

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

HUDSON'S HOPE , B.C.
September 30th, 2017

COMMUNITY INPUT PROCEEDINGS
HUDSON'S HOPE

BEFORE:

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

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HUDSON'S HOPE, B.C.

September 30th, 2017

(PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 6:00 P.M.)

1
2
3
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening. Thank you for joining
5 us as we proceed through our two and a half week
6 schedule of Site C Inquiry community input sessions
7 around the province. So far we've heard presentations
8 in Vancouver, Kamloops, Kelowna, Nelson and Prince
9 George. We also opened our first of three scheduled
10 of First Nations input sessions in Prince George.

11 We were extremely pleased, both by the
12 level of public interest and the effort that's gone
13 into the presentations that we've heard in both
14 streams of input sessions.

15 My name is David Morton and I am the Panel
16 Chair for the Site C inquiry. I'm also the Chair and
17 CEO of the British Columbia Utilities Commission.
18 With me are my fellow Site C inquiry panel members:
19 Dennis Cote on my left, Karen Keilty on my right, and
20 Richard Mason on Karen's right.

21 This community input session is part of the
22 second important phase of the Site C inquiry. As you
23 know, we spent the first six weeks of this inquiry
24 collecting data and analysis from many parties
25 interested in, and affected by, BC Hydro's Site C
26 project. The quality of these submissions was

1 commendable. Many people committed a great deal to
2 producing a quality submission within the short time
3 frame that was provided. This affirms what we already
4 know, that there are experts and affected parties who
5 can bring us insights into the many complexities of
6 evaluating the economic impact of the Site C project.

7 We now have the task of making findings at
8 this inquiry, and we recognize that our findings are
9 better with your input.

10 The OIC -- the Order in Council that
11 directed us to inquire into this project specifically
12 requires us to consider the cost implications on BC
13 Hydro ratepayers of three scenarios: continuing the
14 project; suspending the project and re-starting it in
15 2024; and finally of terminating the project. My
16 panel members and I recognize that there are many
17 other implications of the project beyond cost
18 implications. However, those implications are not
19 within our scope to inquire into. Considering that,
20 we ask that you, in the interests of all parties in
21 the room, you strive to keep your submissions within
22 the scope of our inquiry into Site C.

23 Submissions made here today, as well as
24 those made in writing, but are outside of the scope of
25 our review cannot be considered in our final report to
26 government on November 1st.

1 There are copies of the executive summary
2 of our preliminary report at the entrance table, and
3 the full report is available on our website or by
4 making a request through our office if you don't have
5 access to the internet.

6 I'd like to address a number of
7 housekeeping items for today's session, and I assume
8 that Mr. Bemister -- you've already talked about
9 washrooms and all of those things? Great, thanks.
10 And Mr. Bemister is from Allwest Reporting, and he has
11 his team here, and they will be recording and
12 transcribing the sessions.

13 The live audio can be streamed from our
14 website, SiteCInquiry.com, and following these
15 sessions, all presentations will be transcribed and
16 posted with the rest of the inquiry documents on that
17 site.

18 During the proceeding, Mr. Bemister will
19 help you speakers organize and help you up to the
20 podium, and help maintain the order as we move through
21 the speaker list.

22 There is some coffee outside the room,
23 please help yourself and feel free to go back -- go
24 out and in the room if you need some coffee.

25 The list of speakers appears on the screen
26 up there. When you see your name appearing at the top

1 of the list, please come up to the podium and present
2 yourself. And as you speak -- or sorry, before you
3 speak, if you could state your first name and spell
4 your last name, so that the transcribers can make sure
5 that they properly attribute what you say to you, that
6 would be appreciated, please.

7 Other than stating your name, please
8 refrain from including personal and/or confidential
9 information in your submission. We note that it will
10 become part of the public record, so that -- it would
11 not be appropriate to include confidential or personal
12 information. The inclusion of confidential
13 information may result in your presentation not being
14 included in the transcript of this session, and
15 consequently not further considered in this inquiry.

16 This confidential information includes the
17 confidential information in the Deloitte report that
18 is circulating in the press. The Commission considers
19 this information remains confidential, despite the
20 improper disclosure in the press.

21 The primary purpose of the Commission's
22 determining this information to be confidential is the
23 potential to damage ratepayer interests through
24 increased costs to BC Hydro ratepayers.

25 Please also refrain from using profane or
26 offensive language in your presentation. This, as

1 well as any other disruptive behaviour, will result in
2 the early close of the session.

3 Speakers will have a maximum of five
4 minutes. There is a timer in the front, as you can
5 see, and if you get towards the end of the five
6 minutes I'll try to gently remind you of that and ask
7 that you try and wrap your talk up.

8 And if you've heard sentiments from prior
9 speakers that are consistent with yours, you may wish
10 to use your speaking time to register your support of
11 another's presentation, and so to prevent repeating
12 material, and leaves you more time to present material
13 of your own that you wish to present.

14 With that, we are ready to open this
15 session in Hudson's Hope, B.C., on September the 30th,
16 2017. And our first speaker, please.

17 **Proceeding Time 6:06 p.m. T02**

18 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. JOHANSSON (#0124):**

19 MS. JOHANSSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

21 MS. JOHANSSON: And thank you to the Commission for
22 holding a meeting in Hudson's Hope. Welcome, and we
23 appreciate your being here.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

25 MS. JOHANSSON: In a letter that was dated August the
26 17th, 2017, after you had visited the dam site and the

1 first time of relocation, Director Karen Goodings and
2 I extended an invitation to you to tour the upper part
3 of the Site C project; in other words, this end of it.
4 That invitation is still in place, should you wish to
5 take advantage of it, and we'd be happy to accommodate
6 your schedule, whatever time you might be able to
7 attend.

8 Didn't start the timer, eh? Good.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Oh. I wanted to give you a little
10 extra time.

11 MS. JOHANSSON: So the position of Hudson's Hope
12 regarding Site C is, and has been, that the project
13 should be sent to the B.C. Utilities Commission for a
14 review, so we're happy to see you're here, to
15 determine whether it would be in the public interest.
16 And what was envisioned at that time was one of the
17 regular pre-construction oral hearings with full
18 procedural safeguards. And the reality of this
19 abbreviated timeline, and the lack of opportunity to
20 test the evidence on all sides, is regrettable.

21 However, better late than not at all and,
22 as I said, we appreciate the opportunity that's been
23 provided. We're glad you're here. Better late than
24 never.

