

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 2nd, 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

VOLUME 8

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FORT ST. JOHN, B.C.

October 2nd, 2017

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

1
2
3
4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening. Thank you for joining us
5 as we proceed through our two and a half week schedule
6 of Site C inquiry community input sessions around the
7 province. Tonight is our second night here in Fort
8 St. John.

9 We are extremely pleased by both the level
10 of public interest and the effort that has gone into
11 presentations that we've heard at the community input
12 sessions so far.

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

19 This community input session is part of the
20 second important phase of the Site C Inquiry. As you
21 know, we spent the first six weeks of this inquiry
22 collecting data and analysis from many interested
23 parties -- sorry, parties interested in and affected
24 by BC Hydro's Site C project. The quality of these
25 submissions was commendable. Many people committed a
26 great deal to producing a quality submission within

1 the short time-frame that was provided. This affirms
2 what we already know; that there are experts and
3 affected parties who can bring us insight into the
4 many complexities of evaluating the economic impact of
5 the Site C project.

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

9 The Order in Council that directed us to
10 inquire into the project specifically requires us to
11 consider the cost implications on BC Hydro ratepayers
12 of three scenarios: continuing the project;
13 suspending the project; or terminating the project.
14 Suspending the project would involve suspending it by
15 the end of the year and re-starting it in 2024.

16 My panel members and I recognize that there
17 are many other implications of the project beyond cost
18 implications. Considering this, we ask that in the
19 interests of all parties in the room you strive to
20 keep your submissions within the scope of our inquiry.
21 Submissions made here today, as well as those made in
22 writing, that are outside of the scope of our review
23 cannot be considered in our final report to government
24 on November 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 couple of other
4 housekeeping items. First of all, you met Mr.
5 Bemister just a few minutes ago. He's from Allwest
6 Reporting. He is here to help with organizing
7 speakers and other logistics, and his team will be
8 recording and transcribing these sessions. The live
9 audio can be streamed from our website at
10 SiteCInquiry.com and following these sessions all
11 presentations will be transcribed and posted along
12 with the rest of the inquiry documents.

13 There is some coffee and tea at the side of
14 the room; please help yourself throughout the session,
15 and please feel free to enter and exit the room, but
16 please do so quietly so as to not disrupt the
17 speakers.

18 And for those of you that are speaking, the
19 list of speakers appears on the TV and on the screen
20 up at the front here. And when your name is appearing
21 within the next two or three speakers, you're welcome
22 to come and sit at the front row until you can take
23 your place at one of the two podiums up here.

24 If you're not in the room, or not prepared
25 at the time you're called, we'll go ahead with the
26 next speaker in line. But we will return at the end

1 to make sure that anybody who didn't get a chance to
2 speak will get a chance to speak at the end of the
3 list.

4 Other than stating your name, and we ask
5 that you state your name before you start speaking, or
6 before you start with your prepared speech, and state
7 your first name and spell your last name, please, so
8 that the transcribers can make sure that it's recorded
9 properly in the transcript. But other than stating
10 your name, please refrain from including personal or
11 confidential information in your submission, noting
12 that it will become a matter of public record.
13 Inclusion of confidential information may result in
14 your presentation not being included in the session
15 transcript, and consequently not considered any
16 further in the inquiry.

17 The Panel is aware of the circulation of
18 the unredacted Deloitte report filed in the first
19 phase of the inquiry. The information redacted in the
20 report was done so to ensure that current and future
21 contract and procurement negotiations between BC Hydro
22 and its suppliers were not compromised as a result of
23 the information being publicly available. This
24 information remains confidential, despite its improper
25 disclosure in the press.

26 All information in the report was factored

1 into the Panel's findings, and the Deloitte report was
2 factored into the panel's findings and questions in
3 our preliminary report. The Panel may redact or
4 refuse submissions that contain reference to that
5 confidential information, both here tonight as well as
6 in written submissions.

7 Please also refrain from using profane or
8 offensive language in your presentations; this as well
9 as any other disruptive behavior will result in the
10 early close of the session.

11 Speakers have a maximum of five minutes and
12 we have a clock here to let you know how you're doing
13 as you're talking, with regard to time, at least. And
14 I will -- as your time approaches five minutes, I'll
15 try to give you a signal and remind you to please
16 start to summarize your remarks.

17 If you've heard any sentiments from prior
18 speakers that are consistent with yours, you may wish
19 to just register your support of a previous
20 presentation and that will leave you more time to
21 present material of your own.

22 With that, we are ready to open this second
23 session in Fort St. John, on October 2nd, 2017. And I
24 ask that our first speaker please begin now. Is that
25 Ms. Boon? Thank you.

26

Proceeding Time 6:07 p.m. T02

1
2 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. BOON (#0159):**

3 MS. BOON: Thank you for this opportunity. My name is
4 Arlene Boon, B-O-O-N. I am a third-generation farmer,
5 born and raised here. My family has many years of
6 emotional history of this project, starting with my
7 grandfather.

8 I would like to highlight some of the many
9 risks I see that will be added to the budget overruns
10 of Site C, starting with the mitigation -- the
11 individual farm mitigation plan, condition 30. It
12 appears this has not been budgeted for. The cost of
13 this mitigation plan is over and above the acquisition
14 process cost and not part of the \$20 million funding
15 for the agricultural plan as identified by the B.C.
16 Environment Office, Assessment Office. There are 34
17 farm operations that will all need a plan.

18 Independent agrologists now have been
19 engaged and so far not one land owner or tenure holder
20 has a plan in place to my knowledge. Eight
21 properties, including ours, on the Bear Flat area were
22 expropriated for highway realignment in December,
23 2016. In February of 2017, the mulching and logging
24 through these properties began. This plan was
25 required before adverse effects occur to a specific
26 farm. One of the agrologists commented to us, "This

1 evaluation is supposed to be done prior to work
2 starting," and they had never been called into a
3 project after destruction.

4 Included in condition 30 is the development
5 of new water supplies. Historically, the farm houses
6 were established close to good water sources. If this
7 project proceeds, BC Hydro will have to relocate the
8 land owners and this includes the properties that sold
9 in the 80s and the 90s.

10 To date, of the three land owners that have
11 had wells drilled, it has cost BC Hydro over 124,000
12 -- about \$124,000. They are drilling dusters, or not
13 finding the same quantity and quality that is being
14 lost. How did BC Hydro budget for this, yet another
15 unknown cost?

16 Of the eight expropriated lands in the
17 Cache Creek area, all payments were based on the BC
18 Hydro appraised values. So still outstanding is the
19 final settlement if Site C continues.

20 BC Hydro has a large asset in purchased
21 land throughout this 40-year process. The sale of
22 these lands will help recover money spent on this
23 project.

24 Most of these lands have a buy-back policy
25 and, like many others, my husband and I will purchase
26 our land back when this project is terminated.

1 I've been watching the numerous postings of
2 BC Hydro's schedules since the consultation process.
3 It seems that, if a project is not on schedule, it
4 gets re-scheduled, and this puts it back on schedule.
5 A few examples are the 271 Road improvement project
6 and the viewpoint.

7 In addition to Crown lands' values not
8 having been included in the cost of the Site C
9 project, there is also a very large aggregate resource
10 that should be valued if this project were to proceed.

11 I ask that Site C be terminated. The
12 implementation of a land use plan and the removal of
13 the 1957 Order in Council flood reserve. Thank you.

14 **Proceeding Time 6:11 p.m. T03**

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

16 Mr. Hadland.

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

18 MR. R. HADLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is
19 Randal Hadland, H-A-D-L-A-N-D. I'd like to start by
20 acknowledging that we're on Treaty 8 territory, and
21 supporting Ms. Tupper's comments yesterday.

22 Back in the late 60s, I worked in a sawmill
23 up at Finlay Forks. And we were cutting up the logs
24 that were being pulled off Williston Reservoir after
25 it was filled. And I got an inkling -- I got a small
26 bit of knowledge about the impact that our resource

1 development had on the Sekani and the Treaty 8 people
2 of that -- who lived in that valley, who hunted, who
3 recreated, who gathered their medicines and food. And
4 so I can't claim ignorance of the impact that we
5 caused for those people.

6 And ignorance isn't an excuse before the
7 law, as I understand it. And yet when Treaty 8
8 Nations tried to bring this case to court, our
9 respective provincial and federal governments chose to
10 say that they had had a good consultation process and
11 that they still didn't know whether or not the Treaty
12 8 people were being impacted. That's a contradiction
13 that is an expression of our government's desire to be
14 ignorant in the face of the law.

15 I'd like to go on, then, just for a second,
16 with conservation that I talked about yesterday. This
17 is part of the energy conservation potential review
18 that the collaborative put together back in '92/'95.
19 I don't know if you folks remember John Haig, who was
20 secretary for the Commission. He sat in on these
21 hearings with us, or this collaborative, and went
22 through it all. So I'm not going to try to pawn all
23 these books off on you, because the Commission has got
24 to have them already.

