It  
9                   may take 50 years, like it did for the First Nations  
10                  affected by the Bennett dam, who still do not have  
11                  consistent electrical delivery, as noted in the B.C.  
12                  rate hearings.

13                  But it would be a cost to both deal with  
14                  the matter through the justice system and then  
15                  possibly a financial reward decided by the court, and  
16                  possibly undoing the damage inappropriately caused  
17                  through pushing through an ill-advised project. So  
18                  there is a cost associated with the plan of action  
19                  proceeding.

20                  That is just the cost to be aware of in  
21                  British Columbia. Downstream in Alberta, in the  
22                  Northwest Territories, there will be repercussions of  
23                  changes in the water temperature, affecting fish  
24                  habitat, and river flows that will affect the  
25                  livelihood and recreational endeavours, not just those  
26                  of the Peace River but also Lake Athabasca and the

1 Slave River. Communities along those water bodies  
2 have only recently recognized and are still realizing  
3 the extent of the detrimental effects of the Bennett  
4 dam. What consideration has been given to these costs  
5 down the years, or dealing with claims and possible  
6 lawsuits from those communities and recreational  
7 users?

8 Mikisew Cree have voiced some concern, as  
9 noted in page 85 of 121 of the preliminary report.  
10 There are others who may not have had the same  
11 resource as Mikisew Cree, such as Duncan First Nation  
12 near Brownsville, Alberta, and recreational boating  
13 and fishing users.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Volcano, I'm sorry to interrupt,  
15 but we're getting close to the end of your time, so --

16 MR. VOLCANO: Well, I would have done on time, if you  
17 hadn't interrupted me.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

19 MR. VOLCANO: Alberta has almost as many anglers, 200,000  
20 plus, as British Columbia. Thank you.

21 **Proceeding Time 6:19 p.m. T4**

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Marshall.

23 MS. MARSHALL: Good evening.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

25 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. MARSHALL (#0054):**

26 MS. MARSHALL: My name is Teresa Marshall, and I speak as

1 a concerned British Columbian. I was fortunate to  
2 grow up here on unceded Sinixt territory, and I  
3 currently live in Kelowna. I come from a family of  
4 loggers, ranchers, journalists, and dam-builders and,  
5 yes, conversations can get pretty intense around our  
6 dinner table, but that's the beauty of life in B.C.

7 My daughter is in the sixth generation of  
8 our settler family to live here in the northwest.  
9 Immigrants fleeing poverty and dust bowls who haven't  
10 always acknowledged who they were running over on  
11 their way to a better future. My great-great-  
12 grandparents were French-Canadian lumberjacks who  
13 settled along the lower Columbia River in the late  
14 1800s. My family name comes from my Swiss/French  
15 great-grandfather, *Makashou*. He also came west in the  
16 1800s, lured by visions of gold. He missed the gold  
17 rush and ended up a poor barber.

18 One of the first lessons my dad, a forester  
19 and a rancher, taught me was the colonial concept of  
20 claiming water rights. He also taught me the life-  
21 sustaining meaning of watershed, and that our first  
22 responsibility is to the local watershed where we  
23 live. For my family here in the Okanagan and  
24 Kootenays, that means being part of the greater  
25 Columbia River watershed.

26 As British Columbians dependent on the food

1 that is grown, the water that flows, and the  
2 electricity we use in this province, that definition  
3 of "watershed" necessarily expands to include the  
4 Peace River. We all live downstream these days.

5 It's from this understanding of  
6 responsibility, this obligation, that I speak to you  
7 this evening. With this Site C review, you have been  
8 given the utmost responsibility to represent and  
9 protect the interests of the people, waters, and lands  
10 of B.C. now and for future generations. I ask you to  
11 consider the lessons of the Columbia River dams. The  
12 mighty Columbia River that once flowed freely through  
13 southeastern B.C. has been transformed into a series  
14 of massive bathtubs of dead water. These waters are,  
15 in large part, released at U.S. demand to create  
16 electricity, to light up Disneyland, and power the  
17 vast server farms of Google and Facebook.

18 It's a myth that water erases all in its  
19 path. Indeed, the opposite happens. Water carries  
20 traces of all things it touches, and when water is  
21 confined, caged, dammed, it becomes sluggish,  
22 overheated, and sterile, robbed of its life force. My  
23 uncle was an engineer on Grand Coulee Dam. No salmon  
24 have returned to the Kootenays, headwaters of the  
25 Columbia, since Coulee Dam was built, almost 80 years  
26 ago. One of the greatest salmon runs in the world,

1 destroyed.

2 The Sinixt people of the Arrow Lakes were  
3 conveniently declared extinct by the Canadian  
4 government. Reparations have never been made.

5 B.C.'s *Water Sustainability Act* implemented  
6 in 2016 failed to recognize indigenous title and  
7 jurisdiction to watersheds, or recognize, as the  
8 United Nations did in 2010, that water is a human  
9 right, or reaffirm water as a public trust and common  
10 good that cannot be privately owned or controlled. It  
11 seems obvious. Apologies are hollow without sincere  
12 action. Real reconciliation requires full recognition  
13 of First Nations rights to land and self-governance.  
14 Treaty 8 nations have yet to be accorded meaningful  
15 consultation. A recent UN panel called for Site C to  
16 be cancelled on these grounds.

17 The deliberate erasure of indigenous  
18 people, their voices and history, is hallmark  
19 colonialism. Makes it easier for governments and  
20 corporations to remain unaccountable. We must not  
21 repeat this mistake by allowing Site C dam to go  
22 ahead. The costs already expended are little compared  
23 to compounding damaging social and economic apartheid  
24 and dirty resource extraction for centuries more.

25 You have numerous studies that expose BC  
26 Hydro's inflated cost estimates for alternative energy

1 sources to serve future demand, plus its under-  
2 estimation of conservation measures and reduced  
3 reliance on polluting LNG coal and gas if we are to  
4 meet targets to curb climate change.

5 One question that begs to be answered: why  
6 has BC Hydro ignored investment in portable low-impact  
7 tidal power generation?

8 I urge you to consider that around the  
9 world today from Ecuador to India to New Zealand,  
10 rivers are being granted rights akin to human rights.  
11 I count on your courage, your commitment, to ensure  
12 the long-term benefits of not building the costly Site  
13 C dam, of upholding First Nations' rights, preventing  
14 mercury poisoning of fish, and of conserving rich  
15 farmland to feed at least one million British  
16 Columbians each year. We must stand together as water  
17 protectors for a sustainable future for all.

18 Thank you.

19 **Proceeding Time 6:24 p.m. T5**

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ms. Marshall.

21 Mr. Cawley. Go ahead, please, sir.

22 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. CAWLEY (#0055):**

23 MR. CAWLEY: Okay, thank you. John Cawley, C-A-W-L-E-Y.

24 And my background is in utilities, from England  
25 originally. Moved here into Kelowna in 2003.

26 I worked in Drax power station in England.

1       It was a 4,000 megawatt coal-fired power station. It  
2       was dirty, disgusting, hot, responsible for a lot of  
3       pollution, acid rain. I come to Canada and I'm  
4       working in the hydroelectric dams. A big breath of  
5       fresh air. Work for FortisBC as a maintenance  
6       engineer in their substations. So I've spent about 30  
7       years in utilities.

8                Before I decided -- well, or 25 years  
9       before I decided to set my own company up, Resolution  
10       Electric, which is tasked at trying to integrate  
11       energy from solar resources into utility aspects. And  
12       what that impacts.

13               So, interestingly enough, Canada is in the  
14       top five countries of highest use of electricity per  
15       capita. So it turns out that us -- we Canadians are  
16       very energy-hungry. We're so much energy-hungry,  
17       we're 20 percent more energy-hungry than the United  
18       States. We all expect electricity.

19               So what I tried to do was look at how we  
20       could use solar energy and integrate it into  
21       utilities. My home has got an 8 kilowatt solar PV  
22       system on. It has a 50-tube evacuated tube solar  
23       thermal system to heat hot water and provide space  
24       heating. It has reduced my gigawatt -- or, gigajoule  
25       from 135, 134 gigajoules of energy to run my home  
26       year-round, to approximately 81 gigajoules. So quite

1 a significant saving.

2 In terms of value in savings in energy, I  
3 was spending about \$2800 a year in utility bills. Now  
4 I'm spending between \$500 and \$750 a year in gas and  
5 electric.

6 So there's some real good savings and  
7 benefits for integrated systems. However, solar is  
8 not a firm generation. And I get very little output  
9 from my system in the winter-time. And so, what  
10 happens is, I provide all my electricity and hot water  
11 for about nine to ten months of the year, and then  
12 when the winter comes, I am demanding my energy from a  
13 utility.

14 So from a point of view of Site C, we all  
15 are going to need energy -- more energy in the future.  
16 Canada has approximately 30 to 32 million people  
17 living in Canada. China has 1.3 billion people, and  
18 we use four times as much electricity than China. And  
19 we have approximately 9 percent -- nine times more  
20 water than China.

21 So our population will grow eventually in  
22 Canada, and we will become more and more of a lifeboat  
23 for the world. Site C will go ahead one day. Whether  
24 it needs to go ahead in ten years' time, that's due to  
25 demand and a lot of complicated factors. But the  
26 reality of it is, battery technology, solar

1           technology, will get there, and integrated energy grid  
2           internet will get there.

3                       But from a point of view of electricity  
4           supply, clean, renewable resource, I believe Site C  
5           should still go ahead. Thank you.

6   **Proceeding Time 6:29 p.m. T8**

7   THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

8   MR. STEVENSON: I'm Bruce Stevenson. I don't know what  
9           happened to the other Kerr fellow, but --

10   MR. KERR: I'm here.

11   MR. STEVENSON: Oh, you're supposed to come up to this --  
12           go ahead.

13   **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. PETER KERR (#0056):**

14   MR. KERR: Okay. Thank you.

15                       My name is Peter Kerr. I'm a member of  
16           Amnesty International's Group 161 Kelowna, and I will  
17           speak about how the environmental impact of the Site C  
18           dam affects indigenous people.

19                       When looking at the cost of building the  
20           dam, we have to include environmental and cultural  
21           damage. This damage may not have clear dollar figures  
22           but has a huge impact so that any inquiry made without  
23           incorporating this information would be incomplete.

24                       The Peace River area has unique  
25           significance to the indigenous peoples there. An  
26           independent environmental assessment conducted for the

1 federal and provincial governments concluded the dam  
2 would severely undermine the ability of indigenous  
3 people to carry out crucial cultural and economic  
4 practices such as hunting and fishing. A group of  
5 Canadian academics who reviewed the assessment  
6 concluded that the number and scope of harms  
7 identified by the assessment was unprecedented in the  
8 history of environmental assessment in Canada.

9           Though no indigenous communities are  
10 located within the planned flood zone, they rely on  
11 the valley to hunt, fish, trap, and gather berries and  
12 plant medicines which provide many of the basic needs  
13 of their families and communities while maintaining  
14 and revitalizing cultures and traditions that have  
15 been undermined and attacked throughout Canada's  
16 history. Roland Willson, chief of the West Moberly  
17 First Nation, says of the Peace River valley,  
18 "Everything we need is here."

19           The valley is prime habitat for moose  
20 critical to the traditional diet of indigenous peoples  
21 in the region, and for bears and eagles that have  
22 cultural and sacred significance. The Site C dam  
23 would flood a series of small islands where moose take  
24 shelter when calving.