25 Just a very brief background. I have to
26 say that I have mentioned to some of you that, you

1 know, this is actually the 50th year that the W.A.C.
2 Bennett Dam has been in operation. It was opened, I
3 believe, in 1967. And so on the one hand Hudson's
4 Hope has 50 years of the pros and cons, advantages and
5 disadvantages of living with dams and with BC Hydro.
6 And five minutes didn't quite cut it as far as
7 summarizing that. So, I think you mentioned that you
8 have the possibility of having written submissions
9 coming in?

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

11 MS. JOHANSSON: So if that is true, then we'll arrange to
12 do something along that line.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. That would be appreciated.

14 MS. JOHANSSON: Beg your pardon, sorry?

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. That would be appreciated.

16 MS. JOHANSSON: Oh, thank you.

17 The District of Hudson's Hope is
18 geographically the third-largest municipality in B.C.
19 at 927 square kilometers, but it's a relatively small
20 population now of about a thousand people. But there
21 are additional varied members of the itinerant workers
22 that are either working in the oil and gas patch or
23 for maintenance and so on on BC Hydro dams, and so we
24 have a number of people that are often in the
25 community that are not part of the permanent
26 population.

1 The dams, the W.A.C. Bennett Dam, which is
2 the largest, and Peace Canyon, which is the fourth-
3 largest Hydro dam, it was in their system, are within
4 the municipal boundaries. And the reservoir behind
5 Peace Canyon is completely within our boundaries, and
6 part of the Williston Reservoir, which is behind the
7 Bennett Dam.

8 Hudson's Hope and Electoral Areas B and C
9 between here and the dam site, the Site C dam site,
10 are the jurisdictions that are most affected by the
11 Site C project. And we have impacts, or will have
12 impacts, some of construction of the dam. The largest
13 impact, though, for Hudson's Hope is the -- and more
14 significant for us, is the long-term and the permanent
15 operational impacts, the permanent loss of a valley as
16 we know, and the foregone opportunities that would
17 result as well.

18 We began to be affected by the Site C
19 project in the 1970s when BC Hydro began to purchase
20 land for the project. And in 1975, they introduced
21 their passive land acquisition policy. And that was
22 when, if someone wished to sell property to BC Hydro,
23 they could take it -- they could approach BC Hydro
24 with that. So that's 42 years ago. So we've been
25 affected by the Site C project. It didn't start, for
26 Hudson's Hope, in 2012. It started back in the 1970s.

1 And it has been a large impact. We have -- oh, and BC
2 Hydro is by far the largest land-owner in the
3 municipality.

4 The reservoir level would be ten meters
5 higher than the present river level, and it would
6 extend just out there. It would extend upstream here,
7 to the base of the Peace Canyon Dam, which is about --
8 I think it's about 18 kilometers. I meant to go and
9 measure that today and I forgot. I think about 18
10 kilometers.

11 So you're focused on the costs of the
12 project. And I just want to point out that many of
13 the Hudson's Hope losses are of the intangible nature.
14 They're in the eye of the beholder. I don't know how
15 you're going to measure those things, but they are
16 costs, nevertheless. So whether it's a drive through
17 the valley to get here, from Fort St. John, or the
18 tiny little cactus plants that we have -- pear
19 practice's cactus, I think they're called. They're
20 found along the north bank. Or whether it's the bull
21 trout that are at risk in the river. Those are the
22 things that I know that are not within your terms of
23 reference per se, but they are costs. And how you put
24 a number on it, I don't know.

25 I'm on my second five minutes. Are you
26 going to let me keep going?

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: What I would propose is, why don't we
2 go through the speaker list, and if we have a little
3 time at the end, we could invite you back then.

4 MS. JOHANSSON: Sure. Okay, thanks.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. And before we continue, I
6 just want to make sure -- can everyone hear the
7 speaker?

8 VOICE: No.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: No.

10 **Proceeding Time 6:12 p.m. T03**

11 FEMALE VOICE: So I'm beginning again.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Pardon me?

13 FEMALE VOICE: (inaudible).

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes. And this side of the room, are
15 you having similar problems? Or can you hear?

16 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE VOICE: I can't hear proper.

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE VOICE: I'm having trouble.

18 THE CHAIRPERSON: I am too, yes. So maybe we'll just
19 take -- I'm sorry to do this. Let's just take a five-
20 minute break here and see if we can --

21 MALE VOICE: Get the sound up.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Yes.

23 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 6:12 P.M.)**

24 **(PROCEEDINGS RESUMED AT 6:17 P.M.)**

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please go ahead.

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. POWER (#0125):**

1 MR. POWER: Hello, my name is Justin Power and I believe
2 the dam should not be completed. Power consumption is
3 increasing everywhere and new generation will be
4 needed. Hydroelectric generation is one of the
5 cleanest options we have available, but these large
6 dams can only be built in specific areas with certain
7 geographical features.

8 I feel it's our responsibility to tap this
9 natural resource to help power areas that don't have
10 this green option available to them. The power lines
11 cross the borders, just as the effect of climate
12 change do too.

13 I also think we should add more solar and
14 wind. But that's only putting power in the grid when
15 the sun's shining and the wind's blowing. We need
16 something when those options aren't working, and
17 that's where the dams come in. People also say
18 batteries could be used. But the scale of large-scale
19 batteries are pretty hard on the environment to make.

20 The reservoir of the dams acts as a
21 battery, sitting there storing energy, can be turned
22 on and off when we -- when the sun's not shining, and
23 the wind's not blowing, and all that. And I
24 definitely agree with everyone that changing this
25 beautiful valley is unfortunate. But how much is it
26 going to change in 50 years if climate change keeps

1 staying so rampant. We need to think big and beyond
2 our borders. We need to help harness the resources we
3 have to help globally. Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

5 **Proceeding Time 6:19 p.m. T04**

6 Mr. Metzger, please.

7 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. METZGER (#0126):**

8 MR. METZGER: Good evening. My name is Steve Metzger,
9 spelled M-E-T-Z-G-E-R. Thank you for the chance to
10 speak to you for just a couple of minutes here.

11 If I understand correctly, I believe that
12 you have rejected comparisons between analysis of the
13 Site C economics and previous mega-hydroelectric
14 projects. I don't know the reasons for that
15 rejection. But I think if that is the case, I still
16 feel it's important to point out a 2014 study from
17 Oxford University. This was the largest-ever
18 scientific peer-reviewed study of the economics of
19 large-scale dams. The researchers studied 265 dam
20 projects in 65 countries between the years 1934 and
21 2007, which was the period they felt they had the most
22 reliable data for. Their data showed, their empirical
23 data, an average 96 percent cost overrun, an average
24 44 percent implementation time overrun. They pointed
25 out that all of the proponents claimed and thought
26 they would be on time and on budget, and BC Hydro

1 right now is attempting -- is saying the same thing.
2 But the data showed otherwise, that wasn't the case.

