

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

FORT ST. JOHN , B.C.
October 1st, 2017

COMMUNITY INPUT PROCEEDINGS
FORT ST. JOHN

BEFORE:

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

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FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.

October 1st, 2017

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

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

12 We are extremely pleased, both by the level
13 of public interest and the effort that has gone into
14 the presentations we heard in both streams of input
15 sessions.

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

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

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

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

11 The Order in Council that directed us to
12 inquire into this project specifically requires us to
13 consider the cost implications on BC Hydro ratepayers
14 of three scenarios: continuing the project,
15 suspending the project, and terminating the project.

16 My Panel members and I recognize that there
17 are many other implications of the project beyond cost
18 implications. However, we ask that, in the interests
19 of all parties in the room, you strive to keep your
20 submissions within this scope of the inquiry into Site
21 C. Submissions made here today, as well as those made
22 in writing that are outside the scope of our review,
23 will not be considered in our final report to
24 government on November the 1st.

25 There are copies of the executive summary
26 of our preliminary report at the entrance table, and

1 the full report is available on our website or by
2 making a request through our office.

3 I'd like to address a number of
4 housekeeping items for today's session. First of all,
5 you probably met Mr. Bemister of Allwest Reporting.
6 He's going to help us to organize speakers and other
7 logistics, and his team will be recording and
8 transcribing this session. The live audio can be
9 streamed from our website at SiteCInquiry.com and
10 following these sessions all presentations will be
11 transcribed and posted with the rest of the inquiry
12 documents on that site.

13 There's some coffee and tea over at the
14 side of the room. Please feel free to help yourself
15 throughout the session and if you need to enter and
16 exit the room, please feel free to do that, but try to
17 do so quietly so as not to disrupt the speakers.

18 For speakers, as you can see, there's a
19 list of names on the TV screen -- on the TV and on the
20 screen on my right. If you see your name appearing
21 within the next couple of speakers, please feel free
22 to come up and sit in the front row, so that you can
23 be ready to speak.

24 If you're not prepared at the time you're
25 called on, we'll move on to the next speaker and then
26 we'll get back to you when we get to the end of the

1 speaker list. You'll have your opportunity then.

2 When you do speak, other than stating your
3 name, please refrain from including personal and/or
4 confidential information in your submission. It will
5 become a matter of public record and we don't want
6 personal or confidential information on the record.
7 Inclusion of confidential information may result in
8 your presentation not being included in the transcript
9 of this session, and possibly not being further
10 considered in this inquiry. This confidential
11 information includes the confidential Deloitte report
12 circulated in the press. The Commission considers
13 this information remains confidential despite the
14 improper disclosure in the press. The primary purpose
15 of the Commission determining the information to be
16 confidential is the potential to damage ratepayer
17 interests through increased costs to BC Hydro.

18 Please also refrain from using profane or
19 offensive language in your presentation; this as well
20 as any other disruptive behaviour will result in the
21 early close of this session.

22 Speakers have a maximum of five minutes and
23 that's what the timer is that you see there. The
24 timer will be set to go when you start speaking, and
25 when you're getting down to the end of your five
26 minutes, I'll try to remind you, and you can get to

1 your closing statement.

2 If you've heard the same sentiments that
3 you want to express from prior speakers, I would
4 suggest that you simply register your support of them,
5 and that way that will leave you enough time to cover
6 any other material that you want to cover in your
7 presentation.

8 And finally, before beginning your
9 presentation, please state your first name and spell
10 your last name so that the people that are doing the
11 transcription can represent your name accurately on
12 the record.

13 With that, we're ready to open this session
14 in Fort St. John on October the 1st, 2017.

15 Mr. Boon, can you please begin? Thank you.

16 **Proceeding Time 6:08 p.m. T02**

17 Please go ahead. I've been informed that
18 I'll be using a timer up here, because we don't have
19 the clicker. But please go ahead, sir.

20 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. BOON (#0140):**

21 MR. BOON: Oh, okay. Thank you. Yeah, Ken Boon, B-O-O-
22 N. So, yeah, and I am president of the Peace Valley
23 Landowners' Association. And while the PVLA and PVEA
24 are playing a role in the ongoing review with the help
25 of energy expert Robert McCollough, I speak to you
26 today just as an individual with a stake in the Peace,

1 literally.

2 So on that note, I thought it best if I
3 speak to you today about an issue that is probably not
4 on your radar fully, but that many of us see here on
5 the ground. That issue is a general distrust of how
6 BC Hydro has advanced the Site C project and how they
7 take great pains to control any message coming out of
8 the project.

9 And first, I must make it clear that I
10 support a successful BC Hydro, working for the good of
11 the people of B.C., in a sensible, responsible, and
12 hopefully profitable way. In fact, Arlene and I work
13 with BC Hydro by net metering from our solar panels,
14 which is a great program, and so basically kind of
15 like Trump, we want to see BC Hydro made great again.

16 However, in the case of the Site C project,
17 many of us see a BC Hydro with a culture of secrecy
18 holding back important information, and I would say
19 occasionally attempts at misleading the public. It
20 often has appeared that they are advocating in favour
21 of the project in lockstep with the previous B.C.
22 government.

23 Here are some examples of how BC Hydro
24 controls the message on Site C. Due to a lack of
25 transparency, many people have filed Freedom of
26 Information requests for information on the Site C

1 project, and it's no secret how that is a lesson in
2 frustration, with BC Hydro frustrating process in
3 every way they can. And I mean, reporters have wrote
4 stories about that very issue backing it up with
5 facts.

6 A new Site C project viewpoint is a joke.
7 It appears to be engineered in such a way as to
8 purposely give a very restricted view of only a small
9 portion of the project and the camp. It does not
10 allow for viewing up or down the river valley, or even
11 just right across Garbage Creek towards Dam Protesters
12 Point, where a much better view of the project is
13 possible. To the general public, who are paying for
14 this project, that's the only physical view they get
15 of the project.

16 Workers are required to sign non-disclosure
17 or confidentiality agreements that restrict any public
18 release of details of what takes place on the project.
19 We are told that workers -- new workers to the project
20 are required to undergo an orientation session, which
21 is totally understandable. However, it was revealed
22 to us this summer that part of that orientation
23 includes showing a photo of Arlene and I with
24 instructions to avoid contact with us, and if that is
25 not possible, to not discuss any details of the
26 project with us. The only reason we knew about this

1 is, it was disclosed directly to us by someone who had
2 gone through that orientation earlier this summer, or
3 this year. That individual assumed we already knew
4 about this, and was a little bit shocked when he heard
5 that we had not. And I mean, quite frankly, we
6 question the legality of such action like that.

7 The level of security for the entire Site C
8 project is over the top. Tall fencing with razor wire
9 on top, with an abundance of security personnel
10 everywhere, and that includes patrolling up the valley
11 on Highway 29, when the clearing was taking place of
12 Bear Flat last winter.

13 In fact, right now there is a documentary
14 film crew up here from ARD, German radio and TV, who
15 wish to cover the Site C story in a full,
16 comprehensive way, with views from both sides. BC
17 Hydro has not granted them any access to the project,
18 or any ability to do that from the BC Hydro side.

19 I could go on, but I think that gives a
20 sense of what measures BC Hydro is going to to secure
21 and do message control of the Site C dam. This is
22 partially the problem with building a destructive and
23 controversial mega-dam project. It all adds expense
24 and mistrust by the public, who are paying for it.

25 When we put up solar panels on our shop, we
26 did not have to go through any of that. And that

1 would remain the case if a million people put solar
2 panels up on their houses and whatnot. You know, it
3 just speaks to the fact that bad projects require or
4 foster bad habits such as that, that add a huge cost
5 expense to the project.

6 You know, in their defense, the *Clean*
7 *Energy Act* has severely restricted what BC Hydro can
8 do, and has likely helped create a defensive nature,
9 you know, in regards to the Site C project. However,
10 you know, that's not healthy, and we are hopeful for a
11 real change in how BC Hydro is run. There are good
12 signs emerging with the recent change in government,
13 especially with the bold move to undertake this BCUC
14 review. However, this is the beginning -- you know,
15 we hope this is the beginning of a new direction for
16 BC Hydro and the province in how we adapt to the
17 exciting and changing world of electrical generation,
18 consumption, and a smarter grid.

19 Just in closing, I want to emphasize how
20 pleased we are, you know, for a B.C. review of this
21 project. Hopefully in the near future we can all put
22 Site C behind us and get on with better things in
23 life.

24 Thank you.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

26 **Proceeding Time 6:14 p.m. T03**

1 Mr. Little.

2 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. LITTLE (#0143):**

3 MR. LITTLE: James Little, L-I-T-T-L-E. And I have an
4 RPF, professional agrologist, and I'm a professional
5 appraiser.