25           Dene Zha elder Lillian Gauthier says she  
26 could live without electric lights and a fridge, but

1 she'd be lost if her family could no longer hunt  
2 moose. She says that's what we've lived on as long as  
3 I can remember. Now 76, she grew up at West Moberly  
4 and recalls her mother teaching her how to trap when  
5 she was ten. She dries meat on a rack, makes  
6 moccasins and other clothing from moose hide, and  
7 beads them in elaborate traditional designs. She told  
8 Amnesty International how her whole extended family  
9 would go out on the land for weeks at a time to hunt  
10 and to preserve the meat and hides. Time together on  
11 the land reinforces family bonds, providing the  
12 opportunity to pass skills and knowledge to the next  
13 generation.

14 Today the place where Lillian's family  
15 camps has been destroyed by logging. She says berry  
16 patches are hard to find. The springs and streams  
17 that provide drinking water for people have become  
18 contaminated or have dried up entirely. Moose have  
19 become scarce. She blames these changes on the  
20 massive scale of resource development in the region  
21 and on the pressures from the rapidly-growing  
22 population of non-indigenous people who have been  
23 drawn to the region by industry. She worries that the  
24 additional impact of the Site C dam could be harm than  
25 the land and her people can handle.

26 The Peace River valley is part of an

1 important wildlife corridor stretching from the  
2 interior of B.C. and Alberta north to the Yukon.  
3 Elders recall that moose, fish, ducks, geese, and wild  
4 berries were abundant when they grew up, and that good  
5 hunters could afford to share what they harvested with  
6 the whole community.

7 The Bennett Dam's large reservoir cut off  
8 animal migration routes and is blamed for the drowning  
9 deaths of hundreds of moose and caribou. There are  
10 also ongoing unresolved concerns about mercury  
11 contamination in the reservoir. A study commissioned  
12 by West Moberly First Nations found that virtually all  
13 the trout caught by the community on one of the rivers  
14 flowing into the Williston reservoir had mercury  
15 contamination above provincial health guidelines.  
16 They believe this contamination is because of the  
17 construction of the Bennett Dam a half-century  
18 earlier.

19 In the case of Site C, methylmercury  
20 released by flooding could also make fish unsafe to  
21 eat for at least 20 years. The dam also could  
22 jeopardize migration of the threatened bull trout,  
23 which is of particular cultural importance. In 2016  
24 BC Hydro, which built and operates the Bennett Dam,  
25 opened a public display there, acknowledging the harm  
26 done to First Nations. Speaking at the opening, a BC

1 Hydro spokesperson said that the utility deeply  
2 regrets those impacts and "we commit that we will not  
3 repeat the mistakes of the past."

4 The Peace River valley is particular  
5 important because it is close to a number of First  
6 Nations communities and is the most pristine natural  
7 area within easy reach of them. Many of the other  
8 areas that remain relatively intact are much more  
9 remote and so difficult for community members,  
10 especially elders and youth, to access.

11 The rights of indigenous people to harvest  
12 wild foods and practice their customs throughout their  
13 broader traditional territories are recognized in  
14 historic treaties between indigenous peoples and the  
15 state, in the Canadian *Constitution* and its  
16 interpretation by Canadian courts, and in  
17 international human rights law. However, a half-  
18 century of intensive resource development in northeast  
19 B.C. has meant that there are fewer and fewer places  
20 left where this is possible.

21 The recommendations to federal and  
22 provincial governments publicly acknowledge that given  
23 the seriousness of the harms identified in the  
24 environmental impact statement, the project should  
25 proceed only on the basis of the free, prior, and  
26 informed consent of affected indigenous peoples.

1 Thank you.

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

3 **Proceeding Time 6:34 p.m. T7**

4 Mr. Stevenson.

5 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. STEVENSON (#0057):**

6 MR. STEVENSON: Okay. Bruce Stevenson, S-T-E-V-E-N-S-O-  
7 N. I am an electronics engineering technologist, and  
8 a strong proponent of wind power. With our coastline  
9 and constant wind, there is no need to flood farmland,  
10 indigenous territory, hunting grounds and so on.

11 Vertical access wind turbines have  
12 increased in efficiency 39 percent over the last two  
13 years, due to recent engineering changes. The Muskrat  
14 Falls -- I know you don't want to talk about finances,  
15 but the Muskrat Falls boondoggle is, like, three times  
16 over budget already. So, you know, estimates -- I've  
17 worked in large projects and, you know, you make an  
18 estimate and then you double it and then you put it  
19 out there, and it still ends up costing more.

20 So I'm kind of an engineering guy, so I'll  
21 just do point form here, okay? Not to rattle on.

22 If you use wind generation in B.C., we have  
23 a distinct advantage. Throughout Europe and so on,  
24 there is no place to store that energy except for  
25 massively expensive battery banks. But here, you use  
26 the wind generation for main generation, which means

1       you're not drawing down the water in reservoirs behind  
2       the dams, and you use that as your backup power  
3       source. So it's a simple way to store energy, by just  
4       not using the water behind the other dams.

5                Okay. So some concerns on wind generation  
6       is the number of bird kills. There was a study done  
7       in 2011 of 3,000 installed wind turbines in Canada,  
8       and they found that there were 23,000 birds killed due  
9       to these wind turbines. Now, it sounds like a lot,  
10      but you compare that -- there are also 200,000,000  
11      killed by cats in the same year, and 25,000,000 by  
12      hitting buildings. So, totally insignificant as far  
13      as bird kills.

14              Another option that we use here in Kelowna  
15      is the methane from the dump, is actually piped and  
16      burned to generate electricity, which is put into the  
17      FortisBC grids. So if you use that method down in  
18      Vancouver, I'm sure that would generate a fair bit of  
19      power.

20              So all these options are much closer to the  
21      user than building a generating station up at the very  
22      top of the province where hardly anybody lives, and  
23      taking it on energy-losing wires - we haven't got to  
24      that point where we got zero resistance in wires - we  
25      lose 10, 15 percent of the energy generated just  
26      getting it down to the Lower Mainland. So if you



1 effectively protected.

2 Recommendations to the federal governmental  
3 alone with respect to decision making, that they  
4 collaborate with indigenous peoples to implement a  
5 comprehensive reform of *Canadian Environmental Act*  
6 *2012*, and of related laws and policies to ensure that  
7 in future decisions about resource development, (a)  
8 indigenous peoples have a say in the design of  
9 assessments concerning their rights; (b) where  
10 indigenous peoples have developed their own systems of  
11 assessment and decision making, these systems are  
12 recognized and supported; and (b) [*sic*] that no  
13 decisions are made that are contrary to Canada's legal  
14 obligations toward indigenous peoples as set out in  
15 treaties, the *Canadian Constitution*, and international  
16 human rights law. For example, the *UN Declaration on*  
17 *the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, which was endorsed  
18 by Canada in 2010 and asked to be implemented last  
19 year, and which sets out minimum global standards for  
20 the survival, dignity and well-being of indigenous  
21 peoples.

22 The *UN Declaration* generally calls on  
23 states to do much more than consult with indigenous  
24 peoples. It also calls on the state to collaborate  
25 with them. When there is a risk of serious harm the  
26 *UN Declaration* and other international human rights

1 standards generally recognize that projects such as  
2 dams, mines, and other resource developments go ahead  
3 only if the affected peoples grant their free, prior  
4 and informed consent. Regarding consultation of First  
5 Nations by the province of B.C. Chief Roland Willson  
6 said, "Their definition on consultation and ours of  
7 completely different." In a published interview about  
8 the Site C dam, the West Moberly First Nations Chief  
9 said, "We believe consultation is a dialogue, where  
10 they listen and we listen. They take into  
11 consideration and make accommodations for our rights.  
12 What happened in this process is they had already made  
13 their decision and then came to us and told us what it  
14 was. We asked them to amend it, they said, No." Then  
15 they went on to go forward with that decision.

16 The *UN Declaration* and other international  
17 standards allow for the balancing of rights among  
18 indigenous peoples and between indigenous and non-  
19 indigenous peoples. Accordingly, the requirement to  
20 free, prior and informed consent is not absolute.  
21 However, governments that seek to limit or restrict  
22 the rights of indigenous peoples must meet a very high  
23 standard of justification in keeping with the risk of  
24 serious harm.

25 Before an exception to the general  
26 requirement of free, prior and informed consent can

1 even be considered there must be a compelling and  
2 objective rationale. Alternatives for achieving this  
3 objective must be fully explored and any harmful  
4 impact must be minimized. And care must be taken to  
5 ensure that benefits to some are not outweighed by  
6 harm to others. In Amnesty International's view the  
7 Site C dam does not meet any part of this test.

8 Thank you very much.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

10 **Proceeding Time 6:42 p.m. T9**

11 Please go ahead. Thank you.

12 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. NEDELEC (#0059):**

13 MS. NEDELEC: We are meeting today on unceded Sinixt  
14 territory. My name is Ann-Marie N-E-D-E-L-E-C, and I  
15 am a member of Amnesty International, Kelowna.

16 My report is on the extremely negative  
17 effect this mega-project has on First Nations women  
18 and girls, but especially on non-indigenous men  
19 working there. Along with the hydro company, they are  
20 allowed to violently bully.

21 In my opinion and Amnesty International's,  
22 this Site C must stop immediately, never to be  
23 reconsidered, both for economic and social reasons  
24 which prove to be inseparable. As many have told the  
25 past B.C. government, the dam will cost the public  
26 more than it will ever bring in. More importantly, it

1 will damage the lives of all of us and for some it  
2 will cause death.

3 The lives that it endangers are not just  
4 First Nations women and children. It is also other  
5 women and girls who have to live with these men who  
6 have been allowed to be so violent. It is also those  
7 men themselves who end up frustrated, self-loathing,  
8 and increasingly suicidal. Site C dam project only  
9 adds to an already existing economic social problem  
10 here in B.C. According to 2015 government statistics  
11 indigenous women and girls across Canada are at least  
12 three times more likely to experience violence than  
13 other women, and at least six times more likely to be  
14 murdered.

15 Because the gulf of mistrust between  
16 indigenous communities and the police leads to under-  
17 reporting of crimes against indigenous people, because  
18 police often fail to accurately record when victims  
19 of crime are indigenous, and because the crime  
20 statistics exclude unsolved missing-person cases and  
21 suspicious death where indigenous women are also over-  
22 represented, it is likely that threats faced by  
23 indigenous women and girls are even much greater than  
24 acknowledged.

25 A 2004 Amnesty International report called  
26 "Stolen Sisters" concluded that both police and

1 government have long been aware of these patterns of  
2 violence, but all too often fail to take adequate or  
3 appropriate action. The report specifically referred  
4 to the failure to address underlying factors putting  
5 indigenous women and girls at risk, including economic  
6 and social marginalization, discrimination, and  
7 inadequate access to safe, affordable housing. Large  
8 numbers of indigenous male -- non-indigenous male  
9 workers have been brought into the Peace River region.  
10 Their high wages have driven up local prices,  
11 including child care, medical services, and as I have  
12 just mentioned housing.

13 Studies by the Saint John's Women's  
14 Resource Society have raised concerns about the impact  
15 of the dam on women's safety. For many women, a  
16 combination of low or no wages and the high cost of  
17 living can create a dangerous dependency on a male  
18 partner with access to higher resource industry wages.  
19 The tens of thousands of men who pass through the  
20 region for short-term employment predictably include  
21 some threats to women's safety. These dangers are  
22 accentuated by a high stress work culture which often  
23 includes binge drinking and drug abuse in between work  
24 shifts.