25 The other comment that -- or the other
26 report that I was asking you to refer to yesterday was

1 the 2007 conservation potential review that found
2 22,000 gigawatt hours of economic conservation
3 potential. That's four Site Cs at less cost per
4 kilowatt than Site C, that could be developed in less
5 time than Site C, that was squashed within two years
6 of its production.

7 I would like to suggest that you try and
8 get a hold of that. I can send you the summary
9 report, but the other report -- or the total of the
10 books, is going to be another seven of these, and I'm
11 not going to try and download that, let alone send you
12 the paper. If you're interested by the summary
13 report, please check into that some more, because it's
14 very good information.

15 Just one last thing that I want to take a
16 kick at is the notion of cost/benefit analysis. Back
17 in '82 at the hearings, '83, the legal counsel for the
18 Site C BCUC Panel got up and asked Hydro, "How do you
19 show a value to what Site C would be? What is the
20 economic benefit to the province?" And after a little
21 bit of wrangling, BC Hydro agreed that what you have
22 to do is take the productive capacity of a Site C dam
23 and multiply it by the net average -- by the average
24 cost per kilowatt. And that's your benefit.

25 And BC Hydro hasn't done that. BC Hydro,
26 in this application, has gone through enormous amounts

1 of paper talking about the great benefits that would
2 arise from Site C. Every one of those benefits would
3 also arise from any other conservation or alternative
4 energy project that we have, and that we could
5 produce.

6 I'm almost out of time. I'd like to
7 suggest that this Panel turn Site C down again and, as
8 Ms. Boon said a minute ago, make it a permanent thing
9 this time. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

11 **Proceeding Time 6:16 p.m. T04**

12 Good evening, ma'am.

13 MS. GOODINGS: Good evening. Welcome to the Peace River
14 region.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

16 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. GOODINGS (#0160):**

17 MS. GOODINGS: My name is Karen Goodings. G-O-O-D-I-N-G-
18 S. I have been the Area B director of the Peace River
19 Regional District for 29 years, and much of this
20 beautiful valley is within Area B. To be clear, I do
21 not support the proposed Site C dam.

22 I was the chair of the Peace River Regional
23 District when the Site C announcement was made and in
24 May of 2014 the Board authorized a letter to be sent
25 to Christy Clark, Premier. The resolution was worded
26 as follows:

1 "That a letter be forwarded to the Premier
2 of British Columbia requesting that the B.C.
3 Utilities Commission be involved in the Site
4 C energy project approval process, in
5 keeping with several recommendations of the
6 Site C clean energy project Joint Review
7 Panel, and in the interests of open and
8 transparent decision-making."

9 The letter went on to say,
10 "We request that our provincial government
11 endorse the Joint Review Panel's
12 recommendations 47, 48, and 49. We believe
13 the public's interests will be best served
14 if, prior to any final decision being made,
15 the Site C project is referred to the BCUC
16 for public hearings and the Commission's
17 review of the project's cost and impacts on
18 taxpayers."

19 The Premier did not respond to the letter.
20 However, on her behalf, Minister Bill Bennett did.
21 And on November the 18th, 2014, the Peace River
22 Regional District Board again authorized a letter to
23 be sent under my signature as Chair, in response to
24 Minister Bennett. I am also going to read a portion
25 of that letter into my presentation. It's stated:
26 "You" -- referring to Minister Bennett:

1 "... make a number of points which clearly
2 show your support for the building of Site
3 C. It is my hope that you will consider the
4 following concerns and make a decision based
5 on fact. The Joint Review Panel noted in
6 its report that it did not have the
7 information and analysis to fully, properly,
8 and transparently assess the economic
9 effects of Site C. And further, prior to
10 Executive Council making a final decision on
11 Site C, the project needs to be referred to
12 the BCUC as per recommendations 46 to 49.

13 There are a number of references to a
14 lack of cost analysis, page 280, demand
15 forecast, page 287, and a lack of research
16 into geothermal resources, page 299. Nor
17 has there been a fully demonstrated need for
18 this project on the timetable that is being
19 proposed." That was on page 306.

20 That was on page 306.

21 "It is in the interests of taxpayers across
22 the province that the single largest debt to
23 be undertaken by the province, should you
24 decide to proceed, is a decision based on
25 proven cost analysis and proven need. There
26 have been, and continue to be, a number of

1 reports and new materials that are
2 addressing the need for further examination
3 of potentially less costly alternatives to
4 Site C. There is a need for further
5 research into energy efficient geothermal,
6 wind, et cetera."

7 My purpose of reading from these two
8 letters is as evidence that the local regional
9 government considered it very important to have an
10 independent examination of the proposal done before
11 the shovels hit the ground. Our concerns were
12 relative to what you are now undertaking, one being
13 cost and the other being need. Had this been done, we
14 would have lived with the outcome regardless of
15 whether it was to build or not to build.

16 I also want to talk briefly about some of
17 the impacts that are not assessed to the fullest. The
18 Peace River Valley is undervalued as to the potential
19 of the valley to feed people. Studies that have been
20 undertaken show that the west to east valley with a
21 micro-climate and the superb Class 1 and 2 soils,
22 coupled with long sunshine daylight hours has the
23 ability to grow fruits and vegetables that are not
24 common to this area. As our climate changes, and the
25 days become warmer, we expect to be able to develop
26 new markets and thereby improve the economics of a

1 variety of agricultural ventures.

2 The North Peace Economic Development
3 Commission has undertaken a horticulture study that
4 will be helpful in growing more foods for markets both
5 near and far.

6 I'm going to run out of time.

7 We know that there are opportunities to
8 provide power from many sources that have not yet been
9 seriously considered. We know the population of the
10 world is growing. We seem to be ignoring the fact
11 that there is a finite amount of land with no
12 opportunity to make more.

13 Let us not forget that all the fundraising
14 done by those whose opposition to Site C has never
15 wavered, unlike BC Hydro with their bevy of lawyers
16 and professionals who prepared volumes and volumes of
17 paper, all paid for through the public purse. I
18 applaud the efforts of the many who stand up for what
19 they believe in. May their efforts be rewarded with
20 the permanent cancellation of any future dams on the
21 Peace River.

22 In closing, there is much evidence that
23 suggests there is no clear indication that this
24 project can be completed on time and even less that it
25 can be completed within budget.

26 Thank you for coming to our region and for

1 listening. Please make sure your recommendations are
2 fair to our residents, ratepayers, and taxpayers.

3 Thank you.

4 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

5 **Proceeding Time 6:22 p.m. T05**

6 Please go ahead. Thank you.

7 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. MORISON (#0161):**

8 MS. MORISON: Good evening. My name is Andrea Morison,
9 M-O-R-I-S-O-N. I'm the executive director of the
10 Peace Valley Environment Association.

11 When our former Premier stated that she
12 vowed to take Site C to the point of no return, just
13 prior to a provincial election in which she was
14 running, it's not a stretch to conclude that even she
15 was obviously aware that the justification for the
16 project was questionable. I am thankful that B.C. is
17 now undertaking this assessment. As you are aware,
18 Site C is an extremely large project with many complex
19 issues. I will attempt to address just a few here.

20 Natural capital. The Suzuki Foundation
21 shows that there would be significant losses of
22 natural capital in the Peace Valley if Site C were to
23 be constructed. While their report is based on the
24 broader Peace River watershed, it does include the
25 land within the Peace Valley that would be destroyed
26 if Site C is built. The report concludes that the

1 value for the carbon stored in the study area is 6.7
2 to 7.4 billion dollars per year, and the total value
3 for other ecosystem services provided by things like
4 forests, fields, wetlands, and waterways ranges from
5 8.8 million to 1.7 billion per year. These figures
6 are huge, and I'd like to emphasize they are annual.
7 Billions of dollars per year.

8 These costs were not included in BC Hydro's
9 assessment of the project as they should be.
10 Attributing a dollar value to ecological services and
11 systems is nothing new. Courses in natural resource
12 economics were mandatory in my program of study at
13 university. That was 25 years ago, and it wasn't
14 brand-new at that time, either. Humanity's reliance
15 on a truly sustainably managed planet is a non-
16 negotiable fact. When are we going to take this
17 seriously?

18 Decommissioning. BC Hydro has not included
19 plans, nor a budget, for the decommissioning of Site
20 C, should it be built. Based on cursory research,
21 this is a significant oversight. Several articles by
22 credible sources state that decommissioning of dams
23 can cost even more than the construction of them in
24 the first place. Typically in private-sector
25 reporting provisions are made for decommissioning
26 costs related to production facilities, that they

1 would be appropriate for BC Hydro to include a
2 reasonable estimate of such costs in their overall
3 cost calculations.