6 I welcome the opportunity to participate in
7 these sessions. The general public of British
8 Columbia, who are the ratepayers and taxpayers, will
9 be directly affected by any decisions based on this
10 review. The direct cost to the public now and in the
11 future needs to be considered.

12 BC Hydro was created by W.A.C. Bennett in
13 1962 by the amalgamation of the B.C. Electric Company
14 and B.C. Power Commission. Premier Bennett justified
15 this significant move by stating it was to provide
16 cheap, abundant power for the residents of British
17 Columbia. Peace residents were promised a special
18 rate for power. Didn't happen.

19 BC Hydro has grown to what we know today,
20 and has accumulated significant debt. This debt needs
21 -- will need to be captured, depending on how the
22 government chooses to direct these costs. BC Hydro
23 has a history of pursuing further projects at
24 significant cost to the public. Building dams or
25 large projects has been the main goal, and smaller
26 projects are not even considered. Hydro, in my

1 opinion, will supply figures and support documents to
2 justify the completion of Site C even if those figures
3 are not supportable.

4 BC Hydro was mandated by the former
5 provincial government to complete Site C. A
6 significant number of experts have identified
7 alternate options to Site C when further energy is
8 required. It will be important for the Commission to
9 place serious value on the information provided by
10 those experts' information. None of these submissions
11 are tied to need for a project to be completed, or an
12 alternate project. BC Hydro has no interest in the
13 alternate options, and only interested in completion
14 of Site C.

15 Alternate energy sources such as
16 geothermal, solar, wind, and bioenergy have not truly
17 been considered.

18 In evaluation of potential from alternate
19 sources, BC Hydro states that there has to be a
20 substantial amount of new transmission lines. It
21 should be noted that Site C, if completed, will also
22 require significant increase in transmission lines.
23 In addition, since the power will be surplus,
24 transmission lines will have to be built to transport
25 energy to potential customers. The cost of these
26 lines need to be considered in the current review of

1 Site C.

2 The evaluation of alternatives and their
3 costs should be made on the basis of the evidence
4 provided by the respective alternate providers. BC
5 Hydro's opinion on alternate may not accurately
6 represent those options.

7 BC Hydro's intent seems to be to make
8 alternatives significantly more expensive. The
9 Commission has a number of questions on this issue in
10 Appendix C. Potential income from surplus energy has
11 been decreasing. BC Hydro is estimating that the
12 price will rise to the mid-\$40 range. Recent prices
13 have been well below \$30. This shows at best if
14 surplus power can be sold, it will continue to be sold
15 at a loss. There is no justification to build this
16 project for export.

17 The USA, which is our best, often has a
18 surplus of natural gas which can easily put into use
19 where it is required to produce electricity without
20 the requirement for new transmission lines.

21 One issue of Site C has been planning for
22 silt in the runoff water. Environment Canada has
23 issued several orders to clean this up, and BC Hydro
24 was required to address this issue. This has resulted
25 in increased costs for this part of the project.

26 Recently an abandoned gas well on the site

1 was noted to be leaking. It would appear that no
2 consideration for that well was made in the planning
3 of Site C. The costs of dealing with abandoned wells
4 certainly was not in the estimates for the dam.

5 In addition, BC Hydro failed to respect the
6 opinion of qualified experts on the potential
7 landslide issues, and foundation issues at Site C
8 location. When the original test was done on the
9 site, I personally inspected the north adit. The
10 cores that were taken from deep within the adit were
11 left at the front of the adit over the weekend. By
12 Monday morning, the sample cores looked like hard
13 rock, on Friday they turned to mud. This demonstrates
14 the instability of the site for building the dam.

15 Qualified experts brought this forward
16 during the hearings in Fort St. John. BC Hydro's
17 engineers discounted any issue with this material.
18 This year we have had at least two major falls on the
19 north bank in this material, and this has contributed
20 to increased costs for the dam.

21 The monetary cost is not the only issue
22 here. Building a dam on unstable ground leaves the
23 potential for human disaster. If cancelled, the total
24 costs to date need to be adjusted as part of the
25 project will continue to be used or has the potential
26 to be used. For example, there are a number of roads

1 that have been improved. These roads would have been
2 necessary to improve over time in any event for public
3 use in this area. The bridge over the Peace River at
4 Site C could be used to allow Alaska Highway traffic
5 to cross at this point when the bridge at Taylor is
6 either replaced or reconditioned.

7 In summary, BC Hydro has not given
8 alternatives for energy any real credit in their
9 submission. It should be noted that the previous
10 government supported an alternate portfolio, until
11 Site C was approved for construction. The Commission
12 needs to use the information supplied by the alternate
13 energy providers to guide their evaluation of these
14 resources. BC Hydro seems to have bias against these
15 alternatives.

16 DSM. BC Hydro has been limiting the use of
17 this option which reduces the demand for energy. It's
18 noted that a number of large industrial users are now
19 converting to wood waste or natural gas for their
20 plants. This will also reduce the need for
21 electricity.

22 As mentioned in the alternative, there has
23 been an explosion of demand for solar energy and for
24 other types of energy to replace electricity from the
25 grid. New expenditures at Site C appear to be issues
26 that were not adequately considered in the planning

1 and cost estimates for the dam. BC Hydro appears to
2 be running a cost-plus construction for Site C, rather
3 than one based on planned expenditures.

4 BC Hydro has had a history of over-
5 forecasting the need for energy. In addition to this,
6 expenditures have been forwarded to future dates by a
7 number of methods like rate smoothing and placing the
8 cost of Site C to the completion date for capture of
9 costs. The 70-year repayment of this project is
10 probably beyond the operational date of the dam. It
11 is noted that BC Hydro's debt has dramatically
12 increased even to the point that some economists feel
13 that the ability to pay may be reasons to sell BC
14 Hydro to limit the direct debt to government.

15 The information provided in the BCUC's
16 report of September 20th, 2017 leads me to believe that
17 the only option for Site C is to cancel it. This will
18 limit the cost to current expenditures and the
19 forecasted amount to reclaim.

20 And this is submitted by myself and on
21 behalf of my wife. I appreciate the opportunity to
22 present. Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

24 **Proceeding Time 6:22 p.m. T04**

25 Sorry, we're having some sound issues here,
26 so we're just going to take five minutes. Sorry about

1 that. Thanks.

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

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

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay, so we're ready to go, and sorry,
5 we still don't have the stopwatch. What -- I'll let
6 you know like that when you've got a minute left,
7 okay?

8 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. A. HADLAND (#0144):**

9 MR. HADLAND: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
10 Chairman, fellow Commissioners, thank you for the
11 opportunity to present here today. My name is Arthur
12 Hadland, H-A-D-L-A-N-D.

13 In 1976, BC Hydro involved the community in
14 a consultation on Site C, and they did threaten us --
15 that was the word -- with brownouts and blackouts if
16 that was not constructed. That was 41 years ago.

17 Our public utility has been mismanaged for
18 a long time. And, you know, the things that come to
19 mind -- there's Powerex, Accenture, in 2005 there was
20 a proposal to sell it. And that was quickly squashed
21 because of public backlash. A former CEO in 2013
22 addressed the Chamber of Commerce here and admitted to
23 a debt obligation of \$70 billion. Today I understand
24 it's now \$76 billion. It's just a horrendous amount
25 of money that the taxpayers are responsible for.

26 He also added that the dividend was paid to

1 the province which is half a billion dollars was
2 borrowed money.

3 In my books, as a small businessman, this
4 spells bankruptcy. The ratepayers and the taxpayers
5 have been deceived for a long time and it's been done
6 very successfully, because under the way they measure
7 the debt, there's 15 billion acknowledged as standard
8 debt, another 5 billion that's recognized as a
9 deferred debt, which nowhere else in North America do
10 we have that, that's Enron-style accounting. And then
11 you have the IPPs, which in my measure are a method of
12 transferring wealth from the public purse to private
13 individuals.

14 Examples -- other examples that we could
15 have done instead of C was the Columbia River Treaty,
16 which equals Site C in power, and the return to the
17 province is \$114 million. If you capitalize that as
18 an investment fund, using 3 percent, I figured out it
19 was about 3.8 to construct equivalent power. People
20 may come up with other numbers, but considerably less
21 than the numbers that we're seeing today.

22 The Burrard Thermal, why are we shutting
23 that down? There is no 15 to 20 percent load loss.
24 It's only used as an emergency backup when the fierce
25 storms of winter sometimes destroy the lines. So,
26 again, that is equal to Site C, it's paid for. Why

1 are we not doing it? And I consider it clean.
2 Natural gas is our fuel. This is British Columbia's
3 fuel.