3 Their main conclusion was that projects
4 post-2007 would follow the same pattern unless the
5 proponents increased their initial cost estimates by
6 99 percent, increased their implementation time
7 estimate by 66 percent, and that would give them an 80
8 percent certainty of coming in on time and on budget
9 with those numbers.

10 To me, it seems like this study, which I
11 said was the largest ever conducted, in conjunction
12 with BC Hydro's really redacted submissions to the
13 BCUC, it really begs the question that, is it wise for
14 us to ignore this history and assume that Site C is
15 going to be any different than what's happened in the
16 past? And I think not.

17 And I worry, and I think we all should
18 worry, about the effect of Site C cost overruns on
19 Hydro ratepayers and on B.C. taxpayers.

20 A couple of other things I'd like to
21 address, just in the last couple of minutes I have,
22 are some hidden costs. And these are -- they're hard
23 to quantify. They might be impossible to quantify.
24 But they're still costs, and they somehow, they
25 shouldn't be ignored. And I'll just use two examples
26 that I think these things somehow should be considered

1 as part of the cost of going ahead with this project.

2 One is, and it's been mentioned already,
3 the loss of agricultural land that will happen if the
4 valley is flooded, and there will be an increased cost
5 for replacement production from California, from
6 Mexico, from other places in Canada, from other places
7 around the world. That's a cost that's there, and I
8 don't know how we account for that, but it needs to be
9 taken into account somehow.

10 And the greenhouse gas emissions that will
11 occur during construction and flooding, and the loss
12 of the carbon sink that this valley provides right
13 now, those are costs also. BC Hydro would like to
14 claim that this is a clean energy project. But, you
15 know, the science is in. The science now says that
16 mega-hydroelectric projects are not clean when you
17 take the whole project into account, and don't just
18 look at the final product, but take the whole project
19 into account.

20 Climate change isn't anecdotal any more.
21 It's a scientific reality. And these emissions and
22 this loss of carbon sink, down the road, those will
23 contribute to pushing climate change past the point of
24 no return, and there will be incredible costs for all
25 of us associated with that.

26 And like I said, I don't know how these

1 things can be accounted for. It may be impossible to
2 quantify them. But somehow, I hope they can be
3 considered. Thank you.

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

5 **Proceeding Time 6:24 p.m. T05**

6 Ms. Okada, please go ahead.

7 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. OKADA (#0127):**

8 MS. OKADA: I'm Grace Okada, O-K-A-D-A. The cost of this
9 dam is not limited to the billions paid to the
10 contractors, but please consider this when you're
11 writing at your recommendations about the dam.

12 This dam will flood a beautiful valley that
13 supports many lives, both human and animals. There is
14 also a cost to this. There was a vegetable garden and
15 stand by the river banks. Every year during the
16 growing season, when we drove by, we would stop and
17 purchase some of the freshest and healthiest
18 vegetables and fruits. There was corn, cantaloupe,
19 lettuce, beets, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, and much,
20 much more.

21 This food contained more nutrients than the
22 grocery store food, because it did not have to travel
23 the hundreds of kilometers to get up here, during
24 which time it would lose some of those nutrients
25 during transport. My health benefited from that food.
26 Everyone's health benefited. Everyone's quality of

1 life improved.

2 If that land is flooded, we pay the cost of
3 the quality in our lives. Please remember this when
4 you write your report. BC Hydro doesn't want us to
5 think about this kind of cost.

6 Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

8 **Proceeding Time 6:25 p.m. T06**

9 Please go ahead.

10 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. LONDON (#0128):**

11 MS. LONDON: Hi, I'm Clara London, L-O-N-D-O-N. I would
12 like to thank the Commission for being here.

13 I am a third-generation land owner at Bear
14 Flats/Cache Creek area. My husband and I have had
15 property taken by full expropriation for the project.
16 In order for the Site C project to stay on schedule
17 and on budget, BC Hydro must be a good manager of the
18 project and the Environmental Assessment Agency must
19 have adequate oversight. And these two things are not
20 happening.

21 The EIS and the conditions placed on this
22 project were to keep the project running smoothly.
23 This is not happening. I have seen. I'm on-the-
24 ground witness to the project in the Bear Flats/Cache
25 Creek area over the past year and a half. BC Hydro
26 has not gotten one aspect of the project correct at

1 Bear Flats.

2 The archaeologists were digging on the
3 wrong property. The surveyors trespassed. Logging
4 maps were incorrect. As they proceeded through six
5 agriculture operations, there was no weed plan in
6 place, and none of the farm mitigation plans had been
7 started. They stole my third-generation timber and
8 mulched huge trees. A large quantity of merchantable
9 timber was mulched. A large quantity of mulch washed
10 into Cache Creek, then into the Peace River, both
11 being fish-bearing streams.

12 All of this was very disrespectful of the
13 generations of land-owners and the environment. The
14 Environmental Assessment Office were on the ground in
15 Cache Creek and watched the mulching happening in the
16 flood plain. They should have issued a cease order.
17 Instead, they left and said they had to look into if
18 BC Hydro was allowed to deposit mulch on the flood
19 plain.

20 Two months later, a heavy rain caused the
21 mulch to wash into Cache and into the Peace. Seven
22 months later, the Environmental Assessment Office is
23 still looking into the mulch situation and the
24 environment has been irreparably damaged.

25 In the east half of Bear Flat area, in a
26 stretch that is 3.7 kilometers, the Environmental

1 Assessment Office looked into 14 issues. The
2 Environmental Assessment Office found non-compliance
3 in seven issues. There are still five unresolved
4 issues that the Environmental Assessment Office is
5 still involved in.

6 BC Hydro has not followed the EIS or the
7 conditions. Therefore, their performance at Bear
8 Flats area was a complete failure.

9 I have a picture of a drilling truck
10 drilling to test for ground stability for the new
11 bridge on the west side of Cache Creek. Directly
12 below the drilling truck on the bank is a slump. The
13 hillside has a slough there as we speak, and therefore
14 it would suggest that the bank is unstable.

15 In June of 2017, BC Hydro had changed the
16 bridge design and the Environmental Assessment Office
17 found that this design for the long bridge was non-
18 compliant with Schedule A of the certificate.

19 In closing, the EIS, the conditions, and
20 the certified project description are not being
21 adhered to. Therefore, the project will not be on
22 schedule and will be over budget. Given the
23 opportunity I will buy back my land and return the
24 agricultural land to agricultural use.