4 Costs of maintaining and extending the life
5 of W.A.C. Bennett Dam. Have these been adequately
6 considered in the Site C business case? The continued
7 operation of Bennett Dam is integrally linked to the
8 operation of Site C. The life expectancy of that dam
9 is a hundred years, and we're already at the halfway
10 mark.

11 Site C has a life expectancy of 100 years
12 as well, and if completed by 2024 Bennett Dam will be
13 58 years old. Standard accounting procedures require
14 that business plans for projects that are contingent
15 on the maintenance or life extension of another asset
16 should include these costs.

17 Alternatives to Site C. I cannot accept
18 that a project associated with this magnitude of
19 destruction can possibly be considered progress in
20 2017. Especially given that, as submitted by
21 international energy expert Robert McCullough,
22 alternative energy options such as wind and solar are
23 less expensive and will continue to decrease in price
24 over time.

25 Having said that, I just want to emphasize,
26 also as Mr. McCullough has submitted, the need for the

1 power in B.C. isn't there. If and when B.C. needs
2 more power, it makes far more sense to consider
3 alternatives. They can be built on an as-needed basis
4 in geographic locations throughout the province. This
5 will not only save all British Columbians money, but
6 will ensure that both construction and long-term
7 operational jobs can be sprinkled throughout the
8 province.

9 In conclusion, at this time it makes far
10 more sense for our government to use capital
11 expenditure funds on projects that British Columbians
12 really need, like hospitals, schools, and daycare
13 centres. British Columbia's leaders have the
14 opportunity to show that they are able to recognize a
15 huge mistake in the making, yet are progressive enough
16 to shift gears and make a correction. I hope you are
17 able to come to a conclusion on this project that
18 reflects the progressive attitude that I believe most
19 British Columbians are proud to embrace, and that you
20 can contribute to guiding our province toward a truly
21 sustainable future.

22 Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

24 **Proceeding Time 6:27 p.m. T06**

25 Please go ahead, ma'am.

26 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. CULLING (#0162):**

1 MS. CULLING: My name is Diane Culling, C-U-L-L-I-N-G.
2 Good evening, Mr. Chairman, and Panel members.
3 Welcome to northeastern B.C., and thank you for making
4 the trip so that we could have the opportunity to
5 participate in this process.

6 Your panel has been tasked with helping the
7 provincial government make what NASA a go/no-go
8 decision, whether to stay the course or abort the
9 mission. To explore the question of whether we are
10 go/no-go on Site C, I'm going to frame my comments in
11 the context of assessing the potential stock market
12 investment. Is this company a good investment or not?

13 To that end, I have three questions. Does
14 the company make good decisions? Does the company
15 conduct its business with integrity? The third
16 question is associated with the company's products.
17 Is it competitively priced? Where is the sector
18 going, and how does it compare with the competitors'
19 products?

20 Question one, does the company make good
21 decisions? In mid-December 2015, BC Hydro awarded the
22 main civil works contract to Peace River Hydro
23 Partner, a consortium of a Spanish corporation, a
24 Korean corporation, and one Canadian corporation,
25 Alberta's Petrowest.

26 On December 30th, 2015, a *Financial Post*

1 headline read, "Petrowest Corporation is operating on
2 borrowed time from its lenders". Good decision? It
3 was no secret that Petrowest was on the ropes prior to
4 BC Hydro awarding the consortium the \$1.75 billion
5 contract. What was BC Hydro thinking?

6 In the past few months, Petrowest has gone
7 into receivership and been ousted from the consortium.
8 But BC Hydro assures us that the fact that the only
9 Canadian partner, the one with all the heavy
10 equipment, is no longer part of the consortium, will
11 not affect its ability to complete the project on time
12 and on budget.

13 Now, I find that a bit hard to believe.
14 Which leads me to my second question.

15 Does the company act with integrity? The
16 preliminary report suggested BCUC panel and Deloitte,
17 as well as the media, have had at times difficulty
18 obtaining information from BC Hydro that logically
19 should be readily accessible. The kind of information
20 that a publicly-traded corporation would be legally
21 bound to provide to shareholders. All I can say is,
22 welcome to our world.

23 If Site C is truly the best option for
24 meeting future projected needs, why this culture of
25 secrecy? This is public money, and the citizens of
26 British Columbia should not be kept in the dark. I

1 see BC Hydro's lack of transparency with regards to
2 Site C as a significant red flag.

3 Question 3: the company's product. The
4 iconic Canadian investment guide, *Start with a*
5 *Thousand Dollars*, gives an example of how important it
6 is to look where the proverbial ball is going when
7 making investment decisions. Company X has been in
8 business for a century. It has an excellent
9 price/earnings ratio, stellar fundamentals, a stable
10 and happy work force, and its product is considered
11 best in class. Sounds like a good investment. But
12 there are two more pieces of information that we need.
13 The company manufactures buggy wheels and the year is
14 1908, and the Ford Motor Company's Model T is about to
15 start rolling off the assembly line. 1908 was the
16 threshold of a transportation revolution, and buggy
17 wheels were no longer a good investment.

18 We are currently in the middle of an energy
19 revolution. The ground is moving unbelievably fast.
20 Staying light on our feet is imperative. At this
21 time, locking ourselves into an \$8.8 billion
22 investment that has a high risk of being neither on
23 time nor on budget is a huge red flag.

24 When NASA mission commanders make a go/no-
25 go decision, astronomical funds are at stake, not
26 unlike the situation that you find yourselves in. But

1 if current conditions warrant making a call of no-go,
2 there is absolutely no other option.

3 Mr. Chairman, it is time to call no-go on
4 Site C and avert a disaster. Thank you for your time.

5 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

6 **Proceeding Time 6:35 p.m. T07**

7 MR. KOECHL: Good evening.

8 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening, sir.

9 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. KOECHL (#0163):**

10 MR. KOECHL: Thank you. My name is Rick Koechl, K-O-E-C-
11 H-L. I'm speaking on behalf of myself and another
12 fellow, Mike Kroesher, who was unable to attend
13 tonight.

14 So, I guess just as a point of order, there
15 were a couple of things that I was hoping to ask the
16 Utilities Commission, you folks, but I think what I'll
17 do is I'll simply ask these questions and hope that at
18 some point when your final report comes through we
19 actually get the answers.

20 So question 1 is, why did the BCUC not
21 choose on this particular occasion not to have
22 testimony under oath from its participants, including
23 BC Hydro or other concerned citizens, myself included,
24 for instance?

25 The second point that I'd like to ask as
26 well is, when will the general public be made privy to

1 the redacted documents -- I guess in a more legal
2 format, if you will, with respect to BC Hydro, which
3 BC Hydro, I should say, submitted to you folks, or to
4 Deloitte. Blacked out, the numbers that obviously
5 they didn't want the rest of us to see.

6 And I have a third question, I'd simply be
7 very curious to see if you can give me an answer to
8 eventually, and that is, Judy Kirk, communication
9 company, Kirk & Company. Is she involved?. Was she
10 hired at any point to give submission to the BCUC as
11 well with respect to this particular session, ongoing
12 session?

13 I first of all am not an advocate at all of
14 the dam. But I would like to point out that in lieu
15 of not advocating for something, I'd like to be an
16 advocate in lieu of that to another form of energy,
17 namely natural gas. We happen to live in natural gas
18 country here, and I think it's incumbent upon us to
19 understand that it had potential.

20 And I'd like to take this back here to 2014
21 when Mr. Harry Swain spoke during the joint panel
22 review, and they came out with their final report
23 where on page 306 of that particular document he
24 spoke, I think, with some degree of passion about
25 natural gas. So I'd like to actually quote what he
26 said very briefly here. Here's what he had to say.

1 "Burning a small fraction of that methane
2 for power in B.C. would have several
3 advantages. Capacity could be added
4 relatively quickly in small increments as
5 demand develops, near load centres, so as to
6 minimize losses and with lower overall
7 contributions to the global greenhouse gas
8 burden than if LNG were exported. The LNG
9 developers have been promised a free hand to
10 burn their gas here for their own purposes,
11 but BC Hydro has been denied the same
12 privilege."

13 I think those are profound words coming
14 from Mr. Swain. And the reason why I wanted to make
15 that quote is because it was sort of hidden in the
16 back pages of that document, because technically the
17 JRP wasn't even allowed to really speak to
18 alternatives such as natural gas or geothermal, solar,
19 whatever.