25 One example, Lynn Gauthier, who was  
26 brutally murdered by her spouse in 2000 after a long

1 history of domestic violence. Her spouse had come to  
2 the region to work in the construction industry. The  
3 murder of Lynn Gauthier is one of many accounts of  
4 murder, disappearances, and violent attacks on women  
5 shared within Amnesty International during research  
6 visits in northeastern B.C. in 2015 and '16. These  
7 stories include accounts of domestic violence as well  
8 as negative encounters with strangers that range from  
9 aggressive harassment to brutally violent violence,  
10 including unsolicited offers of drugs and monies for  
11 sex, attempts to coerce them into vehicles with groups  
12 of men, sexual assault, and gang rapes. This mirrors  
13 the violent assault on nature which the Site C dam is,  
14 with the damaged men who perform that destruction.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Ma'am, we're getting close to the end  
16 of your time. If you could start to summarize,  
17 please.

18 MS. NEDELEC: Okay. Okay.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

20 MS. NEDELEC: In summary I would say the Site C is B.C.'s  
21 most striking example of an industrial governmental  
22 mega-project which combines environmental destruction  
23 and anti-democratic decision-making process. And  
24 economic illusions with our social tragedy.

25 Thank you.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

1 **Proceeding Time 6:47 p.m. T10**

2 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. LEINEMANN (#0060):**

3 MR. LEINEMANN: Hi there. My name is Rob Leinemann, L-E-  
4 I-N-E-M-A-N-N. I'm going to be a nice short one for  
5 you guys here.

6 Been looking through the report and I'm  
7 just -- I'm purely here economically as a taxpayer.  
8 I'm just worrying about what this is going to happen  
9 and how it's going to affect me and my family.

10 Talk of delaying the project, if you delay  
11 it until 2024, what's it going to cost them to finish  
12 it? Is it going to be 20 billion, 30 billion?

13 And the other thing I didn't see in the  
14 reports as well, and I don't need these answers right  
15 now, I just want to make sure that they're included.  
16 What's the value of the signed contracts, guaranteed  
17 contracts, that these companies have, and what's it  
18 going to cost to break them? Because I know they're  
19 out there, and I haven't seen that in this.

20 There's a big push for solar, and I'm a big  
21 proponent of it. But there's one thing to remember  
22 about solar is where they're manufactured. And  
23 because they're manufactured overseas, a lot of stuff  
24 gets swept under the rug about the poison that it's  
25 creating there. So we're worrying about here, but you  
26 also have to remember what's happening, where they're

1 being manufactured. The manufacturing process of them  
2 is not a clean process, as well as the batteries that  
3 go along with them.

4 Just think back to compact fluorescents,  
5 how everybody thought they were such a great thing to  
6 save power, and they're full of mercury. And then  
7 everyone threw them in the landfills and everywhere,  
8 and now there's mercury everywhere as well.

9 So, just bear in mind that nothing is  
10 completely clean, and I personally am a proponent of  
11 this project. Hydro power in my mind is one of the  
12 cleanest sources of energy in the world.

13 So, thank you for your time.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

15 **Proceeding Time 6:49 p.m. T11**

16 Please go ahead, sir.

17 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. KMET (#0061):**

18 MR. KMET: Good day. My name is Wes Kmet, last name K-M-  
19 E-T. I obviously should have done better homework,  
20 but I will sort of skip around in my sort of messy  
21 notes that I did very quickly in preparation.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: That's fine, sir.

23 MR KMET: I'm a farm kid, so I kind of value the land,  
24 and all the animals, and fauna, and the indigenous  
25 that --all kinds of great speakers spoke about the  
26 value of what we have in B.C. And whenever I look at

1 a lot of these projects -- I'm also part of what some  
2 of the people who've spoken -- with a film festival.  
3 And we've shown films here at the college which talks  
4 about a lot of the dams that are being knocked down  
5 again because of the damage and all the history and  
6 all of that.

7 I'm very much against this dam because we  
8 obviously have heard arguments -- both good arguments  
9 on both sides and so I just boil it down to if we're  
10 really so unsure about all of this and when we  
11 consider or don't consider the value of the valuable  
12 land, the indigenous damage. I mean, the talk about  
13 the damage to the people in the area and the people  
14 traipsing up. We have Fort McMurray as an example of  
15 sort of the raping and pillaging and whatever else  
16 that goes on with these projects.

17 As an activist as well I, you know, I get  
18 involved in lots of projects and we have to make a lot  
19 of changes in our world and this is part of the old  
20 thinking of, you know, big projects and we're going  
21 to, you know, have all kinds of jobs, and wealth, and  
22 maybe no debt, and all this kind of BS that's been  
23 told to us. And we've bought into a lot of  
24 international sort of capitalism that's really not  
25 very good for our people, and our land, and everything  
26 else, our air and every other thing.

1                   So in my mind I think obviously we are all  
2 living closer to urban areas so we need to bring our  
3 energy projects, however we do it. There's obviously  
4 a lot of smart people. It was an interesting  
5 connection about the idea of then the panels and the  
6 various materials coming from places that may have  
7 some bad products in there. But, again, that's why we  
8 need to have better politicians spend more time as to  
9 who we hire and not buy in to a lot of the BS that  
10 we're told and promised and some of these kinds of  
11 things. So I know I'm a little off topic, but I'm  
12 going to be talking about economics.

13                   But literally we have gone and ignored  
14 aboriginal rights. We have gone and not -- ignored  
15 the price of the damage to our world in every aspect.  
16 All the roads, and millions of transmission lines, and  
17 all of these kinds of things. The damage to our  
18 flora, fauna, and animals is just incredible. As well  
19 as the dam itself is the third dam in the area or on  
20 the river, and it's got, like was mentioned before, it  
21 has ramifications all the way up to the Northwest  
22 Territories and everywhere.

23                   So obviously there's all these costs to  
24 doing something, whatever it is, there's always some  
25 impact. But I think our energy needs and our  
26 development, you know, will change and we should be

1 pushing for much more change because the way we're  
2 doing things economically in the past has just shown  
3 us that we're not very smart and not very swift in how  
4 we're doing things.

5 So obviously we have a new government here  
6 in B.C. They will be looking at the economics very  
7 carefully and I think they're prone -- they obviously  
8 are challenged in a sense because there's union  
9 people. Although the project may not have that many  
10 union people to throw in all kinds of kitchen sink  
11 items into the whole deliberation process. But I just  
12 really worry that, you know, the valuable land, it's  
13 unbelievable the price of how we could feed a million  
14 people up in there. With climate change and how our  
15 province is going to change in the next 10, 20, 50  
16 years, that's invaluable that land that's up there.  
17 And already we're losing land everywhere with  
18 development and all the other things that we're sort  
19 of doing, you know, not so well in our so-called  
20 running to build and blah, blah, blah.

21 So I see we've got half an hour -- or  
22 thirty minutes -- thirty seconds I mean. So the  
23 billions of dollars that can be saved can go into  
24 incentives to do more solar, or doing grids, or all  
25 kinds of things and/or just going into the needs of  
26 our people in B.C. We have so many needs that we then

1 have to take money from elsewhere in the budget to do  
2 the policing and all the other things that we need to  
3 do. And as well as we can train all kinds of people.

4 In closing – I see it's five minutes – is  
5 that we can then spend a lot of the money to retrain  
6 people, because obviously jobs and people working in  
7 our province is very important, but it's how we do it.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir. Thank you.

9 **Proceeding Time 6:55 p.m. T12**

10 Mr. Leering. Please go ahead, sir.

11 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. LEERING (#0062):**

12 MR. LEERING: Good evening. My name is Gerry Leering, L-  
13 E-E-R-I-N-G. I am a registered professional biologist  
14 living here in Kelowna, and have been in the Interior  
15 for the last six and a half years. I'm semi-retired  
16 and principal of Environmental Compliance Services,  
17 providing local cost-effective biophysical consulting.

18 The development of Site C does impact each  
19 of us in our everyday lives as we do rely on  
20 electricity in most everything we do. In fact, every  
21 third light bulb's energy's power comes from the Peace  
22 River. We all demand this basic necessity with a  
23 secure supply.

24 Prior to relocating in the Interior, one of  
25 my positions included an eight-year posting in Fort  
26 St. John as a senior fisheries biologist for the

1 province. And it is this posting that has given me  
2 insight, and I believe a personal obligation to be  
3 here today.

4 I recognize and understand the fisheries  
5 resources of Peace River watershed, and the potential  
6 impacts from Site C development. I was party to a  
7 provincial team that made recommendations as to what  
8 the assessment of fisheries impacts should detail with  
9 targets as to how they may be resolved. Peace River  
10 today is now draining the largest fresh water body in  
11 B.C., Williston Reservoir. Created in the 1960s with  
12 construction of the Bennett Dam, and operating the  
13 Shrum Generating Station contained therein. Eighteen  
14 kilometers downstream, Peace Canyon Dam has generated  
15 -- has created the Dinosaur River with hydroelectric  
16 facilities. This operates on a peak demand operation  
17 with water levels fluctuating three meters twice a  
18 day.

19 Site C, situated some 80 kilometers further  
20 downstream, at its full pool, will result in a  
21 fluctuation of only five to ten centimeters. This  
22 large new reservoir would indeed be a net fisheries  
23 productive gain with the increased aquatic habitat  
24 being created.

25 What I cannot comment to is loss of  
26 wildlife, agriculture, or First Nations values, as

1           that is beyond my professional scope. Many here today  
2           may not be aware that in the late 70s a major bank  
3           slump blocked the Peace River for two days, just above  
4           the Halfway River confluence. There is little  
5           evidence today of this event but many long-time local  
6           residents are mindful of this, and have a real concern  
7           with the future slumps occurring when Site C full pool  
8           is realized.

9                         Again, I am not a geoscientist, but  
10            acknowledge future slumps may become more commonplace,  
11            reducing reservoir capacity for long-term power  
12            generation.

13                        What many people may also not be aware of  
14            is a fourth dam received approval for construction.  
15            This low head run of the river facility, the Dunvegan  
16            Dam, is located just across in the Alberta border.  
17            This dam was approved some time ago. I'm not aware if  
18            its construction is still approved or has lapsed. The  
19            delay in proceeding does raise concern as to its cost-  
20            effectiveness and demonstrated electrical need.

21                        Not far north of the community of Peace  
22            River, Alberta, a nuclear-powered electrical facility  
23            was being considered. Site C would be a realistic  
24            alternative to future electrical demand expectations,  
25            along with the Dunvegan facility completion. I  
26            support development of Site C that would generate

1 power as a multi-dam operation that generates as much  
2 power as possible on this single watershed, rather  
3 than interspersing facilities elsewhere from nuclear,  
4 solar, wind, or water.

5 I ask this Panel for a clear and concise  
6 resolution to Site C's cost and effectiveness, not  
7 only to construction costs but also to alternative  
8 electrical production sources. This is also being  
9 raised from a report released last week that cannot  
10 project realistical [*sic*] electrical demands.

11 Should demand not be imminent, put this  
12 development on hold until it is.

13 Another concern I have is the many  
14 uncompleted water licence requirements. These are  
15 issued to BC Hydro as part of their obligations,  
16 specifically for each existing facility. Should Site  
17 C be completed, it too would have numerous licence  
18 requirements to fulfill. Given the track record I've  
19 observed throughout the province, I have low  
20 expectations to their unreserved fulfillment.