4 I changed the fuel system in my house from
5 old technology to new technology. I went from a six-
6 inch galvanized pipe that was always hot to a two-inch
7 plastic pipe that a little bit of water vapour comes
8 out. It is a good option.

9 Co-generation; example is the Sheppard gas
10 plant just outside of Alberta. It's just on the east
11 side of -- sorry. The east side of Calgary. That was
12 built for \$1.3 billion. Equivalent to Site C, on
13 budget, on time. And it's on 60 acres as opposed to
14 25,000 that will be disturbed or destroyed by this
15 project.

16 Another one, Thunder Mountain's wind
17 project. That was touted by the -- I think Aeolus,
18 and it's nearly twice the size of Site C. It was
19 going to be built -- I think it was 1700 megawatts.
20 3.2 billion. And it was excluded under the *Clean*
21 *Energy Act*. I consider the *Clean Energy Act* an act of
22 hypocrisy.

23 The other thing that happened was, I
24 evaluated how many times, how many different purposes
25 have been proposed for Site C. It's one of the
26 submissions that's on the submission list. Seven

1 purposes from 2010 to 2014. There is no purpose for
2 Site C.

3 The other thing that I'm going to just make
4 a note of, again, I could -- is we need to cut our
5 losses now and cancel Site C. I think one of the real
6 issues we have is the government's model that is not
7 working for us. The cabinet now claims that there is
8 one shareholder and they are the shareholder. I
9 thought we were all shareholders. And so I think in
10 order to restore confidence and some credibility with
11 BC Hydro, we need to change it. The name needs to be
12 changed. It needs to be Energy B.C. We've got to
13 look at all of the options, not just hydroelectric.
14 We need a board of directors that comes from the
15 people, not the old boys' club, and not tied to the
16 political parties. And it doesn't matter which way
17 you label the party, they all end up creating a bit of
18 a decadent attitude once they've been in there for any
19 period of time, and it doesn't matter which one. I've
20 been quite disillusioned with the whole process.

21 And the final one is, we have no trust fund
22 for the Peace River. We need a trust fund analogous,
23 or comparable, to the Columbia River Treaty trust
24 fund.

25 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your time.
26 I'll also be forwarding an opinion from the Peace

1 talking about the instability of the shales, the so-
2 called bedrock. Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir. We'll look forward to
4 seeing that. Thank you.

5 MR. HADLAND: You betcha. Thank you.

6 **Proceeding Time 6:30 p.m. T05**

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please go ahead, sir. Thank you.

8 MR. T. HADLAND: Good evening, Commissioners.

9 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

10 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. T. HADLAND (#0145):**

11 MR. T. HADLAND: Good evening, Commissioners. My name is
12 Terry Hadland, H-A-D-L-A-N-D. I am here today to
13 support and expand on comments articulated in the
14 Commissioners' preliminary report at 6316, natural
15 capital, and 6317, impact on the Peace/Athabasca
16 delta.

17 The submissions from the David Suzuki
18 Foundation and the Mikisew Cree respectively speak to
19 environmental effects. And while I acknowledge that
20 this is not an environmental review, and that it may
21 seem beyond the scope of this inquiry, I respectfully
22 submit my concerns on the premise that there is an
23 inescapable economic component to environmental
24 destruction.

25 The concern that I am bringing to your
26 attention today is the cumulative effect of flow

1 ramping on the Peace River, which has resulted in the
2 river's ecosystem being pushed to the brink of
3 extinction due to the rapid and frequent fluctuations
4 of water levels that I have personally witnessed over
5 the past 45 years living on the banks of the Peace
6 River. Incidentally, that's on the traditional
7 territory of the Blueberry First Nations.

8 This concept of ramping is not new in B.C.
9 These negative effects have been reported at the Libby
10 Dam, where in 1992 a study concluded that it was not
11 uncommon to observe daily fluctuations in water levels
12 in the order of 0.5 to 1 metre in height, leading to
13 the degradation of fish habitats, bank erosions, et
14 cetera. Similarly in the 1990s this was also reported
15 and mediated at the Keenleyside Dam downstream to the
16 U.S. border. The ramp on the Peace River, however,
17 can still be as high as two metres along some
18 stretches of the river shoreline.

19 Why has this devastating practice continued
20 on the Peace River when there were technological
21 advances in turbine construction available for the
22 recent refurbishing at Williston? That would have
23 helped protect the river's ecosystem and its
24 surrounding environment from disaster and liability.

25 I am concerned that the Peace River cannot
26 withstand further compounding effects from continued

1 development and the economic cost of remediation and
2 reclamation of these river-edge areas has never been
3 accounted for. The cumulative impacts from flow
4 ramping has turned a thriving ecosystem into a dead
5 zone. And this needs to be taken into consideration
6 when weighing the economic pros and cons of Site C.

7 What does a healthy river cost? The health
8 of the Peace River is already substantially
9 compromised. After 45 years of unregulated ramping,
10 at 350 times a year, this works out to roughly 15,000
11 water surge incidents, and each lasts from six to ten
12 hours. And they have effectively destroyed the river
13 bed, turning it into a long gravel chute.

14 When considering Site C, we need to ask
15 three questions. Have the accumulated negative
16 effects to natural capital been properly assessed?
17 How are these negative effects quantified in dollar
18 value for remediation and mitigation, and what is the
19 capital asset value of a healthy river system?

20 The economic and environmental value of a
21 healthy river is extremely high. It impacts not only
22 the biodiversity of the micro-ecosystem along the
23 riverbanks, but also has a substantial impact as an
24 artery of this planet, being the only west-to-east
25 deep river corridor in the northern hemisphere.

26 I fully support abandoning this wasteful

1 and harmful project that has been shown time and again
2 to have detrimental economic implications concerning
3 irreversible environmental damage.

4 Thank you for your time and consideration
5 on this important issue.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

7 **Proceeding Time 6:35 p.m. T06**

8 Yes, sir.

9 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. NEUFELD (#0146):**

10 MR. NEUFELD: Thank you for the opportunity to address
11 the Commission as part of its inquiry into the Site C
12 clean energy project.

13 My name is Richard Neufeld. I'm a long-
14 time resident of Fort St. John, and I was the MLA for
15 the region from 1991 to 2009. I also served as
16 Minister of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources in
17 Premier Campbell's government. I am currently a
18 Senator.

19 I want to make it clear that I am appearing
20 today as a private citizen and not a representative of
21 the Senate or any political party.

22 As Minister responsible for BC Hydro from
23 2000 to 2009, I was deeply involved in the early
24 development and discussions that ultimately led to the
25 approval of Site C. It will come as no surprise that
26 I strongly support it. When I became Minister in

1 2001, B.C. was importing anywhere from zero to ten
2 percent of its electricity from other jurisdictions.
3 I couldn't believe it. In my first energy plan in
4 2002 I asked Hydro to review and update its existing
5 facilities, review Site C, and allow the private
6 sector to build new clean generation. I also made it
7 clear that B.C. needed to become self-sufficient.

8 While I recognize Site C is not perfect, I
9 believe the positive benefits far outweigh the
10 negative impacts. In fact, nearly a decade before
11 shovels hit the ground, I initiated consultations and
12 engagement with First Nations in the fall of 2007. I
13 challenged BC Hydro to consult with every single First
14 Nation in northeastern B.C., and along the full length
15 of the river. As I remember, they did as instructed.

16 As far as I know, consultation with
17 stakeholders, citizens, and First Nations have gone
18 relatively well. As reported in the *Vancouver Sun*,
19 after nine judicial reviews and three appeal
20 dismissals, the same conclusion has essentially been
21 reached. Site C's record of diligence is substantive.
22 The federal and provincial decisions to proceed were
23 reasonable, and no evidence has been presented by
24 project critics to date that would justify a change in
25 course. I think that speaks volumes.

26 A lot has been said about the province's

1 need for Site C. I think it's important to remember
2 that hydroelectricity is a clean, reliable and firm
3 source of power which is needed to facilitate any
4 intermittent power sources like solar and wind.

5 Statistics Canada projects B.C.'s
6 population will grow by nearly 1.4 million people in
7 the next 25 years. Clearly there is a need for new
8 generation as our population and economy expand.
9 Furthermore, I strongly believe that key component in
10 reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and meeting our
11 obligations under the Paris agreement is the
12 electrification of our economy. Site C can help meet
13 this demand.

14 As Mark Jaccard wrote last month, "Let's
15 stick to the unbiased evidence." In the case of our
16 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction targets, such
17 evidence shows that we must substantially increase our
18 generation of dependable electricity. The word here
19 is "dependable".