25 Thank you.

26 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you. Thank you, ma'am.

1 **Proceeding Time 6:30 p.m. T07**

2 Please go ahead, sir.

3 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. RHYMER (#0129):**

4 MR. RHYMER: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I'd
5 like to thank you for this opportunity to contribute
6 to this meeting. May the Great Spirit guide us all.

7 At the Dawson Creek Land Resource
8 Management Plan meetings, which I attended in the 90s,
9 the very first area agreed on to become a protected
10 area was the Peace River and its islands. It was
11 proposed by Leo Rutledge, a long-time resident of
12 Hudson's Hope, a trapper, a farmer, a hunter, and a
13 very concerned and good citizen. Consensus was needed
14 for all these decisions, but BC Hydro would only agree
15 to the proposal if they could flood the valley if
16 necessary. So that was how the proposal had to be
17 worded in order to pass, which it did.

18 Now, BC Hydro would like to build Site C
19 and turn the Peace River into a cash cow, to sell
20 electricity to us. When you look at the projected
21 cost of this operation, you realize that the price of
22 electricity is definitely not going to go down. The
23 latest idea, should Site C be stopped, is to pass on
24 to the taxpayers the \$3 billion in de-construction
25 costs. Who do they think will have to pay the \$10
26 billion if they keep going? I think the \$3 billion

1 should be paid back by the B.C. Liberal party, who
2 pushed so hard to build Site C that they ignored all
3 opposition, even refused to accept the recommendations
4 of their Utility Commission and the B.C. public, who
5 quite rightly voted them out of office.

6 Nowadays there are other methods of
7 producing power that do not require sacrifice in the
8 Peace River. We've got turbines, solar, we've got
9 wind turbines, run-of-the-river turbines. The
10 projected costs of Site C do not give any value to the
11 river itself. No value for the irreplaceable
12 ecosystems: fish, wildlife, farmlands, homes, people,
13 that would be destroyed by flooding. A value that far
14 and away exceeds any amount of money to be made by
15 selling power. You can't buy another river. They're
16 not making any more.

17 Farmland is a very precious resource. We
18 all live off farmland. And to propose flooding
19 thousands of acres is an extremely serious matter.
20 The area flooded by the Site 1 dam was non-
21 agricultural land. It's a nice little lake now. It
22 was a canyon. You couldn't use it at all. You had to
23 portage around it. But that's where dams should be,
24 not on the best agricultural land in the country.

25 The Peace River between Hudson's Hope and
26 Fort St. John is all agricultural land. It's islands

1 and shores, a resting and birthing grounds for
2 waterfowl, wildlife, fish populations, and people. If
3 you drive along Highway 29 to Fort St. John and look
4 at the Peace River valley, all the fine farmland, full
5 of crops, then go up to Geddes Bay, that's about 16
6 kilometers west of here, at the end of Williston Lake,
7 and look at the cut banks and the ducks peeling off of
8 them on a windy day. You'll see what this lake will
9 look like if Site C goes ahead.

10 So one day not long ago I was thinking
11 about all this, and I was driving along Highway 29.
12 It was raining. There was a huge flock of geese, over
13 500 birds, feeding in a field by the river. I thought
14 surely, surely, we don't need power so desperately
15 that we've got to destroy all this to get it. There
16 must be an alternative. There absolutely must be.

17 What we need is a method of producing power
18 that does not destroy or severely affect the existing
19 ecosystems. Why wouldn't we work towards that as a
20 goal?

21 Thank you very much for hearing my little
22 speech there, and I hope you consider it. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: We will. Thank you, sir.

24 **Proceeding Time 6:36 p.m. T08**

25 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. ARMITAGE (#0130):**

26 MR. ARMITAGE: Guy Armitage. First of all, welcome to

1 Hudson's Hope. Thanks for coming. We've been waiting
2 a long time to talk to you, so don't disappoint us,
3 please.

4 I run a small beekeeping operation, among
5 other things, in the valley for the last 20 years.
6 You've heard -- I'm sure you have enough data on the
7 economics of this project. I'm sure BC Hydro has
8 provided you with a variety of numbers and
9 information, as they continue to try to put a square
10 peg in a round hole. You've heard all about
11 renewables, solar, demand costs. This should be
12 enough to prove that Site C should be cancelled. The
13 formula of renewables with existing hydro as backup, I
14 think that should be enough of a selling feature.

15 But I would like to add a little bit more
16 to the equation, because I feel it's important that we
17 include in the equation what alternative development
18 plans for the valley other than a reservoir would
19 mean. This would include wildlife preservation,
20 tourism, agriculture. These are real cost influences.

21 Highlighting horticulture and specifically
22 organic farming practices as part of an integrated
23 management plan that would have a small footprint in
24 the valley. But it would also allow its beauty in
25 nature to continue to thrive. This would provide, you
26 know, a substantial amount of economic activity. A

1 small part of this would be, for example, my honey
2 operation. I produce approximately 150 pounds per
3 hive per year of high-quality honey. There is a
4 potential -- and this is conservative numbers --
5 potential, we could produce 200 pounds per hive and
6 the reservoir area could sustain a thousand hives.
7 That's one operation.

8 And that's only one part. There are other
9 products associated with honeybees. The bees
10 themselves, plus there's other products that -- hive
11 products that are in demand world-wide. These are
12 economic factors and viable potential money-makers
13 that should be included in any cost equation.

14 In a nutshell, if an idiot like me can
15 achieve these, imagine someone with more ambition and
16 some business sense.

17 The other part of it, food security for the
18 north and beyond. We have an expanding organic food
19 industry worldwide. We have farmer's markets
20 expanding. We have a thriving market here. You've
21 heard about some of the products, produce from the
22 valley. So, you know, these are costs that we're
23 going to lose, and these are sustainable costs for the
24 long term.

25 Now, I know that you don't have enough to
26 look at, so I brought you some more reading material.

1 No, I'll just give you a brief overview of it, the
2 *Dummies* version. This is something -- a recent study
3 that -- and kind of a seminar thing that we -- not we,
4 but that was put together for this area. It's called
5 the North Peace Horticultural Business Case and
6 Marketing Strategy.

7 So basically it illustrates interest in the
8 area, for horticulture industry development. And it's
9 just basically -- it's the very first step to doing
10 something with this valley. We feel that it would
11 produce, rather than -- as well as the opportunity, it
12 would produce -- or creating not just temporary jobs,
13 but sustainable careers.