21 I encourage this Panel to better ensure if  
22 all current licence requirements are fulfilled.

23 Finally, along with all the foregoing,  
24 there remains First Nations interests, resolution of  
25 the current two dams in place. Reconciliation and  
26 settlement of these outstanding issues from the

1 existing Peace River facilities as well as the  
2 projected impacts of the Site C development must be  
3 resolved outside of the courts, please.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

6 **Proceeding Time 7:01 p.m. T13**

7 Ms. Manning.

8 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. MANNING (#0063):**

9 MS. MANNING: I'm Jeane Manning, that's J-E-A-N-E, M-A-N-  
10 N-I-N-G. I live in Kelowna on unceded Sinixt  
11 territory.

12 In my 30 years as a researcher and an  
13 author of energy-related books, I've learned that  
14 power from hydro dams and other mega-projects will be  
15 obsolete, definitely before 2030.

16 I'm here to mention lesser-known  
17 alternatives. Clean energy inventions that are  
18 considered non-conventional today. However,  
19 mainstream advancements make possible what formerly  
20 was impossible.

21 Examples of the advancements in what  
22 innovators have to work with include nanosecond  
23 electronic switching; the electrical conductivity of  
24 graphene, and other advances in materials; new science  
25 discoveries in cavitation research, otherwise known as  
26 implosion technologies; emerging knowledge about

1        plasmoids, or micro-ball lightning technologies; and  
2        other developments. In proof of principle  
3        experiments, some breakthrough energy systems have  
4        demonstrated that they will have much lower costs to  
5        both industry and consumers than any energy  
6        technologies in use today.

7                    Earlier this month I spoke about them on a  
8        panel for the International Women's Forum on Future  
9        Energy. It was part of Expo 2017 in Astana,  
10       Kazakhstan. Here are relevant parts of my speech to  
11       that forum.

12                    As an example of a non-conventional energy  
13        technology as seen on the website  
14        brilliantlightpower.com, that American company's motto  
15        is "Sunlight in a bottle". Its founder, scientist Dr.  
16        Randell Mills has a theory that is controversial.  
17        However, the invention he built to test the theory is  
18        proven to work by other -- Rowan University and  
19        others.

20                    Researchers in other countries are also  
21        experimenting with plasma-based and other small-scale  
22        methods of generation of electric power. Their  
23        technologies remind me of the 1960s slogan, "Small is  
24        beautiful."

25                    Another type of non-conventional technology  
26        involves innovative ways of working with magnetism.

1 For example, in India what Paramahansa Tewari calls a  
2 reactionless generator has been successfully tested  
3 and duplicated by a separate party, a company with  
4 experts who are skilled in manufacturing generators.  
5 Tewari innovatively configured the armature conductor  
6 and magnetic fields of his reactionless generator.  
7 The configuration creates a torque which supports,  
8 instead of opposes, a motor torque. Tewari's motor  
9 reduces enough of the back-torque to make it super-  
10 efficient. His configuration avoids the limitation  
11 known as Lenz's Law.

12 In mid-2016, a test engineer from the USA  
13 measured the electrical input to the motor driving  
14 Tewari's generator. The amount of electricity going  
15 into the system was 1.724 kilowatts. However, the  
16 generator was putting out 4.461 kilowatts, more than  
17 doubling the amount of energy.

18 The main point I want to convey is that the  
19 power density of the output of some emerging  
20 inventions such as Brilliant Light Power's could  
21 supply baseload levels of power.

22 Which means that today's problematic power  
23 sources will be replaced long before my children have  
24 to pay for a Site C dam. Extraordinary new  
25 technologies are certain to revolutionize the way  
26 electricity is generated. The prosperity that B.C.

1 will enjoy with the very low cost of a new alternative  
2 opens up ways to recover the costs of ending the Site  
3 C project. An abundance of cheap, clean electricity  
4 will allow new industries to flourish. For example,  
5 industries won't be concerned about how energy-  
6 intensive it is to recycle metals and other materials.  
7 Agriculture is one of many industries that would  
8 flourish if they didn't have to pay for expensive  
9 fuels or electricity for their greenhouses, for  
10 growing food, for instance.

11 Extraordinary new technologies are certain  
12 to revolutionize the way electricity is generated.  
13 They've already been invented, they just need to be  
14 accepted. Otherwise in North America truly  
15 revolutionary energy technologies will continue to  
16 progress more slowly through the expensive steps that  
17 take an invention into the marketplace. But knowledge  
18 about breakthrough inventions is reaching the rest of  
19 the world. Funding sources from countries that lack  
20 fossil fuels or hydro resources are getting  
21 interested. They won't hold back.

22 In conclusion, the power from Site C is not  
23 needed.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

25 **Proceeding Time 7:06 p.m. T14**

26 Go ahead, sir.

1 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. MICKALUK (#0064):**

2 MR. MICHALUK: My name is Tom M-I-C-H-A-L-U-K. I've  
3 been in B.C. for 25 years. Before that in Alberta and  
4 throughout Western Canada. Is there a long-term need  
5 for Site C and all the additional transmission  
6 substations, transformers? Question mark.

7 I want to put a question: What is the  
8 long-term greater good? I just throw that as another  
9 question to another question.

10 So I'm a concerned citizen of B.C. and  
11 Canada. I'm an engineer by schooling but I've been  
12 involved in construction project management,  
13 industrial projects up at Syncrude and thermal general  
14 plants and moving 8 million cubic metres of overburden  
15 and that kind of stuff, and 12 foot diameter  
16 underground cooling water pipes and things like that.  
17 I've also been involved in municipal projects and  
18 sewage treatment plants and things like that. And a  
19 lot of project management and property management in  
20 high-rise office building in western Canada ranging  
21 from 24 stories to 50 stories. And as a long-term  
22 developer/owner representative. So I always took the  
23 long-term look at life-cycle costs and long-term could  
24 be 50 years, 100 years, 300 years, but in our  
25 political environment, people can barely wrap their  
26 head around 30 years.

1 I'm trying to summarize this all into three  
2 minutes so I'm going to skip through a lot of stuff,  
3 but I just -- I'm motivated by my two children to be  
4 here, and my grandfather. And from the '30s and '20s,  
5 people use to say, "Waste not, want not." And  
6 there's a huge amount of things that can be learned  
7 from our grandparents and great grandparents. My  
8 children are both very strong environmentalists. My  
9 daughter lives in Revelstoke and the town of  
10 Revelstoke is trying to sustain itself and trying to  
11 have food security. And right now I think British  
12 Columbia can only feed 35 percent of what people that  
13 live here. Revelstoke is trying to do it just for  
14 their own community.

15 In Alberta I was successful in working with  
16 the City of Calgary and now Enmax and TransAlta and we  
17 partnered with them on six office buildings to lower  
18 our peak demand, peak KVA on six office buildings. So  
19 they gave us high tech meters, and without investing  
20 any capital money we decreased our peak winter demand,  
21 which has traditionally been, for the last 45 years,  
22 when the province hits minus 20 or colder for 17 days  
23 roughly from 4:30 till 5:30 -- more like 4:15 to 5:17.  
24 So we were successful in decreasing without any  
25 capital investment, just using human brainpower,  
26 decreasing our demand by 20 percent. Not running our

1 generators, not synchronizing our generators. It  
2 might be five to a thousand kilowatts.

3 We naturally had -- before that we had  
4 power factor corrections to get our KVA down from .99  
5 to .96 and that -- call it 1985 to 1991. So this is  
6 way back when.

7 So what I'm trying to say is there is a lot  
8 of things that can be done to save energy rather than  
9 looking for modern, new high tech solutions. So  
10 energy conservation, if it was mandatory, as it is in  
11 lots of Europe -- and Europe has what's called a BEPI,  
12 a building energy performance index. People value  
13 buildings on their BEPI. And the BEPI was mandatory  
14 for houses and all the buildings in British Columbia,  
15 and if we had peak hour day rates or whatever -- time  
16 of day rates, that's what I meant. Time of day rates,  
17 then I believe we can actually save 25 to 40 percent  
18 peak winter demand and up to 50 percent of  
19 consumption. Even in this room with the lighting that  
20 we have -- I was fortunate to work with an engineer  
21 from Toronto.

22 I apologize.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: If you could begin a summary, that  
24 would be great.

25 MR. MICHALUK: In closing, I think we have the  
26 solutions in hand, we just have to change our

1 lifestyles and make jobs, unbelievable amount of jobs  
2 out of energy conservation, mandatory energy  
3 conservation.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

6 **Proceeding Time 7:12 p.m. T15**

7 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. NEAVE (#0065):**

8 MR. NEAVE: Hello, my name is Carney Neave, N-E-A-V-E. I  
9 would like to thank this panel for the opportunity  
10 speak. I realize I am just a concerned citizen of  
11 British Columbia, and I have no real credibility with  
12 any group that is in attendance here tonight. I have  
13 asked to speak at this meeting even though I believe  
14 that the final report that will be presented to the  
15 current government, and I want to say socialist  
16 dictatorship government, because I find it  
17 unconscionable that a government can overturn a  
18 previous government's decision without compunction.

19 I also believe that if there is no  
20 dissenting opinion, then it is too easy for the public  
21 and media to say that everyone thinks one way. One of  
22 BC Hydro's websites lists that the average electrical  
23 usage in B.C. is about 900 kilowatts per month. On  
24 another website, this one maintained by the province  
25 of British Columbia, estimates that the population  
26 increase will be increasing by one million people in

1 the next 17 years, which brings us to 2034. I didn't  
2 look into it, but I would venture a guess that a high  
3 portion of these people, around probably 80 to 90  
4 percent of them, will be moving into the Thompson  
5 Okanagan and Lower Mainland areas.

6 So, I have a question and a few comments  
7 for the critics of the Site C dam before they voice  
8 their shortsighted vision. Even though they tell you  
9 that they are looking long term, it is really short  
10 term thinking. If this facility is not built, where  
11 will 900 million monthly kilowatt hours come from?  
12 Natural gas-fired plants, coal, solar, burning or  
13 incinerating our garbage. All possible alternatives  
14 would not only increase our current carbon footprint,  
15 but are terribly inefficient, have manufacturing  
16 byproducts that are toxic to the surrounding  
17 environment, as well as contribute to other countries  
18 carbon footprints if they are involved in the  
19 manufacturing process.

20 This one isn't so much a question as a  
21 statement of the alternative so-called green energy  
22 producing systems, they require many times the land  
23 area to produce the equivalent amount of energy, but  
24 are also many times more unreliable because they  
25 depend on environmental conditions that are hugely  
26 more variable than a hydroelectric dam is. It has

1        been said that everyone in B.C. will be paying for  
2        this dam with increased hydro rates. Well, it might  
3        also be noted that not everybody in B.C. receives  
4        their power from BC Hydro.

5                    It should also be noted that no matter if  
6        the dam is built or not, the hydro rates will be going  
7        up. This is called inflation. There is a great big  
8        and very complicated formula that is used to determine  
9        how much any utility is allowed to charge its  
10       customers. Just a small portion of that is the cost  
11       of a dam. The bigger cost is how much is needed to  
12       maintain the current infrastructure as well as replace  
13       old, worn out, and damaged components of the Hydro  
14       network. An example of this is that it was announced  
15       that there is a second hydro line going into the West  
16       Kelowna area. That is going to increase the cost of  
17       people's hydro supply.

18                    Lastly, I'd like to say all the  
19       environmental groups and other dictatorship in  
20       Victoria, as well as design firms, engineers, and  
21       landholders in the vicinity of the dam., if anyone  
22       claims that there needs to be more consultation or  
23       study done before this project can go forward, know  
24       that this project has been on the books and actively  
25       worked on by a large number of design firms, engineers  
26       to such a degree that there are some engineers whose

1 entire career spent working on the Site C project.  
2 These study started in the early 70s, and have now  
3 spanned well over four decades. The cost that has  
4 been attributed -- if you are to include all of the  
5 costs that have been contributed to all of these  
6 design firms since its inception, we would be well  
7 over the estimated current cost of building that dam.