20 Moreover, many polls across the province
21 before and during construction show support for Site
22 C. An Abacus data poll from last year revealed that
23 73 percent of respondents either supported or could
24 support Site C under certain circumstances, while only
25 a quarter opposed the project. I'm not one to rely on
26 polls, since opinions can change overnight. But I

1 think support has been generally positive. In fact, I
2 think it's disappointing and somewhat discreditable
3 for some high-profile people to suddenly change their
4 minds. First they support Site C, then for political
5 reasons they oppose it.

6 Your panel's preliminary report finds the
7 Site C project is, as at June 30th, 2017, on time for
8 an in-service date of November, 2024. That's great
9 news. You also found that a reasonable estimate of
10 costs to terminate the project and remediate the site
11 would be \$1.1 billion, and that would trigger
12 incremental costs to replace the energy that would
13 have been provided by Site C.

14 As I understand it, BC Hydro states that as
15 of June 30th, BC Hydro had a total commitment of just
16 over \$4 billion for the project, including actual
17 costs incurred to date, remaining commitments on
18 awarded contracts and the future value of post-
19 implementation payments. So if my math is correct,
20 taxpayers could be on the hook for about \$5.1 billion
21 dollars of an \$8.8 billion project if the provincial
22 government decides to suspend Site C. And there would
23 be no new generated electricity.

24 As a taxpaying citizen, I find that
25 completely unacceptable.

26 Finally, I want to wrap up by reminding

1 British Columbians and members of your panel that many
2 assessments were conducted prior to the signing-off of
3 the project. This decision was not made hastily and
4 despite what some might say, it was made with the very
5 best intentions with a long-term vision for our
6 province -- a vision to generate clean, firm power,
7 offer competitive rates, reduce greenhouse gas
8 emissions, and create good-paying family-supporting
9 jobs during construction. This project is and always
10 has been for British Columbians.

11 Thank you very much for this opportunity to
12 present.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

14 **Proceeding Time 6:40 p.m. T07**

15 Ms. Darnall, please go ahead.

16 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. DARNALL (#0147):**

17 MS. DARNALL: Good evening. My name is Ruth Ann Darnall,
18 D-A-R-N-A-L-L. I have been a resident in the North
19 Peace since 1946. I live with my husband on a farm
20 just north of Fort St. John.

21 I have been involved with the Peace Valley
22 Environment Association for 38 years, and at this
23 point I'm chairperson. Quite a few of my comments, of
24 course, are as a taxpayer and a citizen in British
25 Columbia.

26 Since becoming involved in preserving the

1 Peace River Valley, it has been my contention that to
2 flood a valley to produce electricity that is not
3 needed is absolutely crazy. As a ratepayer and a
4 taxpayer of B.C., I resented the fact that the Liberal
5 government gave the go-ahead to Site C without letting
6 the BCUC do its job and review the project. Now we
7 are burdened with a huge debt and paying down the
8 interest will take years. If Site C was such a good
9 idea, it should have been scrutinized. I am so glad
10 it's being done now. I applaud you for asking BC
11 Hydro some very pertinent questions after receiving
12 their submission.

13 From what I have read, the cost of the dam
14 keeps escalating. I say we need to halt construction,
15 sell any assets, and get the workers other jobs.
16 There are jobs that will support society such as
17 schools, hospitals, and affordable housing. If we are
18 to be in debt, let it be for something constructive.

19 In our community, we are in desperate need
20 for more spaces in residential care. At the moment,
21 many people are waiting in acute care beds in the
22 hospital. I did have a little comment about
23 alternatives but both Mr. Little and Mr. Hadland
24 mentioned them. The only thing is, nobody's mentioned
25 what's going to come up. You hear every day something
26 new is coming up to our society to consider.

1 So you know my feeling, but there are
2 others in the background and experience to fill you in
3 in the exact numbers and the detailed financial
4 ramifications of canceling, shelving, or heaven
5 forbid, continuing to build Site C.

6 Now I would like to address what I know to
7 be the hidden cost of Site C to the many citizens who
8 have spent years trying to get someone to listen to
9 the facts, not just BC Hydro's take on the situation.
10 So, some people have been involved for over 40 years,
11 but others have been more recent in joining our battle
12 to keep the Peace.

13 I do not know a way to put a dollar figure
14 on the following, but it would be significant. These
15 are costs to individuals and families. They are, one,
16 time. Except for when we have been able to hire a
17 coordinator, executive director, all the work has been
18 done by volunteers. Countless hours have been spent
19 writing letters, attending meetings, sitting through
20 consultations which, in my mind, were never
21 consultations; we sat there and Hydro just told us
22 what they were going to do, never listening to what we
23 had to say. Oh, they might have listened, but they
24 didn't take any action.

25 Researching information, planning and
26 attending events, and fund-raising. You can realize

1 that any time doing this type of work takes parents
2 away from their children and of course others away
3 from their life. Once those hours are gone, they are
4 gone.

5 Second cost was physical cost to many
6 people who lost sleep worrying about how to save the
7 valley, or being cold while standing out protesting,
8 being out in the blazing sun, or being soaked by rain,
9 takes its toll especially on those of us who have had
10 too many birthdays. One lady in Vancouver put her
11 life in jeopardy by going on a hunger strike, she felt
12 so strongly about the fact that the valley needed to
13 be protected.

14 Emotional costs. At times, listening to BC
15 Hydro would make your blood boil, and especially the
16 fact that many of us felt that we were not heard. It
17 was draining. When people would say we need the dam
18 but would not listen to facts, it was frustrating.

19 Social costs. Over the years, many people
20 would say to me, "Keep up the good work," but would
21 not commit to becoming active in our fight. It was
22 implied that if I do, I could lose my job, or if I do,
23 my business will suffer. Sometimes it was stressful
24 when you found yourself in a group and the only one
25 standing up for the valley.

26 And of course, financial. We have been

1 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. MEIERS (#0148):**

2 MR. MEIERS: Good evening panel, my name is Mark Meiers,
3 co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Fort Camp of 2015 at
4 the confluence of the Moberly River and the Peace
5 River, where we held BC Hydro at bay for 62 days until
6 a court order forced us to leave.

7 I come to this meeting in defence of our
8 wildlife, and its habitat that through crooked,
9 corrupt government has willing destroyed for political
10 and monetary gain. The Peace River Valley is home to
11 every animal from mice to moose, and every critter in
12 between. The most valuable spring calving grounds for
13 all ungulates, the best wintering ground also. The
14 first migratory birds, too many to mention with my
15 short time frame, stop along the Peace River as spring
16 is early in the Peace River valley. Many nest and
17 raise their young there. Golden and Bald eagles,
18 their 40 year old nesting trees have been destroyed.
19 We cannot afford to lose this last part of the Yukon
20 to Yellowstone wildlife corridor for political greed
21 and monetary gain.

22 Tourists come from all over the world to
23 view this valley and its wildlife. These dollars
24 amount to millions over the years, and will be lost
25 forever. People come from all over the world to hunt
26 and fish this area, as the wildlife will be decimated

1 due to loss of habitat. This tourist revenue
2 amounting to millions of dollars will be lost forever.
3 When a government makes laws, we are all have to
4 follow, then in total secrecy changes those laws for
5 their own crooked, corrupt gains causing B.C.
6 residents unaffordably extreme hydro rate increases
7 for generations to come, something is terribly wrong.

8 In closing I would urge this panel to take
9 time to do a day's trip on the Peace River and view
10 this awesome river valley first hand. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

12 **Proceeding Time 6:48 p.m. T09**

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. KOTTMANN (#0149):**

14 MS. KOTTMANN: Hello. My name is Enri Kottmann, K-O-T-T-
15 M-A-N-N. Hello, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for
16 listening to me for a few minutes.

17 I have a farm north of Fort St. John, and I
18 am a farmer for the last over 30 years. I am all for
19 Site C and I will give you my reasons. Electricity
20 produced from water power is the cleanest and cheapest
21 way and I will explain this. We pay 12.5 cents per
22 kilowatt hour for electricity here. Once a year I go
23 to Germany, and every household over there has to pay
24 60 cents per kilowatt hour. This is five times as
25 much. I don't know how many people in this audience
26 would like to pay 60 cents per kilowatt hour every

1 day, every month, every year. Please give it a good
2 thought.

3 A portion of the electricity production in
4 Europe is generated from so-called wind farms;
5 turbines that use wind to produce electricity. This
6 is clean, but not inexpensive. Even though the
7 company agreements that a perfect job, the wind
8 turbines are not maintenance-free. They need a lot of
9 maintenance. Wind turbines have another negative
10 effect for birds. It is a fact that in Europe a great
11 number, and I mean a great number of birds, fly into
12 the wings of the wind turbines and are killed. And we
13 here have a lot of number of migrating birds - geese,
14 ducks, swans, robins, and so on.