20 So what I wanted to actually propose to the
21 UC is maybe the solution in part to Site C is very
22 cheap. Natural gas first of all is a commodity that's
23 very available to us. The cost of building -- capital
24 costs of building such a site are about one-seventh to
25 one-eighth the cost of building Site C. And
26 ultimately we already have a facility that's available

1 to us. The Burrard Thermal, as you probably are
2 aware, was shut down about a year and some ago. It
3 was used for demand power. And it was used
4 occasionally, but not necessarily very, very often.
5 Its production, I think, was around 900 megawatts, if
6 I'm correct.

7 So I just wanted to point out one other
8 little glitch. I mean, we think about the *Clean*
9 *Energy Act* the minute we start talking about natural
10 gas. But under the *Clean Energy Act* of 2010, it
11 allowed something like 7 percent of fossil fuels to be
12 used in lieu of some of the greener forms.

13 So I just did a little searching here, and
14 I found out that the Burrard Thermal would still
15 qualify us to be re-opened if need be, under the --
16 this is what is stated under the policy. "The
17 authority must not operate Burrard Thermal except (a)
18 in the case of an emergency; (b) to provide
19 transmission support services," which apparently it
20 does right now, voltage regulation. "Or (c), as
21 authorized by regulation."

22 So I bring up (c) especially because I
23 think under the present circumstances it's possible
24 for us to perhaps re-commission this facility.
25 Because the fact of the matter is, the *Clean Energy*
26 *Act* was also modified at some point, I think in 2011

1 by then-Premier Clark, to allow for a variety of
2 companies such as Petronas to burn their own natural
3 gas in order to produce the energy for compression of,
4 you know, future sources of LNG.

5 So, if they were able to do that under an
6 Order in Council, which was done back then, I don't
7 think there's any reason why we can't do the same
8 thing at the moment. There's no reason for the
9 regulations to once again be modified to allow for the
10 use of either Burrard Thermal to step back into the
11 plate, or for a new facility if need be, to be built
12 at about 1.3 billion, if we make some comparisons with
13 other locations where it's already been done.

14 So, I think -- my point that I'm trying to
15 bring up is, I appreciate the fact that you folks are
16 asking the question right now. There were, what, 73
17 questions you're asking of BC Hydro. I think question
18 68 is the one that deals more specifically with
19 natural gas. And I was delighted to see it appear,
20 because I think it's time that we get some real
21 answers about why this choice could not be utilized
22 once again. We'd like to see you, the BCUC, make
23 those recommendations about potentially the use of
24 natural gas as a clear option if need be, in lieu of
25 Site C.

26 Thank you very much.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

2 **Proceeding Time 6:38 p.m. T08**

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

4 MR. MEIERS: Mark Meiers, M-E-I-E-R-S. Good afternoon,
5 BCUC panel. Judging by the age of the panel members,
6 you are close to some sort of retirement. If Site C
7 were to go ahead to completion, your Hydro rates have
8 already been forecasted to double, triple, quadruple.
9 How will you be able to afford to pay your Hydro bill?
10 Others on a fixed income will find it impossible. How
11 about your children and your grandchildren?

12 So, I'm going to ramble on with something
13 different here. Recently we boated 27 miles up the
14 Halfway River. Due to extremely dry conditions two
15 years ago, we had a massive -- we had massive forest
16 fires. The south side of the Halfway River for many,
17 many miles was totally scorched. There is no green
18 plant life on those hills to stabilize the river
19 banks. So the hills are sliding into the Halfway
20 River on a massive scale. We were just up there --
21 this is fact. And we have it on film.

22 Mud, trees, and all the forest clutter are
23 sliding into the Halfway River. The Halfway River is
24 the largest river emptying into the Peace River, and
25 it has been muddy all year due to these slides.
26 Millions and millions of tonnes of mud, trees, and

1 silt going down river. This is going to carry on
2 forever until the hills re-grow some green vegetation.

3 Hydro had a warning out this summer about
4 massive log jams at the new construction bridge. They
5 were actually fearful that those log jams would take
6 that bridge out. The logs came from the Halfway
7 River. This is only the beginning. The destruction
8 up the Halfway is unbelievable. I can only guess that
9 you could safely assume the life expectancy of Site C
10 could be 75 percent less than predicted due to massive
11 silt deposits. And we're not even talking about the
12 hills that are going to cave in on the Peace River
13 itself.

14 Point being, it has already been calculated
15 that we will be paying for Site C for the next 70-plus
16 years, after 2024, and probably well beyond that. You
17 can expect the river valley to be well silted in by
18 then, a huge mud flat will displace the water and
19 there will be no water volume to create power. And
20 the ratepayers will be paying extremely high rates for
21 a huge white elephant.

22 Then Site C will have to be decommissioned
23 and the ratepayers will have to pay for site
24 remediation. For how many years, and how many
25 millions after that. While still paying for the dam
26 that does not produce any power.

1 The only solution is to shut down Site C
2 immediately and remediate the destruction already
3 done.

4 And on a further note, Site C is way more
5 involved than ratepayer increases, and your panel
6 should not be held to these conditions only. Even
7 though the finances alone will kill this project.

8 And my last statement, and I am totally
9 appalled that here we are still fighting as
10 independent, small business, and average citizens of
11 B.C., for a valley that we own. And you people own
12 this valley too. This is like a third world country,
13 fighting for something that we already own.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

16 **Proceeding Time 6:42 p.m. T09**

17 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. GUNVILLE (#0164):**

18 MR. GUNVILLE: Hello, my name is Peter Gunville, G-U-N-V-
19 I-L-L-E, I am First Nations. I'd like to give thanks
20 to the Creator for allowing us to be here together in
21 a good way and allowing our hearts be open and our
22 minds.

23 I believe myself to be an environmentally
24 conscious individual. I have had many lessons in my
25 life as of now. I have worked in many different
26 industries, and in many different First Nations

1 community, and have seen great change in them all over
2 the years.

3 I came here today to speak on behalf of the
4 Site C clean energy project because I feel that this
5 project is what we need for growth of a sustainable
6 future in the north here.

7 As the population continues to grow,
8 changing climate conditions, natural disasters, we're
9 going to be in need of clean and renewable resources
10 like the Site C project, and be able to utilize its
11 full potential. As we have continued growth in our
12 province, electric cars going online, cities going
13 green, no fossil fuels, we are going to be in need of
14 more power. Not to mention recent events, natural
15 disasters have left millions of people without power.
16 This project is a provincial insurance policy for
17 natural disasters, especially in North Vancouver and
18 the Lower Mainland.

19 We all hear how our oceans are being
20 polluted, radiated, and overfished. There will be a
21 time when we cannot eat our seafood from our oceans.
22 Drought and natural disasters wiping out our food
23 crops. Why are we so dependent upon all these outside
24 resources? Fort St. John is an oil and gas industry
25 type of city, and thinking into the future with the
26 call for the reduction of fossil fuels, this industry

1 is going to slow down or balance out with no room for
2 growth. Will there be a future for our children in
3 these types of industries? We cannot just sit back
4 and wait for change, we have to be the change.

5 Thinking of the benefits of the Site C
6 clean energy project could do for us are countless.
7 With the dam, we get a fresh water lake. From this
8 new lake we could run an enhanced wild fishery that
9 could see the return of our natural fish in an
10 abundance. We could turn -- or we could make a
11 commercial fishery, partnerships between regional and
12 First Nation communities, smokehouse, canneries,
13 exports. With a controlled and regulated fishery,
14 this could produce year round employment, and
15 sustainable industries that would put food back into
16 our communities. With a new lake and enhanced fishery
17 program, we'd be renowned for fishing. It would open
18 up new tourism opportunities in many fields.

19 If we have the power, let's use it. We
20 would be losing some agricultural land. So like said,
21 cut a tree down, you plant another one to replace it.
22 We could utilize our power to help feed our growing
23 demand for fresh produce and vegetable. Like Mr.
24 Forest stated yesterday, we could use natural gas to
25 heat commercial greenhouses, and our new electricity
26 to provide grow lights in our greenhouses. We could

1 develop a sustainable commercial greenhouse industry
2 that could feed the north.

3 With a commercial fishery we could have
4 fish fertilizer plants to feed our greenhouses. With
5 growth and renewable sustainable industry will bring
6 new and long term jobs, new educational opportunities
7 into a future that will benefit our children and
8 grandchildren. New industries and long term jobs mean
9 growth, and with growth comes new housing, real estate
10 development opportunities, and investment into our
11 communities and the list goes on.

12 As the world changes we have to adapt to
13 our growing needs and become more self-sufficient
14 within our own regions, not so self-reliant upon the
15 rest of the world for our needs. We'll need the Site
16 C clean energy project to provide power to our
17 province as we continue to grow, and the demand for
18 power increases. If this project is shut down we will
19 be at a loss and we will still need to produce more
20 power in the future to meet our growing demand. We
21 have most of our infrastructure in place already,
22 power lines, et cetera. To shut this project down
23 would hurt any potential future endeavors that could
24 be made possible by this dam. It would also slow down
25 economic and population growth.