8 Thank you everyone for permitting me to the  
9 opportunity to voice my opinion tonight. May God and  
10 his son Jesus Christ provide enlightenment to those  
11 who are to make the final decision. Amen.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

13 **Proceeding Time 7:17 p.m. T16**

14 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. DAVENPORT (#0066):**

15 MS. DAVENPORT: Hi, I'm Susan Davenport, D-A-V-E-N-P-O-R-  
16 T. I won't take up much of your time, I just have a  
17 couple of things I'd like to say, which you've  
18 probably heard already but I'm going to say them  
19 anyway.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: That's fine. Go ahead.

21 MS. DAVENPORT: Firstly, I am more than disappointed and  
22 I'm really angry that Site C was not sent to the  
23 Utilities Commission before the previous government  
24 committed to spending over \$2 billion. I trust that  
25 the loophole that allowed this to happen will be  
26 plugged by our current government. I understand that

1 this project was part of Christy Clark's pipedream for  
2 LNG which has failed to launch. I'm personally not a  
3 big fan of fracking. I believe it's dangerous and the  
4 long-term effects are not known yet.

5 We are trending towards increased energy  
6 efficiency, decentralized solar power, and other forms  
7 of sustainable energy. As well, our existing dams  
8 still have capacity for expansion and added  
9 efficiency. I don't believe that there's any  
10 justification for building this dam. The excess  
11 energy it would produce would have to be sold at a  
12 loss, which is ludicrous.

13 My second concern is regarding the flooding  
14 of Peace River Valley if the dam is built. If we  
15 accept that climate change is a reality, which I'm sure  
16 you do, then permanently destroying the potential for  
17 food production in this fertile valley forever would  
18 be irresponsible. We need this land to remain viable.  
19 Our First Nations people need the rivers and streams  
20 for fish as it is their right. It is my greatest hope  
21 that this Commission will find that Site C should be  
22 stopped.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

25 **Proceeding Time 7:19 p.m. T17**

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. COOK (#0067):**

1 MS. COOK: Hi there. My name is Shelley Cook, I am a  
2 concerned citizen. I'm also an academic and a  
3 researcher working with vulnerable people. That's the  
4 focus of my research.

5 I would like to acknowledge that we are the  
6 unceded territory of the Sinixt people. I'd like to  
7 thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight. I'm  
8 very pleased that this process is underway. It is a  
9 process that is certainly long overdue. I feel a  
10 great sense of urgency around this adjudication like I  
11 think many people do in the room. You are being asked  
12 to weigh a lot of competing interests, economic,  
13 environment, food security and again, aboriginal  
14 rights, current energy needs and projected needs into  
15 the future against a backdrop of rapidly changing  
16 technology.

17 In making the decision to proceed with Site  
18 C I do not believe all of these things were given  
19 equal consideration or any consideration at all. They  
20 are things that to me, I believe, should matter, that  
21 should count in what happens next. These things  
22 include the UN report talking about immediately  
23 suspending Site C because of the irreversible harm to  
24 aboriginal people, not to mention the catastrophic  
25 environmental impact that will destroy one of the  
26 largest and most important wildlife corridors on the

1           continent.

2                         We will submerge a valuable carbon sink  
3           instead of promoting food security and a need to adopt  
4           climate change solutions mostly compelled by the B.C.  
5           Clean Energy Association and the idea of cost  
6           competitive alternatives – we've heard some discussion  
7           of that here tonight – that will leave BC Hydro with a  
8           surplus instead of this Eisenhower era, dinosaur named  
9           Site C.

10                        And I'm very worried that BC Hydro is being  
11           swept aside by technology. Their own report has  
12           indicated that we can meet current demands through  
13           conservation, as that gentleman has suggested,  
14           creating a conservation culture as opposed to inducing  
15           energy demand.

16                        I want to highlight another human face that  
17           I don't think has been talked about. It's something  
18           that I've seen through my own research: the cost of  
19           increases and the increases have already happened  
20           around BC Hydro and utility costs are being  
21           disproportionately borne by people of the lowest  
22           income. This is because they often live in  
23           substandard housing that is not economically or  
24           environmentally friendly or conscious around energy  
25           efficiency even remotely.

26                        The rate increases have already paralyzed

1 families living in the Okanagan. I talked with a  
2 gentleman who, over last winter, had seen rate  
3 increases paying \$2500, each of his Hydro bills. The  
4 fact that not everyone in British Columbia receives  
5 their energy from BC Hydro certainly is no small  
6 comfort to him.

7 We talk about securing supply of energy for  
8 people and I want to speak to that population of  
9 people that Site C has made the supply of their  
10 energy, because of the driving up of the cost even  
11 more secure, and these are the most vulnerable  
12 individuals in the community.

13 Perhaps there are no great options at this  
14 point. There certainly doesn't seem to be, and maybe  
15 the best we can do is to not make a bad situation  
16 worse. What matters now is that we ensure our place  
17 as leaders in innovation around the world, that we  
18 care for the vulnerable people and we think about  
19 their needs as we move forward, that we ensure a  
20 democratic process which we've been lacking to date,  
21 and we prevent our humanity, our decency, our  
22 intellect and reason from being compromised further.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

25 **Proceeding Time 7:23 p.m. T18**

26 Good evening, sir.

1 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. OSTERMANN (#0068):**

2 MR. OSTERMANN: Gunther Ostermann, O-S-T-E-R-M-A-N-N.  
3 I'm 81. Concerning Site C, the BCUC has a very  
4 difficult decision to make as so much time and money  
5 has been wasted already. If politicians and  
6 environmentalists would ever listen to Professor John  
7 Farina of the Wilfred Laurier University, we would not  
8 be in this predicament.

9 Farina's research was published in the  
10 *Edmonton Journal* on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1982 with the  
11 headline "Unemployment Seen As Success". Quote.

12 "Men invented machines so men would not have  
13 to work, and we succeeded to the point of 1  
14 and a half million unemployed. But instead  
15 of cheering about it, we are in despair. To  
16 me that is sheer raging idiocy, lamented  
17 Farina."

18 That was 35 years ago.

19 Why has no politician or political party  
20 pursued such an opportunity that would have resulted  
21 in an equitable and just society where all our needs  
22 would be met. If all Canadians had a guaranteed  
23 income that was possible for more than 35 years,  
24 nobody today in their right mind would have suggested  
25 work on an unnecessary Site C or pipelines. But now,  
26 because of scarcity economics people are forced to

1 work on such a useless project, and many other people  
2 are forced to work in paper-shuffling institutions  
3 that produce nothing of real value to society except  
4 waste and pollution. That's why physicist Steven  
5 Hawking warned us, "How can the human race sustain  
6 another hundred years?" And linguist Noam Chomsky  
7 likewise stated, "Can human beings survive the 21<sup>st</sup>  
8 century?"

9 For some of my research, please type in  
10 Google, "Utopia or Oblivion, Dandelion Post 1". I  
11 have written thousands of letters to newspapers, MLAs  
12 and MPs and prefaced one of my letters with "Justin's  
13 dad Pierre would kick his son's ass today if he  
14 could."

15 Let me explain. After Pierre Elliot  
16 Trudeau retired he wrote a book, *Lifting the Shadow of*  
17 *War*. Here is a quote.

18 "The human community is a complex organism  
19 linked again and again within itself and as  
20 well with the biosphere upon which it is  
21 totally dependent for life. This  
22 interdependence demands of us two functions.  
23 First the maintenance of an equilibrium  
24 among all our activities, whatever their  
25 nature. Second, an equitable distribution  
26 world-wide of resources and opportunities.



1 MR. LUCAS: Glen Lucas, L-U-C-A-S. I live in Kelowna.  
2 It's a pleasure to be here on behalf of 520 commercial  
3 tree fruit growers who are members of the B.C. Fruit  
4 Growers Association. I manage the B.C. Fruit Growers  
5 Association. Our vision is a prosperous, sustainable  
6 and innovative free fruit sector in B.C. that grows  
7 flavorful high-quality products that improve health.

8 With regard to Site C, the agriculture  
9 sector as had long experience. Our association and  
10 fellow associations throughout the province opposed it  
11 20 years ago when it was turned down. One reason then  
12 and now is the destruction of valuable farmland in the  
13 Peace River Valley. Site C is now partly completed  
14 prior to the BCUC's proper review. The question now  
15 proposed to the BCUC is should it be completed,  
16 delayed, or stopped. We trust that the BCUC will do a  
17 good job in completing this work that is delayed and  
18 now rushed.

19 The BCFG previously opposed Site C due to  
20 its support for the ALR. Our association support is  
21 even stronger now than it was in the mid 1990s. We  
22 wish to contribute four ideas to the BCUC's  
23 consideration of Site C.

24 First, while agriculture land is not  
25 directly to be taken into account according to your  
26 terms of reference, we feel that the economic analysis

1 should at least note the value of the farm land being  
2 flooded and the annual income it generates.

3 Second, a problem with Site C is that it is  
4 a large bite. Others have pointed out that wind,  
5 solar, tidal and other types of power are small  
6 projects taking the risk out of the energy demand  
7 estimates.

8 Third, we would like to propose addition of  
9 another alternative energy source – and this one is  
10 somewhat speculative – that would be much more  
11 flexible in scale than Site C. Here in the Okanagan  
12 we have high plateau reservoirs for water supply.  
13 Hydro power is not usually a factor in these projects  
14 as the smaller utilities are focused on water supply,  
15 not electricity generation.

16 While the volume of water in these  
17 reservoirs is small compared to Site C, the elevation  
18 of the reservoirs is 1,000 metres higher than the  
19 discharge. We would need reservoirs one-tenth the  
20 size of Site C to generate the same power here in the  
21 Okanagan.

22 Fourth, our association has studied the  
23 Columbia River Treaty and appreciate the suggestion of  
24 returning the CRT's downstream benefit to B.C. rather  
25 than selling it to areas outside of B.C. There is  
26 mention that counting on the downstream CRT benefits

1 is risky due to the possibility of either the U.S. or  
2 Canada cancelling or renegotiating the agreement on  
3 ten years' notice. However suggest the focus be on a  
4 minimum of ten years certainty and stability under the  
5 CRT versus the risks of Site C.

6 In concluding, we would be very pleased if  
7 the BCUC considered the flexibility and other values  
8 of smaller scale innovative power generation ideas,  
9 including conservation as we heard mentioned earlier  
10 today, compared to the large scale of Site C and the  
11 economic make or break risk that it poses. We also  
12 propose including the cost of farmland in the Site C  
13 analysis. You have a respected role in reviewing the  
14 Site C proposal or construction and we appreciate your  
15 efforts.

16 Thank you for listening.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

18 **Proceeding Time 7:32 p.m. T20**

19 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. GORDON SMITH (#0070):**

20 MR. SMITH: My name is Gordon Smith, S-M-I-T-H. I  
21 represent a small company, winter road specialists up  
22 in Fort Nelson called G&C Products Limited. Retired,  
23 and cancer and retirement brought us down back down  
24 here. I was raised in Summerland, graduated out of  
25 there in 1961, worked at Gorman's, a great company.

26 I want to bring you a couple of things here

1 because it's what I need to tell you about Site C.