15 One more point. The magnetic field around
16 wind turbines is not favourable for people that live
17 close to it. A total different aspect. Many people,
18 especially the farmers of the Peace River Valley, are
19 against Site C. If you drive, for example, from Fort
20 St. John to Hudson's Hope, you see plenty of signs
21 everywhere against Site C. But it is also a fact that
22 the south valley of the Peace River does not have
23 agricultural use areas at all.

24 The north side has some farms, 53 square
25 kilometres to be exact. And this is farmed
26 extensively, hayfields and cattle grazing. In an

1 article in the German newspaper *Zeitung*, Chief Roland
2 Willson of the Moberley Lake Indian Band is quoted to
3 say, "We want to stop the project," meaning Site C,
4 "because this is our hunting and fishing ground, only
5 for our people." That is before the Supreme Court of
6 law. I have a copy of the article here published on
7 March 7 of this year. The whole article, by
8 Bernadette Koulnega, is by the way totally one-sided.
9 The article is 169 in total. Only one sentence, six
10 lines to be exact, are for the speaker of BC Hydro,
11 Mr. Steve Conway. But we all need more electricity in
12 the future. The car companies are going to create and
13 produce more and more electric cars in every way. It
14 makes lots of sense, especially for cities, in order
15 to reduce air pollution. And this is very important.

16 The car company Tesla, for example,
17 produces a Tesla with 700 horsepower. It goes faster
18 than a Porsche, 200 kilometre plus. But we cannot do
19 that here, unfortunately.

20 One other note. If Site C is built, there
21 will be a beautiful lake for all to enjoy.

22 Thank you for listening to me.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

24 **Proceeding Time 6:51 p.m. T10**

25 Please go ahead, sir.

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. FEDDERLY (#0150):**

1 MR. FEDDERLY: Good evening. My name is Bob Fedderly, F-
2 E-D-D-E-R-L-Y and I'd like to welcome the Panel to
3 Fort St. John and I thank you for coming here to
4 receive our input.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

6 MR. FEDDERLY: I'm a long-time business owner here and
7 a resident in the community and I grew up the valley
8 in Hudson's Hope, so I've spent quite a lot of my life
9 watching this project grow. My father worked on Peace
10 Canyon and the Bennett dam, so I was involved in a lot
11 of the community events that were surrounding the
12 opening of those projects and what have you.

13 I want to mention to you that the project
14 was turned down once previously by the BCUC in the
15 1980s and it was put forward again by a government
16 that cancelled the project in the early '90s, perhaps
17 realizing that it might fail at the Commission again.

18 I would ask you to carefully consider that
19 the project costs have grown exponentially since that
20 time and the costs of alternative sources are on a
21 steady decline. This, coupled with the static demand
22 we see for hydro, even a declining demand for BC Hydro
23 should make the project less viable than was in the
24 '80s or '90s and will. And I'm relying on Harry
25 Swain's comments on Hydro's demand estimates where he
26 says Hydro's demand estimates are not investment

1 grade. And I think that we can put an exclamation
2 point on that remark.

3 As I mentioned earlier, I watched this
4 project in its last reincarnation with keen interest.
5 I'm a 35-year veteran of various industrial
6 construction and engineering projects and I can safely
7 say that when it comes to costs, what we're seeing
8 with this project right now is if there's a more
9 expensive way to do things, Hydro hasn't figured it
10 out yet.

11 The project has proceeded without a full
12 financial oversight from the BCUC and much money was
13 spent, in my view -- has been spent on purchasing
14 support for the project. And we see activities taking
15 place that are not required until way later stages in
16 the project, but because it's an area that money can
17 be spent and support can be gained for the project,
18 that money was spent.

19 It will come as no surprise to most
20 watching the project that it's over-budget and over-
21 scheduled considering the nature of the geology of the
22 north bank. It's an area that perhaps no amount of
23 money can stabilize and it has been the primary source
24 of delays and cost increases.

25 I would ask you, is throwing more money at
26 an never-ending problem in tax and ratepayers' best

1 interests.

2 BC Hydro's submission shows in Section 4,
3 Table 3 that 562 million was spent on site works for
4 the actual earth moving portion of the project. So I
5 would suggest a termination -- and I am suggesting
6 termination because the other options look to be too
7 expensive. In the event of termination, I would
8 suggest a little more than that number would be spent.

9 This project is -- there's a lot of the
10 clean-up and remediation work has been done and there
11 should not be any large amount of money spent on
12 remedial activities dealing with contaminated soil and
13 those kind of issues, which might be the case if it
14 was a 50-year-old facility. It's a brand new facility
15 that we turned the earth on last year. So putting it
16 back to bed will not cost the billions that are
17 suggested, I don't believe. And I've looked at the
18 project from every angle numerous times.

19 The 40-some-odd million that are listed in
20 the same table as off-site works were road projects,
21 as Mr. Little alluded to, that should have been done
22 anyway and were needed by the community anyway. So
23 there are elements of the so-called sunk costs that
24 can be recovered.

25 THE CHAIRPERSON: You've got about a minute left, sir,
26 just to remind you.

1 MR. FEDDERLY: Pardon me?

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: About a minute left, sir.

3 MR. FEDDERLY: Yeah. So there will be a -- the money
4 suggested will be a lot less than what it is to put
5 the site back to safe and stable, or at least as
6 stable as it ever was. Much of the money will be
7 recovered. Large aggregate stock piles could be used
8 in other civil projects. The sewer system for the
9 large camp facility is needed for the south side of
10 rural areas southwest of Fort St. John.

11 We've got to pursue alternatives like
12 biomass, geo exchange, geothermal, hydrogen storage,
13 solar and wind and use them use for our benefit by
14 using our legacy reservoirs like Bennett and Peace
15 Canyon, et cetera.

16 We're going to miss a huge opportunity cost
17 by -- or there will be a huge opportunity cost missed
18 by not pursuing these alternatives and putting ten
19 billion of borrowed money into a facility like this
20 that we haven't proven a demand for yet. And when
21 those alternatives become cheaper, we won't be able to
22 access them because we're paying interest on a huge
23 loan for a project we haven't -- don't need.

24 So with that, I'll say in business it is
25 said that your first loss is your smallest loss, and I
26 suggest termination of the project would be in the

1 ratepayers' best interest and I thank you for hearing
2 me out.

3 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

4 **Proceeding Time 6:57 p.m. T11**

5 Good afternoon.

6 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. OUELLETTE (#0151):**

7 MS. OUELLETT: Good evening. I'd like to acknowledge to
8 start with that we are on Treaty 8 territory. And
9 that's significant to this session in Fort St. John in
10 that Treaty 8 nations in the Northeast have been
11 inundated with industry encroaching on their land and
12 infringing on their rights unabated on for many years.
13 Site C is just another example of that.

14 I'd also like to thank you, the panel, for
15 allowing public input into the review of Site C.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: You're welcome ma'am. Could you just
17 please state your name and --

18 MS. OUELLETT: Oh, I'm sorry.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: That's okay.

20 MS. OUELLETT: Shelly Ouellette. Ouellette is O-U-E-L-L-
21 E-T-T-E.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

23 MS. OUELLETT: For the last seven years since it was
24 first announced that Site C was back on the table it's
25 been contested. First Nations has been to the highest
26 courts in Canada. The Peace Valley Environmental

1 Association and the Peace Valley Land Owners
2 Association have also been before the bench in an
3 effort to stop this project. Both the B.C. Government
4 and BC Hydro have had the benefit of unlimited tax
5 dollars, while First Nations, the PVA, and the PVLA
6 have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars
7 fundraising online and on the ground with various
8 campaigns, and this was one of them, the Stake in the
9 Peace campaign.

10 They were clearly the underdogs when it
11 came to the financial requirements for this battle.
12 It was an unfair right from the beginning and we all
13 know the results of their effort. That said, many
14 other grassroots movements joined the battle to speak
15 truth to power. Thousands of people across the world
16 have joined in. Scientists, environmentalists, the
17 YTY, Sierra Club, Amnesty International, the United
18 Nations, UNESCO, and many others, because Site C is a
19 travesty, foisted on us by a Premier who had failed to
20 bring fruition any of her promises of riches and
21 prosperity to BC. Site C was to be her shining
22 legacy, something for all the world to praise her for.
23 In order to see her legacy come to light she neglected
24 to do her due diligence and follow proper procedure in
25 approving this dam.