14 And I'm sure the government funds for this
15 infrastructure would be readily available. It talks
16 about facilities for processing, marketing,
17 distribution, and I think we could probably come in
18 under the \$8 billion budget that was for Site C.

19 I just feel that these are things that must
20 also be considered in the economic equation. So, we
21 ask you to give the valley back to the people of B.C.,
22 and we'll make it cost-effective.

23 Thank you.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

25 **Proceeding Time 6:41 p.m. T09**

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. SYKES (#0131):**

1 MR. SYKES: Hi, there. My name is Ed Sykes, S-Y-K-E-S.
2 I live in Lynx Creek and I guess my concern is
3 alternate energies that Hydro is not willing to look
4 at. And I really think solar is an up-and-coming
5 thing. And even on days like today, when it's cloudy,
6 it's still producing.

7 So I've put a small array on my house, five
8 kilowatts. And in a month it's produced 547 kilowatt-
9 hours of electricity in the storage. So that's pretty
10 impressive to me. And we travel a lot, down to Mexico
11 and wherever, and we go through Vegas and just south
12 of Vegas there are big solar farms that cover the
13 whole valley. And I would hate to think how much they
14 put out every year, you know, on and on for whatever
15 they do there.

16 So I really think that solar, or wind
17 generation, does have a possibility to carry on the
18 electricity of B.C. If we use Williston as the
19 reserve, then if you've got no sun or no wind, you can
20 produce out of the lake. If you've got the sun and
21 the stuff working, then you can hold back the power
22 out of Williston Lake. So it would be the battery and
23 the others are the seeders.

24 Thank you very much.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

26 Go ahead, ma'am.

1 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. WILSON (#0132):**

2 MS. WILSON: Good evening. My name is Heather Wilson,
3 that's W-I-L-S-O-N. And I live here in Hudson's Hope.

4 And I'd like to start by thanking you for
5 scheduling this hearing in our small community, which
6 of course is one of the most -- will be one of the
7 most physically affected by Site C. You have
8 indicated that speakers should refrain from including
9 personal information, but as you are here, I think
10 it's important that some of the emotional costs should
11 be made known to you, that some of us have experienced
12 because of Site C. And I trust you'll allow me a
13 little license to do this. I don't have a problem
14 with this being part of the record.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

16 MS. WILSON: I've lived in Hudson's Hope for sixty years,
17 almost. And almost all of these in my home on the
18 banks of the Peace. We built the house ourselves on
19 an acre of land with a million dollar view. Our
20 children grew up here. Now a senior citizen and a
21 widow, I'm also an ardent gardener, and have developed
22 and nurtured a beautiful garden by years of hard work,
23 which to me is priceless.

24 In 2012, I was advised by BC Hydro that
25 should Site C proceed, the stability line would go
26 through the middle of my house, making my options

1 either to sell my home and property to them or
2 possibly to remain in the home but sell half the house
3 and the riverside portion of the garden to them as a
4 statutory right-of-way, if the site-specific
5 geotechnical assessment determined that it would be
6 safe to do so.

7 But obviously one cannot own or insure half
8 a house. This news took an immense personal toll on
9 me, leaving me uncertain of my future, estate
10 planning, and basically leaving me in limbo. Some of
11 my friends and neighbours found themselves in similar
12 situations. Many of us old-timers came here because
13 of BC Hydro, and might now be forced to leave because
14 of it.

15 If forced to sell, property values in
16 Hudson's Hope and the valley are low compared to other
17 areas of the province and the region. BC Hydro's
18 ongoing policy of buying up property has exacerbated
19 this. So it's difficult to determine fair market
20 value.

21 Added to this, I feel the secrecy demanded
22 by BC Hydro regarding property sales and transfers has
23 been divisive. Those selling and transferring their
24 property have been prohibited from discussing it with
25 neighbours and friends. Valuations were secret, and I
26 think this tended to cause a "them-and-us" scenario in

1 the community.

2 Also family members of BC Hydro employees
3 have not been allowed to discuss Site C, which tended
4 to pit people against each other. Families, even.
5 And which, in my opinion, caused dissension.

6 Those were just a few of the personal
7 impacts of Site C from my point of view. But I must
8 also add a few words about the Peace River's unique
9 micro-climate. As a gardener, I've proven time and
10 time again that the valley climate significantly warms
11 the air and soil. In my garden, I am able to
12 overwinter moderately tender plants, whereas outside
13 the valley this is impossible. Today, surrounding
14 areas have already had killing frosts, whereas this
15 morning I was picking beans. Just one example.

16 The agricultural potential of this valley
17 is enormous, and with its Class 1 and 2 agricultural
18 land, it is a very precious resource, especially in
19 these days of impending climate change and food
20 insufficiency. Site C would destroy this. In
21 addition to the flooding of precious soils, the
22 reservoir would freeze in winter, drastically reducing
23 the frost-free days we now experience.

24 In closing, I hope I've managed to convey
25 some of the personal and emotional costs associated
26 with Site C, and I urge the Commission to recommend

1 cancellation of this destructive project.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

4 **Proceeding Time 6:48 p.m. T10**

5 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. ARDILL (#0133):**

6 MR. ARDILL: My name is Renee Ardill, A-R-D-I-L-L. Thank
7 you for allowing us to speak to you.

8 I, like Clara, am a third generation on the
9 land. I live 20 miles down the road. My family has a
10 cattle ranch. You've heard from several people about
11 the agricultural potential of the valley. Wendy
12 Holmes, who is an agrologist, stated in her submission
13 to the Joint Review Panel that the valley has the
14 potential to feed a million people. What do you
15 suppose the financial value of food for a million
16 people is?

17 And as BC Hydro has projected their costs
18 and prices out to a hundred years, what do you suppose
19 the values of food for a million people projected out
20 a hundred years is? I think it would probably be a
21 lot greater than the price of the hydro.

22 Guy said -- I support his statements on the
23 sustainability. Agriculture is a sustainable
24 business. It was here before all the other industries
25 in the area. It will be here when they're done. But
26 it supplies jobs for people for lifetimes. And it

1 also supplies a lot of spin-off benefits for fuel
2 companies, parks, stores, farm equipment dealers.
3 There is a great expanding circle of value to
4 agriculture. It's not just a one pony show.

5 I have a hard time believing that anyone
6 could be so foolish as to flood a valley that has the
7 potential that the Peace does, especially in a
8 province where agricultural land is scarce. Five
9 percent of the province is agricultural land. Now, I
10 don't think we have it to waste.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

13 **Proceeding Time 6:50 p.m. T11**

14 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. BEAM (#0134):**

15 MR. BEAM: Good evening. My name is Derrek Beam, B-E-A-
16 M. And I'd like to thank you very much for giving us
17 the opportunity to speak with you.