26 It is tough for me to vision a strong

1 growth for the north with a decline in the demand for
2 fossil fuels. If this dam does not go forward, we
3 will be lucky if we just sustain what we have going
4 right now into the future.

5 Thank you for listening.

6 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

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

8 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. PASTOOR (#0165):**

9 MR. PASTOOR: Good evening. My name is Josh Pastoor, P-
10 A-S-T-O-O-R.

11 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and the honourable
12 members of the committee, for the opportunity to speak
13 to you today about Site C. I am the regional director
14 of CLAC, C-L-A-C, one of the fastest-growing unions in
15 Canada. And I live and work here in Fort St. John.

16 So, formed in 1952, CLAC is Canada's
17 largest national independent multi-sector union,
18 representing over 60,000 workers in almost every
19 sector. Based on values of respect, dignity and
20 fairness, CLAC is committed to building better
21 workplaces, better communities and better lives.

22 I just want to start by saying that we
23 recognize the importance of fiscal responsibility and
24 accountability to all British Columbians, and to its
25 own members, and therefore we do not take a position
26 with the decision to conduct the review process.

1 While much information with respect to the merits of
2 the project has already been made available to the
3 public, we would like to impress the following four
4 points for consideration.

5 One, the project has been structured around
6 an open managed site model, where the tendering
7 process used by BC Hydro assumes that all eligible
8 contractors and labour models, and therefore all
9 British Columbian workers, traditional, unions,
10 alternative unions and non-union can bid the work. In
11 the past, project labour agreements have been used to
12 construct the project, and PLAs restrict the bidding
13 to certain affiliated contractors which leads to
14 increased costs and to projects not being built on
15 time and on budget. We endorse the open managed site
16 model for fair access to work for all British
17 Columbians.

18 CLAC Local 68 currently has approximately
19 750 members working on the Site C project.

20 Number two, one of the main reasons for
21 constructing Site C was to supply the nascent LNG
22 megaprojects with a source of clean energy for the
23 natural gas liquefaction process. Much has been said
24 about the potential of LNG being built. To date,
25 there are six projects at various stages of approval
26 and development, and two to three projects that are

1 still moving ahead. Of these, LNG Canada and
2 Woodfibre are the most advanced. These projects have
3 continuing provincial and federal government support
4 and will require the electricity from Site C.

5 Thirdly, in the last number of years,
6 British Columbia has led the country in economic
7 growth. Many construction projects have gone ahead,
8 and much has been done to ensure safe, trained, and
9 competent construction work force. CLAC has worked
10 hard to train its members to be the best in the
11 industry: safe, competent and productive. We believe
12 that construction in British Columbia will be robust
13 for many years to come and the construction of the
14 Site C energy project will enhance opportunities for
15 B.C. construction workers to build their careers and
16 help build future projects.

17 Fourth and last, the project will take many
18 more years to build, and this time should be spent in
19 securing utilization of Site C's clean energy
20 generating capacity to the fullest. Opportunities
21 will exist for selling clean energy to other
22 jurisdictions and to meet demand for current and
23 growing electrification of transportation. While B.C.
24 has incentives to purchase electric vehicles, I just
25 want to point out other provinces such as Ontario have
26 far better incentives. B.C. should be a leader in

1 moving as much energy use to clean energy like
2 hydroelectricity.

3 In conclusion, CLAC and Construction and
4 Allied Workers' Union local 68 thank the committee for
5 taking the time to listen and to give consideration to
6 our arguments in favour of continuing the BC Hydro
7 Site C clean energy project for the benefit of all
8 British Columbians, including those living and working
9 right here in the Peace.

10 Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

12 **Proceeding Time 6:22 p.m. T11**

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. HOUGHTON (#0166):**

14 MR. HOUGHTON: Hello, my name is Dan Houghton, H-O-U-G-H-
15 T-O-N. Welcome to Fort St. John and thank you for
16 bringing the nice weather with you.

17 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

18 MR. HOUGHTON: This is going to be a little bit
19 different, a little angle, but actually it fits in
20 well what Josh continues to -- or it's a continuation
21 of what Josh was saying, is the workers at Site C, we
22 made a choice to come here.

23 Many uprooted their families to move here.
24 Bought houses, placed their children in school. We
25 just want to be a part of the community. Others are
26 -- made the sacrifice of being in Fort St. John

1 without their families and commuting back on their
2 days off. The common thread here is every worker
3 there has made a choice. That choice was made in good
4 faith and that is to integrate ourselves within this
5 community and have a small part providing power for
6 all of British Columbia.

7 I'll be quick. In conclusion, when making
8 you final decision please don't forget the human
9 element of why many have decided to come here. None
10 of us want to be ruined financially due to a decision
11 that's beyond our control. Cancelling Site C would be
12 detrimental to the economy and mostly likely effect
13 housing prices, and I personally don't want to
14 continue to paying for housing prices for the rest of
15 my life, again, because of a decision that's out of my
16 control.

17 I think the obvious choice is to continue
18 with Site C and let us and let them do the job that we
19 came here for. Dinosaur Lake is a beautiful place,
20 Williston Lake is a beautiful place, and the Peace
21 River will also be a beautiful place in the coming
22 years.

23 Thanks.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

25 **Proceeding Time 6:52 p.m. T12**

26 MS. ACKERMAN: Good evening.

1 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening, ma'am.

2 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. ACKERMAN (#0167):**

3 MS. ACKERMAN: My name is Lori Ackerman, A-C-K-E-R-M-A-N.
4 I am the Mayor of the city of Fort St. John.

5 I'd like to acknowledge that we stand on
6 the traditional territory of the Treaty 8 First
7 Nations.

8 I'd also like to introduce members of
9 Council that are with me this evening. Councillor
10 Bolin, Christensen, Hansen, Klassen, and Stewart. And
11 on behalf of Council, I'd like to welcome the B.C.
12 Utilities Commission to our beautiful community.

13 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

14 MS. ACKERMAN: Sitting before you is a wealth of
15 information and concern for this community. This has
16 been our number-one issue, and it's dominated our
17 agenda for several years.

18 Fort St. John has risen to the challenge of
19 becoming a community that offers a quality of life
20 with prospects of work. Those two are not often found
21 together. Our vision is to be a flourishing community
22 where nature lives, businesses prosper, families are
23 active, and diversity is celebrated. And this will be
24 done by facilitating a community that embraces
25 opportunity, diversity, and sustainability.

26 While we understand that the role of BC

1 Hydro is to produce low-cost power to British
2 Columbians, we are emphatic that empowering the
3 province should not disempower Fort St. John. With
4 that in mind, we took every opportunity to connect
5 with our residents and businesses, both face to face
6 and online, to gather their thoughts, hopes, and
7 concerns in relationship to this project. There were
8 a gamut of positions and opinions on Site C, and we
9 must not overlook the democratic rights and privilege
10 that we all enjoy as Canadians.

11 With all of this information gathered
12 before us, and knowing that it was outside of our
13 decision-making authority and outside of our
14 jurisdiction, City Council through deliberation chose
15 a pragmatic and proactive approach to protect and
16 promote the community.

17 We believe that Noah was in all likelihood
18 not in favour of the flood. But he built an ark. He
19 built an ark to get his precious cargo through his
20 challenge. We approached our challenge in a
21 sophisticated, planned, and principled manner. After
22 these two years of consulting with our citizens, we
23 developed a vision, principles, and positions.

24 So presently we have a community measures
25 agreement with BC Hydro that we are managing. This
26 community measures agreement is legally binding and

1 includes a dispute resolution clause. It is an
2 agreement that speaks to collaboration with community,
3 water quality and quantity, a legacy fund, funding for
4 non-profit organizations in the region, and in-house
5 community housing, to name a few. We'll submit this
6 document on line.

7 Your preliminary report is comprehensive
8 and creates many questions and possible scenarios.
9 Our position is that of community, not a project.
10 We've been here for many years and we will be here for
11 a long time after.

12 The concern for many in our community is
13 uncertainty. It's the reason we took the position
14 that we should be left better off as a result of this
15 project, not a project -- not a community that has had
16 a price to pay with a megaproject built on its
17 doorstep. Fort St. John is open to creating
18 partnerships that focus on long-term commitments with
19 our industry, that include involvement and the
20 understanding of leaving us better off. These are
21 integral to building and creating responsible and
22 sustainable communities.

23 Whatever your decision is, this uncertainty
24 is not healthy. People, businesses, and community
25 cannot make plans around uncertainty, so we look
26 forward to its end. As I travel this province, I see

1 my colleagues and their communities that strive to
2 decrease their carbon footprint. I also see sectors
3 that demand reliable energy; schools, hospitals, and
4 industries. We are B.C.'s energy capital. We know
5 what's behind the light switch and the thermostat. We
6 have B.C.'s only 100 kilowatt micro-hydro project.