26 As result of that, here we are two years

1 into construction, Site C likely over budget and not
2 on time for its grand debut in 2024.

3 For the past two years BC Hydro and the
4 B.C. government have draped a cloak of secrecy over
5 every aspect of Site C. They spent many millions of
6 dollars in court defending it and all the while hiding
7 the fact that from the very beginning it's been
8 wrought with many problems. In fact, they have been
9 blatantly lying to all of us.

10 All we have asked for from the very
11 beginning was a review of Site C from our provincial
12 regulator, the BCUC. Now we have it, but there's
13 still one huge elephant in this room and that's
14 secrecy. When the first unredacted version of the
15 Deloitte report was published BC Hydro cried foul and
16 insisted that there was confidential information that
17 the public had no business knowing about. You, the
18 BCUC, agreed and that report was taken down and then
19 heavily redacted. Who were our knight in shining
20 armour and our last hope for justice.

21 The one resource we counted on to tell us
22 the unredacted truth about the financials of Site C
23 was suddenly hiding them from us too. You said our
24 knowing these numbers is not in our best interest and
25 that it would make it difficult for BC Hydro to
26 negotiate future contacts. Well, I and many others

1 disagree with that. BC Hydro is a publicly owned
2 utility. They use our money to build the
3 infrastructure that we all rely on and we need to be
4 able to trust that they are doing so in our best
5 interests and we need to trust that the BCUC will hold
6 them to task.

7 So far it is my opinion that you have both
8 failed. BC Hydro has failed to act in our best
9 interests and you failed to protect us by perpetuating
10 the secrecy and allowing them to redact that report.
11 We put our trust in this Commission to find the truth
12 and to act as our emissary and to protect the
13 ratepayers against such a travesty as Site c, and now
14 here we are with no one to trust again. Thank you.

15 If I have a couple seconds left, I'd like
16 to say that the landowners and the people that have so
17 much to lose can't do this in five minutes. They
18 should have their own session for people that are
19 going to lose everything.

20 Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

22 **Proceeding Time 7:02 p.m. T12**

23 Please go ahead.

24 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. ASHDOWN (#0152):**

25 MS. ASHDOWN: Hi, my name is Destiny Ashdown, A-S-H-D-O-
26 W-N, I'm a resident of Fort St. John area. I would

1 like to register my support for all previous
2 submissions opposing Site C. It is clear as
3 demonstrated through the contracts made, the
4 geological reports ignored, litigations endure, and
5 due process of proper review bypassed, that BC Hydro
6 cannot accurately predict or budget for contingencies,
7 and as such should not be expected to have an accurate
8 financial plan for mitigating future contingencies.

9 BC Hydro's mandate is to provide reliable,
10 affordable, clean electricity to British Columbia
11 safely. It is not to create jobs.

12 Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, Ma'am.

14 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. FOREST (#0153):**

15 MR. FOREST: Ken Forest, director of the Peace Valley
16 Environment Association. It's Ken Forest, F-O-R-E-S-
17 T. Thank you for the panel for this opportunity to
18 speak.

19 I note that one of the parts of this
20 inquiry is examining alternate energy sources. One of
21 those being solar energy, which I will comment on here
22 as a local issue. I will illustrate that northern
23 ratepayers and their families would be adversely
24 affected by the loss of this energy. It is evident
25 that in addition to supplying power from panels,
26 stored solar energy is essential to the creation of

1 all living things, including people. Locally that
2 energy is now at risk, because the catalyst that
3 harnesses it, class 1 and 2 topsoil, will be destroyed
4 by Site C dam.

5 In addition to be stored in batteries,
6 solar energy can be stored as calories and as
7 essential nutrients, market garden produce. Again,
8 the essential conveyor for transforming trapped solar
9 energy into human nutrition is class 1 and 2 topsoil,
10 a finite and shrinking resource. With Site C
11 completion, virtually all of the topsoil in the valley
12 would be lost, and the capacity to produce market
13 garden food would be lost along with it. Unlike
14 cereal crops and canola, local market garden food like
15 cantaloupes, corn and tomatoes is limited in the north
16 to production in this valley.

17 BC Hydro seems to have dismissed the
18 importance of growing invaluable solar generated
19 market garden produce by assigning it as general
20 agriculture. They equate fruits, vegetables and nuts
21 with cereal, crops, hay, and canola found on the high
22 bench lands. This is a grievous misnomer.

23 Losing an essential solar conversion
24 resource, topsoil is an energy problem for ratepayers
25 and their families, particularly in the north. Please
26 consider these facts. Locally obtained class 1 and 2

1 topsoil costs about \$50 per cubic meter. That's
2 without trucking. Thousands of tons would be lost due
3 to flooding. Class 1 and 2 topsoils are generated
4 naturally at a rate of 2 to 6 centimeters every 600
5 years. They cannot be manufactured, or artificially
6 replaced. The valley here has up to two metres of
7 deep topsoil. High grade topsoil is the only material
8 anywhere that can grow market garden food for people.

9 In British Columbia, less than five percent
10 of the entire provincial land base can grow any food
11 at all. A small fraction of that soil is converted to
12 solar energy for market gardens and supermarkets. So,
13 very tiny amounts of top class 1 and 2 soil is in our
14 province.

15 The Fraser River delta and the Peace Valley
16 are the only commercial viable market garden locations
17 in B.C. The Peace Valley contains close to 20 percent
18 of the very best topsoil in the entire province,
19 enough to feed more than 1 million people annually for
20 centuries. Imagine year round solar greenhouses in
21 the valley headed by B.C. natural gas in the
22 wintertime, supplying nutrition that ratepayers and
23 their families would otherwise have to import from
24 5,000 kilometers away or more.

25 British Columbia imports more than 80
26 percent of its market garden produce from California.

1 Into the next decades it's highly unlikely that
2 California will be willing or able to supply us with
3 our produce, regardless of cost, because climate
4 forecasts suggest that that food production there will
5 in fact drop.

6 There are currently no industrial market
7 gardens in the Peace Valley flood zone. Farmers will
8 not, and do not invest in creating market gardens in
9 the Peace Valley as long as a flood reserve remains on
10 the valley.

11 Over the next five to 10 decades, class 1
12 and 2 topsoil in British Columbia will probably become
13 more valuable than gold, and certainly more valuable
14 to ratepayers and their families than 75 to 100 years
15 of Site C generated electricity. Solar energy is
16 everywhere. Solar energy in this valley is critical.
17 Over the coming decades valley soil, combined with
18 long summer days of solar sunlight, high valley
19 temperatures and our changing climate will be
20 infinitely more valuable than Site C dam. And I would
21 give you an observation.

22 Two years ago, I went down to Bear Flats,
23 Ken Boon talked, first speaker here today. Went down
24 to his place, and purchased a cauliflower for 50
25 cents. Think of a cauliflower as a sumball of energy
26 and nutrients. I went into Safeway a couple of weeks

1 later, that same cauliflower was seven dollars. We
2 need to think where we are going with this valley.

3 Thank you very much, I appreciate your
4 time.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

6 **Proceeding Time 7:09 p.m. T13**

7 Please go ahead, ma'am.

8 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. ROBE (#0154):**

9 MS. ROBE: Hello. My name is Carolyn Robe, R-O-B-E.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I have a few
11 questions for your consideration.

12 First, with the cost of alternative power
13 trending downward, solar, wind, how are these cheaper
14 costs being taken into account? And how does
15 technological change factor into the forecasting of
16 electrical demand?

17 Second, what consideration is being given
18 for the local economic agricultural opportunities
19 foregone over the 100-year life of the dam? The land
20 capable of feeding one million people a year,
21 providing local food security.

22 Third, what is the cost of the lost carbon
23 sink, water, air, purification, and especially the
24 value of lumber being taken into consideration? Also,
25 what consideration is being given for the loss of
26 social benefits such as lost wildlife, lost

1 aesthetics, and lost wilderness value?

2 And how is the average cost of construction
3 overrun affected by interest rates now rising?

4 Just to summarize, I have questioned the
5 cost of alternative technology trending downward, the
6 cost of agricultural opportunities foregone over the
7 100-year life of the dam, and the cost of the lost
8 carbon sink, especially timber, and I want to know how
9 the rising interest rates have been factored into the
10 cost of the dam.

11 If you do not have the answers to these, or
12 to the other questions being asked of BC Hydro in
13 order to fill in the information gaps mentioned in the
14 September 20th preliminary report, does that not mean
15 that the analysis is incomplete?