18 I moved to Hudson's Hope about 20 years
19 ago, and during my time here I married a girl whose
20 great-grandmother operated a place called Gold Bar,
21 which was many, many years ago a trading centre for
22 First Nations and settlers and trappers and such. And
23 their homestead was burned down, and is under the
24 Williston Reservoir, as a result of building the first
25 dam. However, I am lucky enough to still be able to
26 enjoy the remaining of the Peace River and be a part

1 of the heritage of my wife's family, as we are now
2 living on the last piece of land that they own, which
3 we purchased from them.

4 So seven years ago we decided to build on
5 the Peace River, and quite a few people asked us,
6 "Aren't you worried about Site C?" And my reply was
7 that it's the fear of the potential of Site C that is
8 stagnating the development in this valley, and so we
9 were willing to take the risk to move forward. And
10 it's been amazing. It's a beautiful piece of
11 property. It's great for the soul.

12 However, the value of the land that is
13 going to be flooded if Site C proceeds is not
14 accurate. It hasn't been accurate since the 70s
15 because the stigma of Site C has always been an
16 asterisk attached to it. When we had our property
17 value assessed, the assessment stated what the
18 assessor felt it was worth, or the appraiser, I mean,
19 with an actual asterisk stating, property value would
20 be much higher if not for the stigma of Site C.

21 So going forward, I feel that the assessed
22 values, although wonderful for property owners in
23 terms of tax purposes, I think that the real property
24 value costs as well as property tax and municipal tax
25 fees should be included in the costs of this project.
26 I don't believe they are.

1 And the potential agricultural value, which
2 has been spoken about, and other development value,
3 should also be assessed by third parties and included
4 in the cost of this project.

5 Wendy Holmes has been mentioned. Her
6 statement that this valley could feed over a million
7 people. Interesting sidebar to that that I'll add is
8 that her figure is based on a BCUC vegetable study and
9 that study was based on 13 percent of the impacted
10 land that BC Hydro used in their agricultural model.
11 That 13 percent of impacted land represents less than
12 half of the high capacity flooded land. So, to say
13 that her estimate of feeding over a million people is
14 on the low side is an understatement.

15 We can't make more valleys in B.C. that can
16 produce vegetables -- in northern B.C. This is a
17 unique valley with very unique conditions, and I
18 believe that the potential loss should be estimated
19 and included in the cost of Site C in terms of produce
20 that could be created for many, many years.

21 One other thing I just thought I would add
22 because I was just checking off everything that I had
23 less to talk about as others have presented. It's my
24 understanding that there are large tracts of
25 additional land that have been promised to local First
26 Nations in regards to Site C compensation. And it's

1 also my understanding that the costs of this Crown
2 land is not being included in the overall cost of Site
3 C, and I feel it should be.

4 Thank you.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

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

7 Ms. Myer? Amy Myer. William Lindsay.

8 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. LINDSAY (#0135):**

9 MR. LINDSAY: Thank you. My name is William Lindsay, and
10 I've been a resident of Hudson's Hope since 1998. In
11 August of this year I had 23 solar panels installed on
12 the roof of my house. Each panel is rated at 290
13 watts, so the maximum output is 6.67 kilowatts. The
14 solar panels cost just under \$23,000, which includes
15 the design, the purchase, installation, taxes, and
16 permits. If I had undertaken this project four years
17 earlier, the costs would have been about 50 percent
18 higher. Prices are coming down.

19 Any excess electricity generated by my
20 solar array is automatically fed to the provincial
21 grid. Once a year, on the anniversary of this array
22 going live, I am expecting to receive a payment from
23 BC Hydro for the net surplus fed into this grid. This
24 reimbursement is similar to the cost paid at the Step
25 1 rates that BC Hydro charges back to me for any
26 consumption of electricity that I use.

1 that my name hadn't shown up. It was just not on the
2 first page.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

4 MR. SUMMER: Thank you so much for the opportunity to
5 speak to you, and I can assure you that we've waited a
6 long, long time to have the opportunity to speak to
7 the B.C. Utilities Commission.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: I appreciate that. Could you please
9 state your name for the record?

10 MR. SUMMER: Douglas Summer.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

12 MR. SUMMER: I'm in my 70th year as a resident of the
13 Peace. My mother was born at the mouth of the Halfway
14 in 1920. They were pioneers. I too was a pioneer.
15 I've worked on developing land for agriculture both in
16 the area that will now be flooded if Site C were to go
17 ahead, and also above the Bennett Dam where we had
18 property that fell, I guess, to the idea that a German
19 industrialist by the name of Wenner-Gren had. I was a
20 pre-teen when we first heard of his designs on our
21 valley.

22 I believed then that it was a good thing,
23 and the power that was generated by the two dams that
24 are producing now has been a benefit to British
25 Columbia.

26 One of the points that I would like to make

1 is that the full extent of the degradation of the
2 valley that will happen below the Site 1, or Peace
3 Canyon dam, is very significantly more than the
4 degradation in some respects above. And the reports
5 that we've gotten from BC Hydro as to the full extent
6 of the degradation is not to be believed.

7 Another point, of course, the political
8 decision by the previous government to not put this
9 Site C project before the B.C. Utilities Commission
10 was totally unconscionable, in my opinion. And I know
11 politics gets in the way of a lot of things, but it
12 shouldn't have in this instance.

13 Thank you.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

15 **Proceeding Time 7:01 p.m. T14**

16 Before I invite Mr. Johansson back, is
17 there anyone else that would like an opportunity, even
18 if you didn't sign up? Is there anyone else that
19 would like an opportunity to speak? Ma'am? Sir?

20 MS. RHYMER: Good evening.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

22 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. RHYMER (#0137):**

23 MS. RHYMER: My name is Elaine Rhymer, R-H-Y-M-E-R. I
24 just want to say that as people -- my husband and I,
25 as people who have tried to live off the grid, who
26 have lived in the bush and done without power, we've

1 found that there was no encouragement given to people
2 like us. We tried to -- well, we did install a solar
3 system in a cabin, in a house that we built. We spent
4 our own money buying solar panels and installing --
5 getting the batteries and everything. We did make
6 inquiries of the B.C. government as to whether there
7 would be any compensation for people like us, because
8 we know in other places, in California and places in
9 Europe, there has been help for people who want to be
10 a little bit independent, or who want to install solar
11 systems, maybe wind systems too, I'm not sure. But
12 there is help from the government, and these people
13 are encouraged to help provide power.