2 And I'm not a public speaker, I'm a little  
3 nervous, but we'll make it.

4 I went to Fort Nelson after Gorman's there,  
5 a great company, beautiful people to work for here,  
6 and in '07 and developed a road system, freezing in  
7 muskeg for the equipment, trucks and whatnot, which is  
8 still used today. And I'll elaborate on that in a  
9 sec.

10 In '07/'08, the Canfor shut the mills down  
11 there. The OSB plant, the plywood and whatnot. And  
12 then just the other year here, we had managed to get  
13 work because the oil companies and mainly gas up  
14 there, of course, they used the roads for their  
15 equipment and whatnot. And then when they shut down  
16 like Alberta, so as Alberta went, so did us. So did  
17 we, rather.

18 So, that brings me down -- so with the  
19 energy shut-down in Alberta, that brings me down to  
20 Fort Nelson is-- barring just a little bit there, more  
21 or less -- almost a ghost town. Not quite, but  
22 getting that way. Marginal agriculture and whatnot.  
23 Even though I grew lots of stuff there coming from the  
24 Okanagan and a fruit farm.

25 Okay, this brings me to the Bennett Dam.  
26 Now, W.A.C. Bennett had built that, right or wrong.

1           It was -- everybody was happy with it. Along with  
2           that was the lower dam and then there was provisions  
3           in that, at that time, even, for the Site C. Down the  
4           road. And this is down the road now.

5                     And having said that, that's why I  
6           mentioned about Fort Nelson and all this gas we got  
7           stored up there, very little going out. And we can't  
8           build pipelines or anything in this B.C., so we've  
9           lost a lot of contractors overseas and whatnot, for  
10          various reasons -- not just the price of gas. Gas is,  
11          and LNG is -- there's lot of it available right now.

12                    But having said that, for years now I've  
13          read that Louisiana, Australia, and Russia had been  
14          selling gas to China for years. A good several years  
15          now. Now, we know the price is no good now, but we  
16          don't know what it's going to be. We've gone through  
17          two elections and no LNG to speak of. So, it takes  
18          two elections, or an election, to get the pipelines  
19          and the infrastructure built, which didn't happen with  
20          all the people down below.

21                    Now, as far as Site C is concerned, that is  
22          renewable energy. And that huge lake is there and  
23          these dams, the water's there. We can go through a  
24          drought, we've got the water there. The only dam that  
25          will have to be re-filled in this new one. If they  
26          build it, and they should, because the land there -- I

1 wouldn't call it marginal, but compared to all the  
2 land in the Peace River country, there's lots more  
3 that can be used there. It's not like the Lower  
4 Mainland, where the land resource management plan is  
5 under stress because of people and building.

6 But we can sustain this power. And as far  
7 as -- let me see, here. Large-scale costs. Oh, yeah.  
8 Large-scale costs. Well, if we're whining about our  
9 bills from Hydro now, take a look at Ontario and some  
10 of the other provinces, what they're paying right now.  
11 Right or wrong, yeah, we know it's going to go up.  
12 You heard it from other people. But this is the 20<sup>th</sup>  
13 century. The trapping, the animals, the amount of  
14 people, the vehicles, everything -- nothing's the  
15 same. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> century and we've got to  
16 understand that.

17 As far as alternate power is concerned,  
18 wind and solar -- we're not like California and  
19 Arizona and those places that get all that extra heat.  
20 I've seen it, been down there. We're not -- the wind  
21 -- what happens when the wind doesn't blow? We need  
22 the power.

23 So, so, we're marginal on that stuff. Not  
24 that it isn't good. We're -- I don't hear anything  
25 about tidal power. That's the biggest thing in the  
26 world. We haven't heard a thing about it. But --



1 and I'd like to say that I'm in favour of reasonably  
2 priced electricity. Okay? And I'm in favour of clean  
3 energy. I have a house here in Kelowna where my  
4 electricity bill was \$850 a month. I'm grateful to  
5 Fortis. They gave me a grant to help me change over  
6 to natural gas, which isn't a clean energy but it  
7 saved me, brought my energy bill from 850 to \$150 a  
8 month for gas. For my gas and my electricity  
9 combined. And that was amazing. But that was Fortis  
10 helping pay off me to change my energy from clean  
11 energy to dirty energy. It doesn't make sense, but  
12 they do that to reduce the demands for electricity so  
13 they don't have to pay for infrastructure upgrades to  
14 meet the demand of electricity.

15 I don't know that there's a better way for  
16 us to have electricity than hydroelectric that's  
17 clean, inexpensive, good for the -- not good for the  
18 environment, but better than any other choice. I've  
19 tried the solar route in trying to convert my house to  
20 something more efficient. I contacted a couple of the  
21 solar energy companies here to give me prices. I went  
22 my own route trying to source stuff from China, trying  
23 to source the inverters, the batteries, and what I  
24 came up with was that the best case scenario for me to  
25 pay off the cost of a part-time solar generation  
26 system, it could cost me -- or take me ten years to

1 pay off the capital expense, not with any  
2 consideration for my return on investment, for my  
3 interest for purchasing the equipment.

4 And then I got in conversations about this  
5 with my friends in California because there is a  
6 bigger trend, and I'm in liquidation business. That's  
7 my business. And they were pointing out that there's  
8 mass failure of solar energy companies in California.  
9 And I lived in California during the dot.com crash and  
10 they were saying I should get back down there because  
11 this is the next big crash is the solar energy crash.  
12 I haven't researched it enough to say I'm competent at  
13 commenting on it here, but I know from my own bit of  
14 research that the return on the solar energy is not  
15 sufficient to make viable sense, at least not at this  
16 time.

17 And that's it, and I hope that there are  
18 others here in this group that are in favour of low-  
19 cost clean energy, and I suspect there are a few  
20 people who didn't make it here tonight who are also in  
21 favour of low-cost clean energy.

22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

24 **Proceeding Time 7:38 p.m. T22**

25 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. OOSTENVRINK (#0072):**

26 MR. OOSTENVRINK: Good evening. My name is Jim

1 Oostenvrink, O-O-S-T-E-N-V-R-I-N-K. I am the Kelowna  
2 Regional Director for CLAC. We represent over 45,000  
3 skilled construction workers in Western Canada with  
4 many members residing and working throughout B.C.  
5 CLAC local 68 has approximately 750 members currently  
6 working at Site C right now, and we have a deep  
7 interest in seeing the project continue.

8 While much information with respect to the  
9 merits of this project have already been made  
10 available to the general public, we would like to  
11 impress the following points for this committee to  
12 consider and report, and we offer the following  
13 observations.

14 The current project has been structured  
15 around an open manage site model, where the tendering  
16 process used by the BC Hydro assumes that all eligible  
17 contractors and labour models, be it independent  
18 unions, such as ourselves, traditional union and non-  
19 union can bid the work. This is in contrast to the  
20 way other dams were built. In the past project labour  
21 agreements have been used to construct the projects.  
22 PLAs can restrict bidding to certain affiliated  
23 contractors, which can lead to increased costs and to  
24 projects not being built on time or on budget. CLAC  
25 endorses the open managed site model for the best  
26 economic value for B.C. taxpayers and ratepayers.

1                   One of the compelling reasons for  
2                   constructing this project was to supply LNG  
3                   megaprojects with a source of clean energy for their  
4                   natural gas liquefaction process. These projects are  
5                   moving forward and have continuing provincial and  
6                   federal government support and will need the clean  
7                   energy that comes from the Site C clean energy  
8                   project.

9                   LNG projects and future jobs will be in  
10                  jeopardy if Site C does not proceed. In fact, there's  
11                  also many of our current members that have moved up to  
12                  the Site C and their livelihoods will be threatened.  
13                  Members who have moved their families up there and  
14                  committed to this long-term project will see their  
15                  livelihood disappear and there will be consider  
16                  economic hardship imposed on these members.

17                  Another compelling reason to continue with  
18                  Site C is the growing electrification trend in the  
19                  transportation sector. B.C. needs to build generating  
20                  capacity for future electric vehicle demand. In  
21                  addition, there will be opportunities to resell energy  
22                  to other jurisdictions and to capitalize on clean-  
23                  energy trend.

24                  And I'd like to focus on the word "clean-  
25                  energy trend". I noticed in a lot of the discussion  
26                  this evening about different forms of energy, but

1 electricity is clean energy.

2 And in conclusion, CLAC and the  
3 Construction of Allied Workers Union thank the  
4 committee for taking the time to listen and to give  
5 consideration to our observations in favour of  
6 continuing to construct the BC Hydro Site C Clean  
7 Energy Project for the benefit of all British  
8 Columbians.

9 Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

11 **Proceeding Time 7:44 p.m. T23**

12 Yes, sir.

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. NAKA (#0073):**

14 MR. NAKA: Hajime Naka, N-A-K-A, and I'm honoured to be  
15 here on unceded Salish territory. Yes, I'm not an  
16 expert on numbers and I know that I trust all these  
17 expert people who have studied this, so I will leave  
18 it up to them. I want to make this personal because I  
19 have personally been up there and I've seen the  
20 devastation of what the Site C dam is doing to the  
21 valley. And I've also talked to the people who are  
22 directly affected by the dam, which seems to be like  
23 the forgotten issue, and these people have been  
24 struggling for so long and they have really strong  
25 resolve to stay the course. They have not sold out.  
26 And these people are Arlene, Ken Boone, Esther and

1 Paul Peterson, Yvonne Tupper, and to hear their  
2 stories really sort of tugs on the heart that we have  
3 to save the Peace for the future.

4 I don't know why in today's world we are  
5 destroying the environment. We should be protecting  
6 the water, the environment, the wildlife, and we  
7 should honour the First Nations people, their rights,  
8 their territory which has been destroyed without their  
9 consent. And this colonial oppression that has been  
10 going on for hundreds and hundreds of years still goes  
11 on today, and I think it's about time that we turned  
12 the tide. You know, I feel very passionate that the  
13 Site C dam is not a good project, economically or for  
14 the environment.

15 And many people have mentioned that  
16 alternative sources will be the future. We do not  
17 need the power. It is not economically feasible. And  
18 the jobs, you talk about losing jobs, but any business  
19 they lose jobs. But this is a boom and bust  
20 proposition. You get jobs for a short time, but how  
21 about in the future? Like, we should be looking not  
22 30, 40, 50, 100 years but thousand years into the  
23 future because our future, you're not building more  
24 land and it's been destroyed at an alarming rate  
25 around the world. And we should be an example here of  
26 how we can protect the environment for the future, not

1           just for the First Nations, for all people. And this  
2           is a global issue.

3                        So I just want to say thank you for  
4           allowing me to share my experience and I know you will  
5           do the right thing. Thank you.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

7    **Proceeding Time 7:47 p.m. T24**

8                        Please go ahead, sir.

9 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. THIESSEN (#0074):**

10 MR. THIESSEN: Mr. Chairman, members of the commission,  
11 my name is Jake Thiessen, spelled T-H-I-E-S-S-E-N.  
12 I'm a retired professional engineer, and I don't  
13 represent anyone but myself.

14                        Over a 40-year period, beginning in 1961,  
15 my career was based on irrigation and water resource  
16 management, mainly in Alberta. I started out as an  
17 irrigation engineer in Lethbridge, and ended up in  
18 Edmonton as assistant deputy minister responsible for  
19 water management.

20                        About the time I started my career, the  
21 Alberta government sanctioned Alberta irrigation  
22 studies. And the reason for the studies was to  
23 determine the costs and benefits of irrigated  
24 agriculture. Engineers and economists were brought in  
25 from the U.S.A., and several volumes of reports were  
26 produced. An important conclusion of the studies was

1 that farmers were able to pay for the operation and  
2 maintenance of irrigation systems, but senior  
3 governments should contribute significantly to the  
4 cost of capital works rehabilitation and expansion.