16 And finally, if the analysis is incomplete,
17 how can or why should construction proceed?

18 Thank you for your time and attention to
19 these questions. Respectfully submitted, Carol Robe.

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

21 **Proceeding Time 7:11 p.m. T14**

22 MR. HADLAND: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners. My name is
23 Randall Hadland, H-A-D-L-A-N-D. I originally
24 registered to speak today and got confirmation of
25 that, and then about a week ago I got confirmation
26 that I was to speak tomorrow. So I didn't bring in my

1 particular materials that I wanted to present. I'm
2 happy to speak for five minutes if you want me to, but
3 I'd like the opportunity to speak tomorrow for the
4 same five minutes.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: You're welcome to speak either tonight
6 or tomorrow.

7 MR. HADLAND: Either/or, but not both?

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Is it the same material that you would
9 present both times?

10 MR. HADLAND: Oh, no. I would present different
11 material.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Okay. Go ahead, then.

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. R. HADLAND (#0155):**

14 MR. R. HADLAND: Okay. The first I heard of Site C would
15 have been about 1963. As a kid, I was out picking
16 stones and we would carry the stones over to the top
17 of the hills and roll them down the hills into the
18 valley. And my father said, "Yeah, BC Hydro wants to
19 flood this valley." So I've been ticked off for a
20 long time.

21 In 1974, we formed the Peace Valley
22 Environmental Association. BC Hydro was at that time
23 starting to produce the Site C and E environmental
24 impact assessment. We convinced the powers that be in
25 those days, with the help of people like the Sierra
26 Club and SPEC, that Hydro's information was

1 inadequate. So the government informed Hydro that
2 they would have to do a more precise statement, and
3 they did a more precise statement in Site C
4 environmental impact statement. That went to the B.C.
5 Utilities Commission in 1982/83. And it was again
6 shown to be insufficient. In the last ten years of
7 the 1980s, we went through several BCUC hearings and
8 into rate structure, rate applications, in which Site
9 C was prominent, and BC Hydro was expecting to be able
10 to spend money as a result of BCUC hearings. And
11 again, BC Hydro's information was insufficient.

12 We thought we had it beat at that point.
13 Although in the 90s we had to do some more work
14 because BC Hydro came back and wanted to build it
15 again, and we showed that they were not sufficient in
16 their material.

17 And then only four years ago, in this very
18 room, a joint review panel, Canadian and provincial
19 joint review panel, listened to 26,000 pages of BC
20 Hydro's material. And they found that this was not
21 sufficient.

22 This panel itself has found that Hydro's
23 material is not sufficient.

24 At some point, and I would suggest now is a
25 really good time, to say you can't do this. You
26 cannot prove that this travesty, as has been

1 mentioned, is supportable by material.

2 In the 90s I was part of the BC Hydro
3 conservation potential review. 1992 to '95, I
4 traveled to Vancouver every month and studied
5 materials. It was, you know, fairly in-depth on
6 conservation. We hired some pretty good consultants.
7 There was people from industry, commercial users,
8 residential users, First Nations groups. We had
9 consumers -- two different consumers' associations,
10 two environmental organizations. It was a pretty good
11 collaborative effort.

12 And the result of that was that we had
13 found about 33,000 gigawatt hours of technical
14 potential of conservation. That was more than half of
15 Hydro's generating capacity at that time. And it
16 agreed with what Hydro's conservation expert at the
17 Site C hearings in '82/'83 stated, that we already
18 have -- we already use 50 percent more power than we
19 need in this province, if you consider the
20 conservation potential.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Sorry, I just want --

22 MR. R. HADLAND: I ask -- I'm sorry?

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: It's just that you're just towards the
24 end of your five minutes, so if you -- I'll give you a
25 little more time, but if you could just wrap up.

26 MR. R. HADLAND: I'm getting to the end of the five

1 minutes already?

2 THE CHAIRPERSON: You're finished your five minutes, sir,
3 yes.

4 MR. R. HADLAND: Oh, well, I'm just getting started.
5 Okay. I thought I would -- I recommended to this
6 Panel that they ask for the 2007 conservation
7 potential review. I haven't gotten any response. It
8 hasn't showed up on any documents. In that paper,
9 there was 22,000 gigawatt hours of conservation
10 potential, and that was achievable. And that was
11 going to change BC Hydro's entire outlook, and they
12 were hoping to change the energy use direction of the
13 whole province. And that was squashed in 2009. And
14 that's not something that this province should be
15 proud of. We as a province, as people who vote,
16 people who pay electricity costs -- it absolutely
17 makes me speechless that we would do something like
18 that. I'm asking again that this panel look for that
19 information.

20 Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

22 **Proceeding Time 7:18 p.m. T15**

23 Sir, I'd just like to point out that if
24 there is information that you want to file you can --
25 you're welcome to file it at any time.

26 MR. R. HADLAND: Okay, thank you.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir. On our website, the
2 Site C website.

3 MS. McDONALD: Hi.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Hi.

5 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. McDONALD (#0156):**

6 MS. McDONALD: It's Ramona McDonald, and Ramona is
7 spelled R-A-M-O-N-A and McDonald, M-C-D-O-N-A-L-D.

8 I'm a long time northern person. I grew up
9 in the Dawson Creek area, went to school in Dawson
10 Creek. I raised my family in Ft. Nelson for many
11 years and we're part of the community in the north
12 here, of the First Nation community. I built my
13 business here in Fort St. John and so I have been
14 around this north for a very long time.

15 My father worked on the first dam, the
16 Bennett dam in the 1960s. And, you know, when we
17 start looking at the dam about coming here and
18 building here in Fort St. John there's a little bit of
19 excitement within me to have that done. So I am
20 totally in favour of this dam.

21 As an aboriginal person growing up in this
22 area, and an aboriginal person on the Treaty 8
23 territory, and as a business owner and a business
24 owner within the Treaty 8 territory, we are part of
25 the Treaty 8 and that -- and we seem to find that a
26 lot of people speak on our behalf. But not every one

1 of us believe that we should be stopping something
2 like this and that as a business owner I look at
3 growth, I look at opportunities, and I look at giving
4 people and our youth opportunities to see what there
5 is for the future for them.

6 And I might be speaking at the wrong one
7 here because you guys have aboriginal ones going too,
8 but we need to understand that this Site C Dam is
9 important to everything that we look at. We need to
10 look at the changing that we have in this community,
11 the changing we have in the world, and that we are
12 able to produce clean energy.

13 We talk about clean energy everywhere we
14 go. I went to Ottawa promoting LNG as a clean energy.
15 But Hydro is one of our cleanest energies and we need
16 to focus on making sure that those opportunities are
17 there. We can't just ignore every First Nation person
18 because they might not agree with some of the First
19 Nations saying, "We don't want it." But we do want
20 it. There's many of us that do want it and there's
21 many of us that would love the opportunity to work on
22 the Site C Dam and to be able to give the youth the
23 opportunity to train in the businesses that we have
24 and to build their own businesses and keeping that
25 opportunity available for the people that are here.

26 We can't just hand things over to our First

1 Nation community and say, here, take this, take that.
2 We need to teach our youth. We need to teach the
3 people and give them choices in order to build, in
4 order to give -- to be able to give back to the
5 community. It shouldn't always be about taking and
6 what we're going to get out of it, it should be about
7 giving back to our community.

8 Many years ago when I decided to go back to
9 school, I learned something from our aboriginal
10 ancestors and that they're a very smart people. They
11 thought of things, we had our doctors, we had our
12 lawyers, we had our construction workers, we had our
13 labourers, we had everybody there. And when I start
14 looking at that, realizing that we were actually a
15 very smart bunch of people. And that we were moving
16 ahead even way back hundreds of years ago, and we were
17 always moving ahead. And this is what this is about.

18 We need to move ahead. It doesn't matter
19 if we're -- what colour of our skin is or anything
20 like that, but we need to move ahead. And we need to
21 give opportunities to the youth to be able to build on
22 that.

23 I have been -- we have a ranch down south.
24 We run our own hydro plant, it's a -- out of a
25 hydroelectric plant. And, you know, that is our
26 cleanest energy we have and if we can't see that as

1 aboriginal people and see that we need to continue to
2 protect our environment by using the clean energy,
3 then maybe we're missing something.

4 But we need to look at the changes and we
5 need to be able to say that as aboriginal people we're
6 moving ahead, and we can accept changes, and we can
7 take a look as ancestors did years ago, because they
8 kept moving ahead and they kept building things. And
9 they didn't have to stop because they kept growing
10 within them. And that's what we need as community in
11 this north and we need to make sure that our children
12 and our grandchildren have that same opportunity when
13 it comes to building a business, or having good
14 employment, or having those opportunities.