14 In our case, we were told -- we finally got
15 a letter from the man who was the MLA at the time, I
16 think, who told us that, well, if we went ahead and
17 got those solar panels, we might be able to get the
18 GST back that we spent on them. And that was all the
19 encouragement we had.

20 So what I want to say is that the B.C.
21 government, as far as I'm concerned, in a lot of ways
22 is a dinosaur when it comes to power and to
23 electricity. They are looking backward. I don't
24 think they're looking forward. I don't think they're
25 looking at what's happening all over the world where
26 people are producing their own power.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

2 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. WEDER (#0139):**

3 MR. WEDER: My name is Christof Weder, W-E-D-E-R. I'm a
4 rancher on the north part of Earl Prairie. And I came
5 here to listen, but obviously I want to say a few
6 things.

7 And a couple of weeks ago when I was
8 listening to the radio, CBC was talking that we were
9 going through a second renaissance period. If we look
10 at the technological changes that have happened in the
11 last 20 years, we're just -- it basically talked about
12 the level of advancement, how fast things are going.
13 And I think about when I was my kids' age right now,
14 we had to take the calculator out of the little shaft
15 -- little chest to work with. And now there's
16 calculators on everything. And if you think, you
17 know, how fast it's developed from cell phones and
18 everything else.

19 The point I'm trying to make is, there's
20 huge technological advancements coming along, yet
21 we're looking at very old technology for generating
22 power through a reservoir and a dam, which basically
23 isn't supposed to last past 100 years. So the
24 question is, what do you do with the value that's all
25 sedimented up, and water that's now eroded all the
26 slopes?

1 And I think that part of this -- what I
2 look at is a ranch every time, is look at the wildlife
3 habitat I see when I go to Fort St. John. And I'm up
4 on the Williston Lake reservoir quite a bit too, with
5 the boat, and I see how much soil erosion is happening
6 still now, 50 years after that. And you're in an area
7 of the lake where there's a lot of rocks and, you
8 know, fairly solid formations. If you're going
9 downstream from Hudson's Hope to Fort St. John, those
10 slopes are all sedimentary-type soil. And if you put
11 those under water, you're going to have that whole
12 valley slope in and slough in, continuously, and not
13 just the Peace Valley, but going up all the other
14 creeks and tributaries into that.

15 It's going to be a huge environmental
16 disaster and on top of that is just the fact of the
17 wildlife habitat. I mean, wildlife needs a place to
18 go too, and there is not very many valleys like the
19 Peace Valley, especially in this region, that offers
20 such micro-climates. And I think people have talked
21 to that already, about -- from farm lands to micro-
22 sites for growing specialty crops, and lots of things
23 that haven't developed yet because of the fact that
24 there's always been this stigma associated with the
25 dam that's coming, so why would you invest into it?

26 Steve Myers made a very good point about,

1 MR. BOON: Hi. Ken Boon, B-O-O-N. I'm actually
2 scheduled to talk tomorrow, but I just -- since
3 there's an opportunity here, I just want to touch on a
4 few things that were raised today. Like Steve Metzger
5 mentioned about the studies of past large hydro dams
6 going over budget.

7 And I think BC Hydro thought they were
8 going to beat that by just budgeting a really
9 expensive dam. In fact, this project went up just
10 over a billion dollars from the time of the
11 environmental assessment process to the time that they
12 made their final investment decision. And I mean, now
13 we're already seeing in the early stages of the dam,
14 and I mean, what you guys have reported on already is
15 -- it looks pretty troubling that they're going to be
16 able to beat -- you know, meet that budget. And so,
17 and obviously that's going to result in very expensive
18 power for all of us.

19 So, you know, I think that's a problem
20 there. Guy Armitage and a number of others talked
21 about, you know, the renewables. You know, that hydro
22 can -- the existing hydro that we have can back up a
23 lot more renewables. I mean, we live in a province
24 with, you know -- I don't know what it is now, about
25 90 percent hydro. Like, we have the hydro we need,
26 and we don't need to build any more hydro. We're very

1 fortunate that way, you know. We're in a very lucky
2 position. What we need to be doing is building the
3 renewables and that just backs up those batteries even
4 further. It actually, you know, it actually creates
5 more battery reserve if we build the renewables and
6 use them when they're able to produce.

7 Yeah, I think that's -- you know, people
8 have touched on the agriculture, and you know,
9 basically you know the natural capital of this valley
10 is just amazing. And the Suzuki Foundation has done a
11 study about that, and I understand they are talking to
12 you guys on a technical session, I believe. So, and,
13 you know, that's -- you know, at the end of this whole
14 process, this BCUC process, you know, that figure has
15 to be brought in. And I believe there will be in the
16 billions of dollars worth of value that we're just
17 going to throw away if we allow this project to go
18 ahead. And that has to be part of the ledger.
19 There's just no two ways around it, you know.

20 And we've heard a lot of that today. You
21 know, the things that are really tough to put a dollar
22 figure on. They -- you know, it's -- they have a name
23 for that, what the value coming off the natural
24 capital. "Ecosystem services", that's right. And you
25 know, I -- you know, that has to be part of what we're
26 going to be looking at with this project. It has to

1 be in the economic ledger when it's all said and done,
2 so.

3 Anyway, thank you.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

5 **Proceeding Time 7:13 p.m. T17**

6 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. WEDER (#0141):**

7 MS. WEDER: My name is Erica Weder, W-E-D-E-R. I'm a
8 Swiss import, imported in 2001. And I just want to
9 say one thing.

10 Europeans, tourists, they don't just come
11 to Canada because of Jasper and Banff. It's valleys
12 like this that they come for as well, to see. That's
13 I think a big point. If I pick up people, like,
14 visitors, family, friends, sometimes tourists that
15 travel through, and they see that, they're like, "Oh
16 my god. This is a million dollar view." And it's a
17 million dollar value, a billion dollar value -- I
18 don't know, just -- I think that's important. There
19 is not many left like that on this planet at all.

20 So, thank you.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

22 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. KELLY (#0142):**

23 MS. KELLY: Hello. My name is Lori Kelly, K-E-L-L-Y.
24 And I've been here for over 50 years. I lived in the
25 valley, but we were chased out in the 90s. And then
26 my parents had to move, and it was never the same

1 after that. And I'm known as a family that is full of
2 music, but I've also seen what the dams have done to
3 these valleys.

4 Now, I had questioned BC Hydro about their
5 clean resource. They always say that they're the
6 cleanest, and I find that they're the biggest
7 environmental disaster in B.C. The sloughage is still
8 happening up on Williston Lake and nothing grows,
9 nothing. It just keeps bringing down more driftwood,
10 more driftwood, more driftwood. We have a product in
11 driftwood.