5 It took another decade, but eventually  
6 major investments in capital works were made by both  
7 the provincial and federal governments. Between 1980  
8 and 1995 the capital budget for rehabilitation and  
9 expansion of Alberta's irrigation system was over 100  
10 million dollars annually. This investment resulted in  
11 the doubling of irrigated acreage in Southern Alberta.  
12 So, how are these projects performing today? Well,  
13 I've had a chance to go back and look at them. I saw  
14 sprinkler systems watering crops of grain, forage  
15 corn, sugar beets, potatoes, canola, peas, beans,  
16 sunflowers, et cetera. I also witnessed recent  
17 secondary industry plants, such as McCains processing  
18 potatoes. Bean growers doing their thing, and alfalfa  
19 pellet processing plants preparing feed for shipment  
20 to Japan, et cetera.

21 Besides the agricultural and economic  
22 benefits, there is significant recreational activities  
23 on the new reservoirs, both on stream and off stream.  
24 Most of the towns and villages of Southern Alberta  
25 depend on the irrigation systems for their domestic  
26 and municipal water supply. There has been

1 hydroelectric development, dams, and drop structures  
2 along the canals. The on-stream reservoirs have  
3 provided flood control benefits, and there is improved  
4 fish and wildlife habitat along the canals and the  
5 off-stream storage.

6 The irrigation studies of the 60s were  
7 based on the crops of that time. These were mainly  
8 hay and cereal crops. They did not predict the  
9 abundant variety of new crops that would be introduced  
10 by growers. They did not predict the secondary  
11 industry, and all the other benefits.

12 So, how does this relate to Site C? Well,  
13 it has been stated by, as you report some academic  
14 studies, a tendency to underestimate the cost. It has  
15 been my experience that there has been a tendency to  
16 underestimate the benefits. I feel that the Site C  
17 project should be completed at this time, for the  
18 following reasons.

19 The demand for energy will continue to  
20 increase with population growth and economic  
21 development. And transportation, there is a trend  
22 towards electric cars and light rail transit to reduce  
23 air pollution in urban areas. The power to drive  
24 these alternative means of transportation will have to  
25 come from electricity.

26 Secondly, hydroelectricity is the cleanest

1 available energy source at this time that can meet the  
2 demands. Alternative sources such as wind and solar  
3 are not feasible in our current climate.

4 Ontario is currently dismantling nuclear  
5 generating stations, and importing clean, economical  
6 hydroelectricity from neighbouring provinces. Alberta  
7 is replacing its coal-fired generating stations. It  
8 has already been mentioned that the investments made  
9 by previous B.C. governments on hydroelectric projects  
10 have paid big dividends. Site C, located downstream,  
11 will benefit from the upstream storage. There has  
12 been a significant amount of money spent already. By  
13 the end of this year estimated to be 3 billion  
14 dollars. It would be a tremendous waste to not  
15 complete the project. Thank you very much for your  
16 attention.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

18 **Proceeding Time 7:52 p.m. T25**

19 Mr. James.

20 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. JAMES (#0075):**

21 MR. JAMES: Good evening. My name is Graeme James, J-A-  
22 M-E-S.

23 I've worked in the electrical industry for  
24 40-plus years. I've helped build power lines all over  
25 B.C. I just came back from Newfoundland last fall,  
26 where the government realized the benefit of the

1 Muskrat Falls, that produces the cheapest, greenest  
2 energy in the world.

3 Site C is no different. I've seen the ups  
4 and down in the industry in the last 40 years. But  
5 there's one thing that's always been consistent is the  
6 need for cheap green energy. And that's what Site C  
7 will do.

8 Dams such as Site C has the unique ability  
9 to store energy that can be used in peak power  
10 demands. Unlike solar and wind generation. B.C. has  
11 the advantage over other parts of the country, and the  
12 U.S., with its ability to produce hydroelectric  
13 energy. We need to take advantage of those  
14 opportunities.

15 Dams have been providing electricity in  
16 British Columbia since the late 1800s. It's what  
17 allows us to live and prosper in the climate we have  
18 in Canada. We presently enjoy some of the cheapest,  
19 lowest-cost electricity in North America. Site C is  
20 an investment in my children and in their children's  
21 future. We must take advantage of that opportunity.

22 A perfect example is, I worked up in the  
23 Dease Lake area in northern British Columbia about  
24 three years ago. We put power -- we extended the  
25 transmission line into the Dease Lake area. It opened  
26 that area up. We still have a resource-based economy.

1 We put power into there, and it opened up the mining,  
2 jobs, and development in that area. Now, some people  
3 won't like that, but a lot of people do. It produces  
4 a lot of jobs there.

5 So I really believe Site C should go ahead.  
6 And on a lighter note, if you really want to help BC  
7 Hydro, make the government stop taking millions and  
8 millions of dollars out of it every year.

9 Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

11 **Proceeding Time 7:55 p.m. T26**

12 Mr. Bemister, is there anyone else that  
13 would like to speak? Yes. I think there's another  
14 gentleman there too. Okay.

15 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. BUCKNA (#0076):**

16 MR. BUCKNA: My name is David Buckna, last name spelled  
17 B-U-C-K-N-A.

18 Despite the spin coming from the B.C.  
19 Liberals, Site C is not past the point of no return.  
20 It is projected to cost a minimum of \$9 billion that  
21 would take B.C. taxpayers and ratepayers 70 years to  
22 pay off. BC Hydro is already planning to raise rates  
23 28 percent over the next five years. Site C costs  
24 would be added to that once the dam is operational.

25 On August 30<sup>th</sup> the Association of Major  
26 Power Producers warned that an increase of more than

1           2.6 percent in energy costs will run the risk of  
2           destroying demand: "Existing industrial customers will  
3           scale or shut down operations or even transfer  
4           production to other jurisdictions." Even BC Hydro's  
5           own data doesn't project any demand for at least ten  
6           years into the dam's operating life. Besides, B.C.  
7           already has sufficient backup if it's needed from the  
8           Bennett Dam, Northwest electrical grid, Columbia  
9           River, and Burrard Thermal.

10                    If Site C is completed, BC Hydro will lose  
11           money on exports to the U.S. At present, B.C. has to  
12           sell power for less than it costs to produce. The  
13           demand growth is effectively zero as new technologies  
14           such as LED lighting emerge. BC Hydro has a long  
15           history of over estimating future demand. According  
16           to the Deloitte review: "Over the past 20 years BC  
17           Hydro's forecasts have overestimated demand by over 30  
18           percent on average." But if Site C overruns its  
19           budget like BC Hydro's last three projects, it will  
20           cost at least \$12 billion.

21                    Also, by eating up any possible future  
22           electricity demand Site C has driven away additional  
23           investment in solar, wind, and geothermal. Even now  
24           these alternatives are cheaper. Building a renewable  
25           portfolio would save B.C. ratepayers 0.7 to 1.6  
26           billion dollars. If and when B.C. does need more

1 power, alternatives are more cost effective and could  
2 provide energy with no increase in greenhouse gases.

3 Borrowing billions for Site C restricts  
4 opportunities to borrow for projects that British  
5 Columbians actually need, such as affordable housing,  
6 schools, more staff for hospitals, and residential  
7 care facilities, and daycare centres. If the new  
8 government is not against borrowing money given the  
9 present low interest rates, these projects would  
10 provide good jobs that easily replace the lost jobs  
11 from Site C.

12 Speaking of schools, I am a retired  
13 elementary teacher. And in my September 6<sup>th</sup> letter in  
14 the *Kelowna Daily Courier* I said "If our new  
15 government really wants to move to the forefront of  
16 public education in Canada it needs to look to Finland  
17 where all children have access to free, full day  
18 daycare up to age five, all day kindergarten begins at  
19 age six, and grade one begins at age seven."

20 According to world-renowned family  
21 therapist and parenting author Steve Biddulph, "Full  
22 day kindergarten for five year olds is too long and  
23 any younger is a big mistake developmentally." Rob  
24 Fleming, our new B.C. Education Minister said in an  
25 August 25<sup>th</sup> article, "We could make sure students have  
26 a strong start in our schools by investing more in

1 early childhood education and and childcare."

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sir, I wonder if -- you're going to be  
3 running out of time.

4 MR. BUCKNA: Yeah. Yeah, wrap it up.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: I wonder if we could get back to Site C  
6 and wrap up, thanks.

7 MR. BUCKNA: He concluded let's work together together  
8 our children the quality education they deserve. I  
9 agree. We don't need power from Site C. There's no  
10 need for it. But I believe in the power of public  
11 education. The people of B.C. Have already empowered  
12 the government to make wise decisions for the public  
13 good. Continuing with Site C would not be a wise  
14 decision.

15 Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

17 **Proceeding Time 8:01 p.m. T27**

18 Please go ahead.

19 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. STUPKA (#0077):**

20 MR. STUPKA: Good evening. Robert Stupka, S-T-U-P-K-A.  
21 I am a professional engineer. I've worked in resource  
22 planning projects with Yukon Energy, as well as worked  
23 with the lawyers in Hudson's Hope regarding a review  
24 of Site C's business case, and so I've done a bit of a  
25 report looking at various alternatives.

26 A business case is about as strong as a

1 story as you can tell. It can conveniently convey  
2 whatever it is the proponent wants it to achieve. And  
3 so in terms of you're looking at your own terms of  
4 reference, scope is going to be very important in  
5 terms of determining what's in, what's out, and what  
6 really does fit in with the economic analysis. And  
7 assumptions are one of those key things that need to  
8 be tested.

9 If you look at Elon Musk and the  
10 breakthroughs he's done with the electric vehicle or  
11 with SpaceX, he's done it not by listening to numbers  
12 that seem to be repeated over and over again, but by  
13 going back to first principles, always. You may not  
14 have the time for that but it's something to consider  
15 as you're assessing the information that you're  
16 receiving from various sources, including BC Hydro.

17 The other thing that's important first to  
18 be honest about hydro rates and the trajectory that  
19 they're going. We know BC Hydro is nearly bankrupt  
20 and there's a backlog of work that needs to be done  
21 and paid for. Yet even the current NDP government  
22 seems to think that we can freeze hydro rates. Hydro  
23 rates have an important impact on the demand for  
24 energy in the future. And so as we've seen, hydro  
25 rates were frozen prior to 2010. Everybody loved  
26 geothermal heating and loved it, and then when rates

1 started to go up again all of a sudden nobody's  
2 building geothermal heating systems any more.

3 Consumers respond to these supply -- these  
4 costs as they become -- and so as you're assessing  
5 competitive technologies and hear things about solar  
6 power, you know, since Site C was approved the price  
7 of solar has reduced by about 30 percent and even the  
8 numbers at that time in BC Hydro's own business case,  
9 you know, were overinflated because they were created  
10 even well before, you know -- those resource plans  
11 were created well before even approval. So those were  
12 definitely overestimated those prices.

13 But solar as much of an energy technology  
14 is also demand-side management technology. I have  
15 solar on my house, a 4.2 kilowatt system which  
16 displaces 100 percent of my electricity demand. With  
17 LED lighting my electricity demand is about 60 percent  
18 less than the average B.C. homeowner. Average B.C.  
19 owner is about 10,000 kilowatt hours per year, so you  
20 can work out from that there.