7 As demand grows, there will be need for
8 reliable energy combined with these renewable
9 resources, or we will all be praying that our loved
10 ones only need surgery on sunny or slightly windy
11 days. There is a Greek proverb that says, "Society
12 grows great when men plant trees whose shade they know
13 they will never sit in." Good luck in your
14 deliberations. Good evening.

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

16 **Proceeding Time 6:59 p.m. T13**

17 Please go ahead, sir.

18 MR. JARVIS: Good evening.

19 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening.

20 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. JARVIS (#0168):**

21 MR. JARVIS: Art Jarvis, J-A-R-V-I-S. I'd like to
22 welcome the BC Utilities Commission to Fort St. John.
23 Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

25 MR. JARVIS: I'm a local business owner and resident in
26 Fort St. John for over six decades and a voting member

1 of Northeast BC Resource Municipalities Coalition.
2 And as executive director of Energy Services BC I am
3 very proud of the personal investment and group effort
4 we devote to ensuring local contractors receive a fair
5 opportunity to work on developments and projects in
6 Northeastern B.C. I'm the northern representative for
7 ICBA, Independent Contractors and Business
8 Association, and as such my position here tonight is
9 to broadcast the voice of the service sector.

10 Could be 2,000 workers do not have to be
11 concerned about losing their homes or feeding their
12 families because they have a job at Site C today.
13 This megaproject has injected tens of millions of
14 dollars into the municipality and Peace region at the
15 most opportune time when the oil and gas service
16 sector took the worst economic downturn since 1981.
17 Thousands were left unemployed, risking the loss of
18 homes and businesses.

19 This project has been an economic saviour
20 to Fort St. John and surrounding area. The \$4 billion
21 price tag to stop this project with no chance of
22 revenue stream to compensate does not make sense when
23 compared to a probable 9 billion investment capable of
24 producing revenue for a hundred-plus years. How many
25 people in this room depend on electricity every day?
26 Probably everyone. How many do not require their

1 supply from BC Hydro? Pretty convenient, isn't it?

2 Natural gas is a clean source of power
3 generation, but how can natural gas be as clean and
4 efficient as utilizing the same resource three times
5 to generate electricity without expending that
6 resource as we will do with the Peace River should
7 this project come to completion.

8 I remember touring the W.A.C. Bennett
9 construction site several times in the early '60s What
10 a massive project that was, with the majority of
11 workers coming from elsewhere. The impact of it
12 devastated multiples more property and salable lumber
13 than the 87 kilometers affected by Site C. We learned
14 to harvest the valley prior to flooding. Furthermore,
15 the positive impact to Hudson's Hope, the region, and
16 the province far outweighs the negative with
17 infrastructure development to the community,
18 outstanding recreation area, and continuous power
19 supply from Bennett and Site 1 dams.

20 The continued construction of subdivisions,
21 hotels, commercial buildings, facilities, and other
22 power demanding projects in Canada are growing at a
23 greater rate than the construction of power
24 facilities, other than Site C. Last night we heard
25 from individuals, land owners, and retired people all
26 with grave concerns regarding the decision to continue

1 or not with this project. Many of these people are my
2 friends, neighbours, old classmates, and even my
3 former elementary school teacher.

4 The beautiful valley has always been a
5 wonderful tourist attraction, but will it continue?
6 With the largest project ever in B.C. history,
7 absolutely it will continue. It was stated last night
8 that this valley has the capability to grow enough
9 vegetables to feed millions of people. Has anyone
10 ever attempted to develop this? Not in the last
11 hundred years.

12 Cancelling this project at 20 percent
13 completion stage broadcasts a definite message to
14 Canadian and foreign investors that B.C. and possibly
15 Canada is untrustworthy to conduct business with. If
16 this project is allowed to continue and does have an
17 excess of power generation, that translates into no
18 power out shortages for B.C. and a saleable product
19 for the province for the next hundred-plus years.
20 This mega project was discussed and studied for years
21 prior to moving the first dirt and 29 months by an
22 independent panel. Has been upheld in 14 court
23 decisions and is subject to more than 150
24 environmental and technical conditions.

25 We beg the BCUC, after absorbing each
26 testimonial, to conduct a thorough, in depth, and

1 complete investigation in order to ensure a final true
2 report on the viability of the project and end the
3 confusion and indecision between friends, neighbours,
4 and taxpayers of this province.

5 Thank you all for your time and careful
6 consideration.

7 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

8 **Proceeding Time 7:04 p.m. T14**

9 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. THORLAKSON (#0169):**

10 MR. THORLAKSON: Good evening. My name is Steve
11 Thorlakson, T-H-O-R-L-A-K-S-O-N. I'm a 38-year
12 resident of Fort St. John, and I also, as others have
13 mentioned, would like to acknowledge that we are on
14 Treaty 8 traditional territory. And that six of the
15 eight Treaty 8 bands support the Site C project.

16 I spent 19 years serving on city council,
17 15 of those years as the mayor of Fort St. John. I
18 served on the executive of the Union of B.C.
19 Municipalities for 9 years, and was the president of
20 that organization in 1999/2000. I also am a former
21 member of the Board of Governors of the University of
22 Northern British Columbia.

23 BCUC mandate, as I understand it, is to
24 examine the economics. And my understanding, my
25 involvement in local government over many, many years,
26 showed the value of life-cycle cost and benefit

1 analysis. That was the fundamental principle that
2 guided the city's new water supply project that
3 happened after a drought struck us, when they started
4 going to the Peace River wells for water.

5 Preliminary report has identified that
6 approximately \$4 billion of costs that would have to
7 be borne by the ratepayers if the project was either
8 stopped or mothballed, for no net economic benefit.
9 That's going to have to be paid for by the people on
10 their hydro bills.

11 Canada's Paris Accord commitments to reduce
12 greenhouses gases can best be accommodated by clean,
13 green hydro not only in support of British Columbia's
14 own commitment but also to support our neighbours in
15 Alberta who have committed to transition off of coal-
16 fired power and have an interim proposal for cleaner-
17 burning natural gas in the interim.

18 I don't think we're going to see any
19 nuclear for the foreseeable -- certainly not in my
20 lifetime.

21 Hydro bought more power last year than it
22 sold. But it generated a net profit of \$125 million,
23 and that's money that's to the benefit of the
24 ratepayers. I'm just going to restate that. They
25 bought more power, imported more power, than they
26 exported, but still made a net profit. And that's

1 because of the beauty of hydro power, being able to
2 buy somebody else's fixed overnight power such as
3 Alberta's coal-fired power, has to run 24/7, at night
4 when they don't have a market for it, Hydro buys it
5 cheaply, supplies to meet their peak load requirements
6 during the day, when the ratepayers in British
7 Columbia can benefit from that.

8 In summary, I encourage you to stay within
9 the Order in Council economic mandate that gives --
10 and please give duly weighted consideration to the
11 100-plus year life cycle costs and benefits of this
12 project.

13 Thank you very much.

14 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

15 **Proceeding Time 7:07 p.m. T15**

16 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. MOTT (#0170):**

17 MR. MOTT: Good evening to you, my name is Oliver Mott,
18 M-O-T-T, and I represent myself. And I'm afraid I
19 don't really have the academic background or technical
20 background, but I would like to express my outrage at
21 this project and the way it has been handled by the
22 obfuscation and delays that have been held, like we've
23 got to prevent these hearings until the point of no
24 return. So there has been an unseemly haste to get
25 along with it.

26 The rights of the First Nations people have

1 been consistently rebuffed and ignored. Their access
2 to information has not been easy or open, and I would
3 like to say that we live in a fragile world, where the
4 only value we have seems to be that of the almighty
5 dollar.

6 And I'm afraid that proceeding with the
7 Site C is going to cause immense damage in the long
8 run, and cost to all, and I think that is all I have
9 to say at the moment. Thank you.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

11 **Proceeding Time 7:09 p.m. T16**

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

13 MR. A. HADLAND: Chairman Morton, fellow members of the
14 Commission. Thanks again for taking time to listen to
15 all of us.

16 I'm just going to iterate just a little bit
17 of what I covered off yesterday, and I'll start off
18 with in secret lies a conspiracy, and that was in the
19 1700s. We have a public utility that operates on
20 secrets. It's basically a business model that is
21 becoming bankrupt, and it's got an exploding taxpayer
22 debt obligation. Under the NDP it was 30 billion,
23 which I thought was terrible. What I know right now,
24 the debt obligation under the past Liberal government
25 is 76 billion.

26 I would ask the Commissioners to take a

1 look at the independent power producers model which,
2 as I noted earlier, is a vehicle for transferring
3 wealth from the taxpayer to private interests. And we
4 don't know a single thing about those private
5 interests. All of that power, however much it is, has
6 been developed and paid for in secrecy.