12 And the material that is in this valley is
13 the same as that was up there, and it goes all the way
14 down into the -- into Alberta. And that kind of
15 material, there was a show on *Nova* a couple of weeks
16 ago, and it talked about that kind of material and the
17 hills sloughing down, and it's the worst kind of
18 disaster that you can have. And there was over 50
19 people killed in that landslide alone.

20 And I'd also like to talk about climate
21 change, because I think that when BC Hydro filled up
22 this deep gorge, the Peace River Reach, and the Rocky
23 Mountain Trench, they changed the temperature in the
24 world. At the time, I remember the farmers talking
25 about how the weather changed, and it got so nice, and
26 it just keeps getting warmer and warmer.

1 Well, if you take away those deep, deep
2 valleys, where is that cold weather and temperatures
3 going to go and stay in the winter-time? It's got no
4 place to stay any more. And if you watch the Weather
5 Channel, you know that there is hot and cold, hot and
6 cold. I mean, we're getting hurricanes because of the
7 hot water that's out in the Atlantic Ocean. So those
8 are a few things that I have noticed over the years.

9 And now I'd like to share a song with you
10 that I wrote about our valley. And it's called, "The
11 Faces of the Peace". We are the faces of the Peace.

12 [Plays guitar and sings]

13 *There we were out one day, digging for*
14 *gold, looking for clay. Walking the Peace as we laugh*
15 *and play, praying that the dam doesn't come our way.*

16 *Oh it's been a good day, it's been a good*
17 *day, down on the Peace and we like it that way. They*
18 *want to change it and we want it to stay, down in the*
19 *Peace and we like it that way.*

20 *They once called it the mighty Peace, yes*
21 *that was really the case. When roaring waters rushed*
22 *from the source, carved through the mountains and made*
23 *its course.*

24 *Then it flowed to the east and the far*
25 *north, water resource, what a resource.*

26 *Oh, it's been a good day, it's been a good*

1 There's been a lot of things that have been mentioned
2 that are sort of intangibles, and those are hard to
3 include.

4 There are some others in the submission
5 that the District made to you on August the 27th. We
6 supported the requests that had come from other
7 participants asking for the models, the budget models,
8 so that we could be sure that everything was included.
9 And one of the examples that we used was Crown lands.
10 Our understanding is that BC Hydro is getting title to
11 the land that would be at the actual site, but the
12 land that would be inundated, the Crown land, from
13 what we understand, is a free transfer.

14 We at the District have to pay for Crown
15 land if we're going to do something, even if it's in
16 the -- if it's for a public -- something like a park
17 or whatever. So we try -- we wanted Crown land for a
18 small industrial park. We had to pay -- I believe it
19 was a significant amount of money. It was \$200,000.
20 It was \$10,000, approximately, per hectare. And so it
21 just seems to us that if it's in the public interest
22 for Hudson's Hope people to have some Crown land to do
23 something for the public, then we should be treated
24 equally to a transfer of Crown land that would go to a
25 Crown corporation. So that's one of the things that
26 we have pointed out in one of the written submissions

1 that we made.

2 Another area that we might have something
3 of value to offer is regarding the rates and
4 alternatives, and that is within your terms of
5 reference. And again, in the August 27th submission,
6 we spoke about the solar arrays that you might see on
7 a number of the buildings. When this is finished, by
8 the end of this year, it will be the largest solar
9 array in the province of British Columbia.

10 And it's -- the reason that we are doing
11 that as a district is, it's purely pragmatic. Because
12 we know -- I know -- I did the research in 2000 that
13 our costs of electricity for the District was about
14 \$68,000. And in 2016, it was 172. And with the prices
15 -- rates, I know that the present government is trying
16 to freeze rates. But in the end, somebody's going to
17 have to pay and will pay, either as taxpayers or as
18 ratepayers, it seems to us.

19 So we believe that we can save a
20 significant amount of money by installing the solar
21 array. And you've heard the people talk about it
22 already. We are -- our calculations show that we
23 would save approximately \$70,000 per year on our
24 electricity costs. Solar is very good up here. It's
25 the long days of the summer. We get very high
26 generation. And in the winter we don't get very much,

1 but the summer generation makes up for the winter.

2 And this -- and so I wanted to put in a
3 plug for the grid tie program that BC Hydro does have.
4 It's a very good program. And it makes use of the
5 reservoirs that we have, because that's the battery.
6 And as somebody else mentioned earlier, you know,
7 there's a lot of capacity to use Williston. And it's
8 Williston that is the battery, as run-of-river, which
9 is -- let's say a Site C is not a reservoir that's
10 going to provide the dispatchability or the battery
11 that Williston Reservoir would be the battery for with
12 the use of solar for the backup.

13 The second benefit is that the grid tie
14 system that they have is already in place and it's
15 very efficient, but it isn't very well funded and it
16 hasn't got the number of people. They've got a number
17 of applications, and they are blocked up. But it's a
18 very good program and we've put in -- we think that
19 should be something that you're considering as an
20 alternative, and what you're looking for.

21 And the other thing that the -- when we did
22 this, we didn't realize that others were doing it, but
23 we did find out just shortly, last week, that Vermont,
24 for instance, is doing this on a broader scale, that
25 is as a state-wide scale. And that using -- or
26 incentivizing people to do this individually and also

1 municipalities to do it is a good action that I think
2 you should take into -- do a little bit of research
3 into it and see.

4 And I did note also that the Premier of
5 Quebec said, in a -- on a panel that he was in, in New
6 York last week, that that was the future, that's the
7 way Quebec is moving. And I think that there are
8 similarities between Quebec and British Columbia on
9 what -- the kind of electricity systems that we have.

10 So, our message to the panel is that we ask
11 that you take very seriously your mandate to protect
12 and serve the public interest, and the ratepayers and
13 the taxpayers of communities like this. We're the
14 ones that are ultimately responsible for the cost of
15 the Site C project, should it proceed, and we deserve
16 to know that our interests and the interests of our
17 people have been paramount in your consideration of
18 the project.

19 Thank you.

20 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

21 **Proceeding Time 7:26 p.m. T19**

22 I'd like to thank everyone for coming out
23 tonight. And especially to those who spoke. We
24 appreciate your presentations. And we appreciate your
25 interest in the Site C inquiry, and we appreciate your
26 interest in the session tonight. I hope you all have

1 a really good evening. Thank you.

2 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:26 P.M.)**

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

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A.B. Lanigan, Court Reporter

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October 2nd, 2017

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