21 I walked away the minute that I found that  
22 I can get solar cheaper than the grid, and so will all  
23 other ratepayers. Simply when the power gets cheaper  
24 we have a big conundrum to deal with related to how do  
25 you pay for a Site C and how do you pay for the  
26 backlog of BC Hydro maintenance and operation costs?

1           How does the utility recover from that when consumers  
2           are going to choose economics and what makes the most  
3           sense for them?

4                         In the analysis that we did in Hudson's  
5           Hope, what is not in the scope of BC Hydro's resource  
6           planning was natural gas and the role that it can play  
7           in terms of cheaply providing a peak capacity that can  
8           be then used with a basket of renewable energy sources  
9           intermittently. And so while you may not need that  
10          natural gas very often, it's there and it's there to  
11          be as a reliable backup, but allows you to have that  
12          incremental development of renewable energies to be  
13          able to provide stability.

14                        The biggest issue is really we don't have  
15          the load demand for Site C and it's a big risk to be  
16          putting all this big power online at once in one  
17          project. By being able to deploy a basket of smaller  
18          renewable energies, to follow load demand you're  
19          reducing your risk. You're also reducing debt on the  
20          taxpayer. And you're leaving yourself open to be able  
21          to pivot as demand changes. And we are really in a  
22          time right now where the energy demand and  
23          technologies are changing very rapidly. I speak to  
24          not only advances in solar technologies. They talk  
25          about needing the power for electric vehicles, but  
26          those provide huge amounts of opportunities for

1 storage.

2 Lastly, 2032 is when the province has put  
3 the target for net zero ready buildings to be built.  
4 Our firm already designs these homes and we're able to  
5 achieve a savings over existing energy of -- basically  
6 they use 8 percent less energy than a conventional  
7 home built today. Thus through the Passive House  
8 Standard, which is Step 5 of the *B.C. Energy Step*  
9 *Code*, we're able to achieve a 50 to 75 percent savings  
10 in energy demand depending on which climate zone  
11 you're in. With the combination of an air source heat  
12 pump which has about a 300 percent seasonal  
13 efficiency, you get down to between 8 and 16 percent  
14 energy savings. That is significant and really  
15 questions a lot of the load and demand forecasts that  
16 we have on the basis of Site C.

17 Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

19 **Proceeding Time 8:06 p.m. T28**

20 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. KERGAN (#0078):**

21 MS. KERGAN: Good evening. My name is Carol Kergan, K-  
22 E-R-G-A-N. I'm a taxpayer, I'm a member of the  
23 Council of Canadians. I've been to the Peace River  
24 Valley. I am personally very much against the  
25 completion of the project. I was up there and got to  
26 see how, after the election it was continuing and

1           there was a request to stop it and it still had to  
2           wait until the government officially instated. And I  
3           really feel strongly the B.C. Utilities Commission --  
4           the bypass previously of your overseeing and  
5           examination on this project was an extreme oversight  
6           and we really really need to have broader terms of  
7           reference.

8                        I'd like to argue a lot of different parts  
9           to the package, but I know your terms of reference  
10          limit what you can consider, and I think that's a  
11          really serious shortcoming.

12                       I was in Newfoundland last year and I was  
13          able to hear and connect with people that are fighting  
14          the Muskrat Falls project on the basis of overcost as  
15          has been stated, but also the environmental legacy of  
16          the methylmercury in the water for the people that  
17          live there and depend on waters, and their need for  
18          the food and their life that is in that area, just  
19          really really showed me that they are in theory past  
20          that point of no return. They are pushing on -- their  
21          market for the power has dwindled away, so they know  
22          it's a terrible cost to the Newfoundland people and  
23          Labrador people. We have a chance to stop this.

24                       If we don't stop it, postponing as has been  
25          stated by many people here tonight, technology change,  
26          breather space. Like this project has waited a lot of

1           years. Putting it on hold now is my recommendation  
2           and I seriously hope you will consider that path  
3           forward.

4                           Thank you very much.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON:       Thank you.

6   **Proceeding Time 8:08 p.m. T29**

7 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. SHAW (#0079):**

8 MS. SHAW:   Hello. Good evening. My name is Fae Shaw. I  
9           am representing the Okanagan Stop Site C Dam  
10          Coalition. A local group of people here in the valley  
11          from various other groups that were concerned about  
12          this project and felt that it was a bad deal for the  
13          environment, for First Nations, for ratepayers, for  
14          landowners in the Peace, and for generations to come.

15                   Let me first say how much I value this  
16          opportunity to have my say, and for the people of this  
17          province to be heard, if they wish. So I thank you  
18          for being here. And your attention and consideration  
19          of what has and will be said tonight, and in every  
20          community input session around the province.

21                   I am not by any means an expert, but for  
22          about a year I've been trying to understand Site C:  
23          the economics, all the costs of damming the Peace  
24          River. Flooding the last 87 kilometres of the valley  
25          to produce hydroelectric power. I've been to the  
26          Peace a couple of times, heard from landowners,

1 environmentalists, First Nations, and paddled the  
2 river twice. I've tried to understand -- tried my  
3 best to understand the impact to the environment, to  
4 the fish and wildlife. The impact on First Nations,  
5 the loss of their way of life, their food, sacred  
6 places, and abrogation of their treaty rights. The  
7 agricultural impacts on the farmers and ranchers  
8 losing their land. On the loss of food production and  
9 food security in the north, the impact of losing all  
10 these acres of good land, viable land.

11 What I've seen, heard, and read adds up to  
12 one thing. Site C -- the Site C dam project, is an  
13 unnecessary costly beast that the people of this  
14 province will regret for years. Generations to come  
15 will rue the day, if we do not stop this thing. If it  
16 is not killed sooner rather than later.

17 I'm reading the preliminary report of the  
18 Commission. My first response is, we, me, the  
19 citizens of this province, can be very grateful for  
20 your thoroughness. You must have worked very  
21 diligently indeed, considering the scanty time frame  
22 you had to wade through the 866-page report from BC  
23 Hydro, hear from the experts who have written reports  
24 and given testimony, and also send a whopping 73  
25 questions back to BC Hydro for clarification.

26 BC Hydro, a big corporation with so many

1 resources at hand, does not in my view have any  
2 justifiable excuse for not providing the Commission or  
3 the public with all the necessary figures, documents,  
4 rationales, et cetera, to answer the questions you  
5 have sent them on our behalf, really. On the public's  
6 behalf. On my behalf.

7 It makes me wonder if they will try to  
8 stickhandle the puck and let the clock run out now  
9 without ever providing what you have asked for. Such  
10 a weak and irresponsible play by what is supposed to  
11 be a trusted Crown corporation seems to echo their  
12 case for Site C. I consider it weak and  
13 irresponsible.

14 The last time this Site C dam project was  
15 reviewed by the BCUC was in the early 80s. It was  
16 canned then because BC Hydro's case for spending  
17 taxpayers' money was not justified. Well, what has  
18 happened since then? For one, their forecasts have  
19 been proven inaccurate and overblown, according to  
20 Karen Bakker of the UBC Water Governance Project in  
21 her report of May, 2017. In 1981, BC Hydro projected  
22 that demand would double in ten years. That still has  
23 not materialized. In fact, demand has been flat for  
24 16 years.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: I will just -- I'm mindful of the time,  
26 if you could start to summarize.

1 MS. SHAW: Okay. So, I have read some of the Deloitte  
2 report and McCullough, and I know that you're well  
3 aware of their findings. And I am sceptical, as you  
4 are, I'm sure - I think as many people here are - that  
5 Site C is a worthy project for this province. It's  
6 costly; it's not justified. Renewables would serve us  
7 much better, and we will thank you greatly if you  
8 determine that.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

10 **Proceeding Time 8:13 p.m. T30**

11 We'll take one more presentation and then  
12 we'll wrap it up for the night, thank you.

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. SHEPHARD (#0080):**

14 MR. SHEPHARD: My name is Trevor Shephard, I came in  
15 late and I hear that my -- I spell my last name S-H-E-  
16 P-H-A-R-D. I am a professional engineer and I work in  
17 water and energy field. In fact, years ago, about ten  
18 years ago I went up and spent a lot of time in the  
19 Peace River Valley, and I reworked the water and waste  
20 water systems at both the Bennett dam and the Peace  
21 Canyon dam, and I spent a lot of time in those  
22 facilities and I'm actually a -- I like hydro power.  
23 I think hydro power is a good clean source of energy,  
24 but however in this case I am taking a big exception  
25 to the Site C dam because -- for a few reasons.

26 I have spent time driving up and down that

1 valley and I can say that it is one of the most  
2 productive looking agricultural valleys that I've  
3 seen. Like it was full of hundreds of deer and cattle  
4 and crops and, you know, there's about 60 or 70  
5 kilometres that I saw there of very productive  
6 farmland. And listening to the last year or two of  
7 report of the droughts in California and destruction  
8 of arable land and erosion, I think we're going to be  
9 losing a lot of land in the United States, in  
10 California, especially with the drought in California  
11 in the last few years. We're going to need that  
12 farmland to grow food for our province and for Canada.  
13 And once farmland is gone, it's -- you can't recover  
14 that farmland. You know, it's going to be underwater  
15 and the topsoil will be gone.

16 So we have to consider our food production  
17 as our planet heats up and we're going to start --  
18 through climate change we are going to be losing the  
19 capacity to, say, produce in other regions.

20 So that is a major reason. I see that  
21 valley as a big -- you know, for that area, it can  
22 produce a lot of food for that part of B.C.

23 Yeah, there's the environmental need. Like  
24 the wildlife portion. I saw hundreds of deer and elk  
25 and you know, and the First Nations values in that  
26 valley. It's a very beautiful and fertile valley. I

1 wouldn't be up here saying this if it was a rocky  
2 cliff and you know, rock walls, and you know, looked  
3 like the Hoover dam, but this is a very fertile  
4 productive valley and I think it's a huge waste and it  
5 would be a huge detriment to the area to bury this in  
6 water.

7 And from the energy side, I agree with the  
8 last speakers. We haven't been presented with why we  
9 need this dam over solar and wind, you know, any  
10 geothermal. I haven't seen a case from BC Hydro why  
11 this is the best choice at this time. And like Mr.  
12 Stupka said there, the prices of solar have fallen to  
13 where in other countries like Chile and Costa Rica  
14 they're doing six kilowatt an hour solar farms, for  
15 six kilowatt hour cost of power.

16 So I would ask you, consider that we can do  
17 solar farms and these other technologies where the  
18 price has dropped in half in the last few years. You  
19 know, Saudi Arabia is -- even the oil companies are  
20 putting in solar in Saudi Arabia and you know, they've  
21 got the cheapest oil in the world.

22 So I'd ask you to consider -- let's look at  
23 all those large scale green renewable technologies  
24 that are now half the price they were a few years ago  
25 instead of doing a mega project like this that  
26 permanently destroys farmland and wildlife or First

1 Nations heritage. And as someone who has personally  
2 been to valley quite a few times, I urge you to  
3 consider that. It's an important valley in that area  
4 and it should be preserved.

5 Thank you very much.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

7 **Proceeding Time 8:17 p.m. T31**

8 Well, thank you. I'd like to thank  
9 everyone that came out tonight, and in particular I'd  
10 like to thank all of you who spoke. It's very helpful  
11 to the Panel, and we're very encouraged to see  
12 everyone's interest in this report and in our process.

13 So I hope you all have a great evening.

14 And thanks again for coming.

15 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:18 P.M.)**

16 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FORGOING  
17 is a true and accurate transcript  
18 of the proceedings herein, to the  
19 best of my skill and ability.

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21  
22 A.B. Lanigan, Court Reporter

23 September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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