7 Other thing with geophysical, shale is not
8 bedrock. It is rather old mud. It's about 70 million
9 year old mud. And there was talk about the two
10 cracks. Well, there was no talk about a slide that
11 actually happened, of the shale, right over the adit
12 about -- I think it was around 2011. I have a
13 photograph of that. Through that shale there are
14 lenses of gravel and clays. I don't know how they're
15 going to grout that and stop. It's outside my
16 technical expertise. But I do know it's a problem and
17 it sort of parallels the issue that happened with the
18 Teton Dam in 1976, that was constructed in a
19 sedimentary basin. Once it was filled, immediately
20 the water came bubbling out and the whole thing
21 collapsed.

22 Another interesting fact, in 2006 there was
23 a LIDAR survey. That means Light Imaging Detection
24 something-or-other system. And there was identified
25 410 slides within the valley, within the proposed
26 reservoir.

1 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. NAPOLEON (#0171):**

2 MR. NAPOLEON: My name is Bud Napoleon. I am former
3 Chief of the East Moberly Reserve place and the first
4 Tribal Chief of Treaty 8 Tribal Association.

5 As an elder -- my last name is Napoleon, N-
6 A-P-O-L-E-O-N. As an elder, a hunter, a trapper, a
7 former big game guide, a user of the land and a
8 steward of Treaty 8, and all that -- I feel that I am
9 capable of making a presentation to stand before you
10 to represent many elders and children who cannot speak
11 on their behalf. I also speak on behalf of the moose,
12 the rabbit. All creatures, big and small.

13 With that being said, I am here to welcome
14 you on Treaty 8 territory. You, the B.C. Utilities
15 Commission. Welcome.

16 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

17 MR. NAPOLEON: I hope to highlight the foundational
18 rights of the Cree and Dene Zha, and all the
19 aboriginal peoples on the Site C debate, as what's
20 going to take place in Canada and internationally
21 towards the recognition of rights and status of the
22 indigenous people, which includes the treaty.

23 Prior to the arrival of the Europeans on
24 our land of Turtle Island, we lived in our own laws,
25 as given us by the Creator. We're still trying to
26 live those laws under our -- we have the very mature

1 and sophisticated method of government based on our
2 four laws. Share, respect, honour, and love. I know
3 for a fact that the government cannot say that they
4 have honoured the treaty obligations. Instead they
5 have infringed our treaty rights. We, the First
6 Nations, have honoured treaty -- have more than once
7 protected this treaty. However, on our Site C issue,
8 we have no recourse but to say -- to come up and say,
9 and be heard, and hopefully that the part of the
10 process to stop this dam once and for all.

11 When my ancestors entered into a treaty,
12 they did not give up our laws. We still haven't. To
13 this day, I do not find anywhere where we gave up our
14 water rights. In fact we still have our riparian
15 water rights, which includes the Peace River, the
16 river that BC Hydro is trying to build a dam on.

17 We have always lived in harmony with our
18 physical environment, and that includes living in
19 harmony with the flora and the fauna, and all that it
20 has to offer.

21 As a primary colonizer, Great Britain
22 assumed obligations to the First Nations which became
23 known as the sacred trust of civilization. This trust
24 is presently incorporated under the Section 9124 of
25 the *British North America Act*, that's the Indian
26 Affairs. The obligation of the colonizer to protect

1 the property and status of Indians was once recognized
2 by Britain. It was expressed in a Royal proclamation
3 of 1763, which is a fundamental principle of consent.
4 In that document, it is clearly spelled that the lands
5 belonging to our First Nations remains reserved to
6 them until through a process of formal surrender they
7 yield to the Crown.

8 The Royal proclamation is the oldest law
9 directed by Britain which applies to Canada. Its
10 force is found in Sections 25 and 35 of the *Charter of*
11 *Rights and Freedoms*, which was expressly conferred by
12 Lord Denning in his decision in 1982 in the British
13 Court of Appeal, and that case, the Royal
14 proclamation of 1763 continues to bind the governments
15 of Canada, as long as the sun shines and the rivers
16 flow.

17 In keeping with the principle of consent
18 spelled out in the Royal proclamation, treaties were
19 concluded between the Crown and the First Nations.
20 The obligations were assumed by the imperial Crown,
21 which were -- which passed to Canada upon Canada
22 achieving the independence in the latest of 1930, with
23 the passage of the *Statute of Westminster*.

24 The general and -- fiduciary obligations
25 give rise to obligations according to a high standard,
26 when the government has the jurisdiction to act on

1 behalf of the Indians and the Indian lands.

2 In such transactions, the federal
3 government may be held accountable for court for any
4 wrongdoing. And on the Site C, the government weren't
5 there. Where was our fiduciary to be standing beside
6 us to help us fight? They weren't there. We had to
7 do it alone. Like some of the people said, we raised
8 money. We didn't have money to fight.

9 My elders did not sign the treaty with
10 Canada. We never signed a treaty with the provinces
11 as well. How can any of these governments have
12 anything to do with our treaty?

13 Around 1982 or so, the patriation of the
14 Canadian *Constitution* by Trudeau, who tried to
15 diminish our treaty rights, brought all First Nations
16 from all across Canada to fight the federal
17 government. As a result, Sections 24, 25, and 35 were
18 added into the *Charter of Rights* and all our treaties
19 were protected under these sections. Since then, both
20 the governments have taken the responsibility as
21 applied fiduciary on behalf of the First Nations
22 involved. The sad part is here, that the non-native
23 governments have traditionally taken the most narrow,
24 legalistic interpretation of the text of the
25 historical treaties.

26 The treaty First Nations have demanded

1 their treaties to be interpreted according to their
2 original spirit and intent, which keep their -- keep
3 all our rights. When it comes to dams and waters, and
4 the treaties, the territorial integrity of Canada and
5 integrity of aboriginal territories is of little
6 consequence.

7 Further, despite legal opinion to the
8 contrary, various court cases, the government
9 continues to claim that treaties have no power to what
10 they mean and what they call progress. But just what
11 is progress? And at whose expense? The farmers? The
12 ranchers? The land owners? They have all been
13 overlooked because of the corporation structure of who
14 the province is following.

15 I know I ran out of time and I got a lot
16 more to read, but -- with that, I'll just let that go.
17 But I would like to say, on the first dam that came
18 out, the Wacky Bennett Dam, we didn't have any
19 recourse to put a fight. There was no chance for us
20 to even have a say. They flooded those lands. We
21 lost all the hunting areas. A lot of fishing areas.
22 A lot of berry-picking areas. A lot of herbal
23 medicine areas that we used is gone.

24 The caribou and the sheep that used to
25 migrate across our lands can no longer migrate there
26 because of the flood. I talked to the Ingenika

1 people, I worked with them. They said that waters
2 came right up to their houses and kept on going. They
3 were not given any chance to -- they just ran away,
4 left everything, their houses, their trap lines. I
5 seen the tears in their eyes when I talk to them. We
6 stand by the river, sometimes we see the floating -- a
7 box floating, coming up, as I believe one of our
8 relations. We see trees floating by with bears
9 hanging on for life on those trees. We walk and we
10 see moose, we see elk. All drowned.

11 All of that was never ever published by the
12 province of B.C., nor by BC Hydro. It was all kept
13 under cover.

14 What is going to happen when -- once this
15 lake comes up? How are the moose going to -- a lot of
16 those areas are steep, and after swimming a long ways,
17 they ain't going to have no power to get up and go on
18 the other side. There's going to be another victim.

19 I asked BC Hydro what they're going to do
20 with the moose, and they said, "Oh, we'll round them
21 up just like cattle." No, it cannot be done. Are
22 they going to put a fence on each side of the lake for
23 mitigation purposes, to keep the animals out? If they
24 are, maybe they'll need to take a course from Trump
25 with his fence.

26 Because when I listen to BC Hydro and all

1 supplies; contracts; taxes, both provincial and
2 personal income tax. With the billions already spent
3 on or committed to the project, without completion and
4 electrical generation how do we propose to pay back
5 those funds?

6 Here's some basic calculations. Site C has
7 the potential to provide electricity to 450,000 homes.
8 At an average cost per house of \$100 per month for 12
9 months, that equates to \$540 million a year. So a
10 payback in 18 to 20 years is a pretty fair investment.
11 And over the next 80 years has the potential to return
12 an additional \$40 billion to provincial revenues.

13 According to Google, it would take 750
14 windmills working at peak capacity to provide the same
15 amount of electricity at a cost of \$3 billion for
16 every 20 years, or \$15 billion for the same hundred-
17 year time frame. That's at peak capacity, and often
18 they only operate as low as 30 percent capacity.
19 Counting maintenance, this is double the cost of Site
20 C.