15 I don't get the opportunity to work at Site
16 C Dam because I'm the wrong kind of native, and that
17 is wholly unfair. It's doesn't matter if you're
18 native or white, we should not be discriminating
19 against because a few people speak on my behalf. I am
20 for the Site C Dam, and I think we need to go ahead
21 with the Site C Dam, and we need to make sure that our
22 taxpayer's dollars are not being wasted and given up
23 on something halfway through on a project that's
24 already continuing. So let's move ahead with it.

25 Thank you.

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

1 **Proceeding Time 7:23 p.m. T16**

2 Is Mr. Anderton here? Mr. Anderton. Mr.
3 Sullivan? Is that the end of the -- is there anyone
4 else who has registered to speak who hasn't had an
5 opportunity?

6 Is there anyone that hasn't registered that
7 would like an opportunity to say something? We have a
8 little bit of time, we could -- please. I'll take you
9 next. Please have a seat and you can be next, thank
10 you.

11 Please, ma'am.

12 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. CULLING (#0157):**

13 MS. CULLING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Diane
14 Culling, D-I-A-N-E, C-U-L-L-I-N-G.

15 I'd like to follow up on two comments that
16 were made earlier this evening. The first was
17 regarding a deplorable high-profile individual that
18 changed his mind. Now, changing your mind when the
19 situation changes is the essence of adaptive
20 management, good policies. The alternative is
21 entrenched thinking.

22 In the early 2000s, when BC Hydro took the
23 Site C proposal, dam proposal, off the shelf, we were
24 pretty bullish in North America about dams and clean
25 energy. Manitoba Hydro was building a dam. Quebec
26 had the Romaine, a series of dams. Muskrat Falls in

1 Newfoundland/Labrador, and Site C. This was occurring
2 around North America, big energy projects. Nuclear in
3 the southern United States.

4 But then something happened a little bit,
5 roughly around 2007, that turned the North American
6 energy market on its head. The shale gas technology
7 that provided -- now we are awash in natural gas with
8 that opportunity to generate electricity with that.

9 And coupled with that, there was an
10 increasing suite of clean energy alternatives being
11 developed, and the price of those alternatives was
12 coming down.

13 So, good managers look at the data when the
14 situation is changing, and they adjust accordingly.
15 Perhaps there had been merits in some of these
16 projects 15 years ago, but the situation is
17 dramatically different.

18 I'd like to make a second -- address a
19 second point. I'm not an ornithologist, but I am a
20 registered professional biologist and a member of the
21 B.C. College of Applied Biology. And I work on all of
22 the major industries in this region, and have for 30
23 years now. There was a comment made specifically
24 about wind farms and bird mortality. And this
25 addresses -- this comes back to adaptive management,
26 again. The early wind towers were -- there was high

1 mortality of birds. In particular, with raptors, the
2 towers had a hatching pattern on them that made great
3 raptor nesting habitat, until you got hit by -- struck
4 by a blade.

5 So, but, the designers and the biologists
6 looked at the problem, identified the problem,
7 addressed it, redesigned those towers. It's a
8 dramatically different situation now. And the average
9 house kills far more birds annually than an individual
10 wind tower would. And cats have huge mortality.

11 So I just wanted to address that because
12 that -- our thinking on birds and wind towers has not
13 caught up with the technology that's being used.

14 Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

16 **Proceeding Time 7:28 p.m. T17**

17 Please go ahead.

18 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. TUPPER (#0158):**

19 MS. TUPPER: Is this on? Sorry, [non-english language],
20 Welcome to Treaty 8 territory, my name is Yvonne
21 Tupper. We are on the traditional area where my
22 mother, who is sitting behind here, became beautiful.
23 That is a quote from my father. He said that every
24 year we come back to this territory to where my mother
25 became beautiful.

26 Her family was raised beside Moberly Lake,

1 B.C. We're Tilda First Nations members, a part of
2 Treaty 8. We speak our language, we live off our
3 land, we love our water, we hunt, fish. Currently for
4 the last three months that is what I've been doing
5 with my boyfriend, we've been fishing and hunting
6 currently in this valley, in this traditional
7 territory.

8 With me I brought the United Nations
9 Declarations of Rights of Human People. This is
10 produced by Amnesty National, as well as 20 other
11 organizations of Canada. And within here are the
12 articles for the truth and reconciliation, which I am
13 getting to because this is not reconciliation. I
14 invite Richard Neufeld, who is in the room, and other
15 delegates of -- special delegates to walk with me down
16 the Peace River. I will show you why this river means
17 so much to us, especially because the risk factors
18 that I see is that you're ruining our protein sources,
19 so our moose, our deer, our protein that we eat
20 yearly, daily. We have the right, just as our
21 ancestors, to live like they did with our protein
22 sources. And four of them are the fish.

23 When I -- I have been active with the Rocky
24 Mountain Fort, I have been a member on the caravan,
25 the Treaty 8 caravan bus from Bear Flats to
26 Kennisapality, Quebec and Ottawa. I spoke on the

1 steps on the anniversary of September 13th of the
2 United Declarations of Peoples and also to -- I hate
3 the word "activist". I'm a protector for my children,
4 my future grandchildren, for others who hunt, fish,
5 trap in that area. I'm helping them. I went to Haida
6 Gwaii, Old Massett, spoke there, when they were
7 celebrating defeating Enbridge. And we spoke about
8 how in the 70s we celebrated that Soto, and that we
9 defeated Site C. But here we are again in 2017 doing
10 the same thing.

11 And I have gained allies along the way too
12 as well. And it is sad that we're -- and I support
13 all the other, even including the ones that are for
14 Site C that spoke, because that also tells -- that we
15 need that, we need to remind them that we were here
16 first. We've been here since time immemorial. My
17 ancestors, I have every right, just like the treaty
18 promises, to live like them, and so forth with the
19 generations to come.

20 And I would and encourage you to read those
21 documents from the previous B.C. Utilities
22 Commission's report from my ancestors for the last 50
23 years. Their words still hold value to a lot of us
24 who walk the land, who live off the land, who enjoy
25 fresh water, who enjoy fresh clean fish, and fresh
26 meat, because the high diabetes in my band, we're one

1 of the highest diabetes. So that cost, of the psycho-
2 social aspect of a person, the mental, the health,
3 because that protein source is being defeated.

4 When I read the last federal permit for the
5 fish and how they are going to have fish ladders and
6 fish will be transported, I disagree with that. Our
7 fish is not meaty, they are not muscle-like that they
8 will not jump fish, through the fish ladders if this
9 dam is being built, and I think that is kind of
10 ridiculous.

11 When I speak to my elders, I can't explain
12 to them that this is the government that is supposed
13 to have truth and reconciliation with us, that they
14 are going to do that to our protein sources, which was
15 promised that we would be able to continue our way of
16 life as long as the sun shines, river flows, and grass
17 grows. Well, the river is still flowing, but what
18 that river brings life to and that values us as
19 people. And that is speaking for most of my cousins
20 who are in the Treaty 8 nations. I have cousins in
21 every single one, and I wouldn't be standing here
22 today if I didn't have the backing of my mother, my
23 family, and my cousins, and my close friends.

24 And we need to keep this river flowing as
25 is, and no more destruction. And I don't like reading
26 about the Canadian Environmental Agency Assessment

1 fines that are going right now because of the water
2 erosion, the water quality affecting the fish and the
3 ungulates feeding grounds and calving grounds. And I
4 don't like seeing that clear cut along the way.

5 Our hunters are going more than 100
6 kilometres away from their homes to get a moose. And
7 to me that is devastating. We used to be able to just
8 go out through our back door, we call that area the
9 Dal Real area, we used to be able to go Dal Real right
10 in our backyard of Tsoto and get a moose. And now we
11 can't do that because a 24-hour light system, the
12 noise from Site C, and the moose is not coming back,
13 and that's very, very scary. Because again the
14 effects of that for long term is mental health, not
15 trusting the government, not keeping the promises of
16 our treaty, and the rights for us to maintain our
17 livelihoods.

18 So, I commend the ones that spoke before
19 me, and thank you, and I invite you and others to walk
20 with us, to walk with me along the peace River. I
21 will tell you, and I'll show you why that river is
22 important to me, and to our families.

23 [non-english language], thank you.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

25 **Proceeding Time 7:33 p.m. T18**

26 Well, I'd like to thank all of you for

1 coming out. We appreciate your interest, and we
2 appreciate you coming out tonight. And we especially
3 appreciate those who shared their views with us, and
4 we appreciate the time that you took to prepare your
5 talk and the time that you took to say what you said
6 to us. Everything that everyone said will be
7 considered, as we write our final report.

8 And on that note, I would wish you all a
9 very good evening. Thank you.

10 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 7:35 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.



A.B. Lanigan, Court Reporter

October 2nd, 2017