21 If B.C.'s population increases by 1.4
22 million in the next 20 years as forecast, Site C will
23 barely produce enough power to supply this increase in
24 population, let alone any new industry. Ms. McDonald,
25 who spoke last night, stated we must accept change and
26 move forward to teach our kids to give to the

1 community to survive. Very wise words.

2 If BC Hydro has one fault, it is not
3 providing the public with information or countering
4 false information. Reams and reams of information are
5 readily available on their website right down to the
6 number of squirrels affected, but obviously many
7 people don't take the time to search for it. In the
8 immortal words of John F. Kennedy, "Ask not what your
9 country can do for you, but what you can do for your
10 country."

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

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

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Good evening.

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Good evening, sir.

16 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. SULLIVAN (#0173):**

17 MR. SULLIVAN: My name is Ryan Sullivan, S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N.
18 I was registered to speak yesterday, but I was sick
19 and wasn't able to make it, I apologize.

20 I had my son earlier here with me tonight,
21 I was going to bring him as a prop, but he was acting
22 up, so I had to bring him home. But I speak on his
23 behalf more than anything.

24 I've been a resident here, permanently for
25 13 years. I've been coming up to work for 17 years.
26 There is no denying anywhere that the climate is

1 changing across the world, and specifically affecting
2 us. It's changing. You only have to go as far as the
3 point that overlooks the Peace River on the end of the
4 100th there, and you can see in the last few years
5 alone it has just slid, the point is disappearing.
6 We're going to have to do something to shore it up, or
7 it is going to disappear.

8 That is directly because of the warming
9 planet. You can deny it, you can believe that it
10 doesn't matter, it's happening, and the effects are
11 going to be as predicted, as we've seen them come
12 true. Instability, extreme weather conditions, and
13 those are not words that you want with a dam structure
14 built on shale. Instability is not the way to build a
15 dam. It makes me wonder about the future of the river
16 system itself if all the water is going to be coming
17 from precipitation instead of melting glaciers and
18 runoff, that is a big chance for failure in the
19 future.

20 There are -- obviously dams are clean
21 energy, they are a very efficient way of making
22 electricity, but as I understand they only make up
23 about 18% of the province's electricity. So, with the
24 cost of this dam, and with the rates increases because
25 of this project, it makes me wonder how well this
26 money is being spent on this project, and what we are

1 actually paying for. If the BC Hydro is that far in
2 debt, as we've heard, and I believe, then I think
3 we're in trouble no matter what happens, our rates are
4 going to go up. And if the \$4 billion is forecast for
5 not completing this dam, the rates going up are going
6 to be tremendous no matter which way, because \$76
7 billion is a lot more than \$4 billion.

8 ICBC [*sic*] -- might just be personal
9 opinion, but it is defunct, it's bankrupt, it's way in
10 the hole. These two things have been pulled from the
11 coffers to balance budgets and the gamble was the
12 golden goose of B.C. was going to be LNG, and the Site
13 C was touted for LNG from the start of the campaign in
14 2013, and that did not come to fruition as they had
15 hoped. Mostly because the market was saturated and we
16 were late to the table. There is still a possibility
17 for that, you know, coming to British Columbia, and it
18 would be a good benefit to us, it would use our
19 resources that are not getting to market.

20 With the energy production in Alberta, I
21 believe that we have that same potential for -- Site C
22 is nine times the cost of these natural gas production
23 facilities for the same amount of electricity. I
24 think that would be a much better investment.

25 I know that there is the *Climate Act* and
26 all that to work around, but my personal belief is it

1 Is there a Petra Fischel? No. Is that the
2 end of the list? So, we've reached the end of the
3 list. Is there anyone else that would like an
4 opportunity to say something?

5 Please come ahead, ma'am.

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

7 MS. LONDON: Hi, I'm Clara London, L-O-N-D-O-N. Public
8 speaking is not my thing, but I do have to come up
9 here and state this. I think I have about three
10 things.

11 Site C will always be at risk regarding
12 hydraulic fracking. Right now, 19 kilometres
13 northwest of the well site, it is two properties over
14 from my house. I received the material. There is a
15 gas well has been drilled. It will be fracking soon.
16 Last night when I went home, there was a truck going
17 in there that I think is the water truck. They get
18 enough water trucks on site, and I have the paperwork
19 here, and it's stated that part of the process of this
20 well is hydraulic fracking. If it causes an
21 earthquake, it will reach the dam site. It is only 19
22 kilometres northwest, and there was a fracking rig up
23 the highway that caused an earthquake. It was either
24 a 4.1 or a 4.3. The shaking reached Charter Lake, 100
25 kilometres away.

26 The Oil and Gas Commission -- I asked for

1 this fracking well not to happen there. It is too
2 close to houses. And the oil and gas companies are
3 allowed to do what they want to do. Therefore, Site C
4 will always be at risk because they are in -- it is in
5 unstable ground. If you get any kind of shaking that
6 dam is at risk. And as everybody has stated here, you
7 are in oil and gas country. The Oil and Gas
8 Commission does not regulate things. They allow
9 mistakes to happen and then afterwards say, "Oh, that
10 shouldn't happen."

11 And I would like to address two other
12 things. I live on the land. I know the animals. I
13 know agriculture. And the people here that stated
14 today that we didn't read the material, and that we
15 didn't look for all the animals and everything, we
16 did. For ten years my family has been going to open
17 houses and reading this material. And -- excuse me.

18 What BC Hydro has printed, the studies were
19 done by very good companies. They had the material
20 there. BC Hydro was allowed to pick out what they
21 printed. BC Hydro's printed material is not accurate.
22 I can't speak to anything except the land and the
23 animals, because that is what I know. I've been 50
24 years on that land. I know the animals. I know
25 agriculture. And BC Hydro did not properly represent
26 the landowners or the animals, even right down to the

1 squirrels. They refused to study the black bear. I
2 presented to the assessment people the fact that BC
3 Hydro should not be able to leave out the black bear,
4 because they were flooding Bear Flats. It's called
5 Bear Flats because that's where the bears are. They
6 were there this fall because the berries grow in the
7 valley much better than they do up above.

8 My husband has been going out and he has
9 been seeing seven and eight bear every evening,
10 because they're there for the berries. And BC Hydro
11 refused to study the black bear. So what BC Hydro did
12 to myself, my family, and the land is not fair. We
13 deserve a proper oversight and these people that's
14 saying it's for the jobs -- there are jobs out there.
15 My son started -- he has a job. He has worked all his
16 life. He's 25. During the downturn, he was out of
17 work two weeks. That was it. He started the other
18 day to look for jobs because he thought he might want
19 a change. Within a week he had two companies phoning
20 him and saying, "Please come to work, don't even give
21 your work two weeks' notice, we want you now." And so
22 he decided to stay where he is at. But there are jobs
23 out there, and I'm sorry, but BC Hydro has not been
24 fair to us.

25 I am a landowner. I love the land and I
26 want my land back. And my family has been destroyed

1 because of this process. (inaudible) ten years of
2 their life fighting this, and I'm sorry, but we
3 deserve what is right, and that's what we've always
4 stood for. We are right, and the land owners are
5 right. We know the land. We love the land. We
6 protect the land. And we want it back, and we want to
7 do agriculture.

8 Thank you for your time. Thank you for
9 doing this.

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

11 **Proceeding Time 7:37 p.m. T21**

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

13 MR. LITTLE: I appreciate I spoke last night. My name's
14 James Little, L-I-T-T-L-E. And I'm going to be short.
15 I just want to add to the -- I mentioned alternate
16 energies, but there's some points in there I feel that
17 I should bring up because I wasn't able to put it on
18 the oral record. I did pass the total document to
19 your recorder yesterday, but I'll just read this
20 quickly. I appreciate your time.

21 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you sir. Yeah.

22 MR. LITTLE: Geothermal energy. In the report BC Hydro
23 has requested for further information on this
24 potential source of energy. The report suggests that
25 only the ring of fire area in B.C. are areas of
26 potential for geothermal energy. Saskatchewan,

1 Alberta, and North Dakota are all using or planning to
2 use abandoned oil and gas wells to supply either
3 electrical energy or heat source.

4 In the Peace there are a significant number
5 of suitable wells that could be used for the
6 production of either electricity or for a heat source.
7 A recent example is Hinton, Alberta. There are plans
8 to reopen an abandoned gas well near the community to
9 use as a heat source for municipal buildings. Further
10 documents on this potential source of energy from --
11 these examples can be provided. I could provide you a
12 whole list of stuff if you want that.

13 Solar. BC Hydro discounts the value or
14 potential of this resource. In fact, Hudson's Hope
15 has just completed a project for most of their
16 municipal buildings which will save the municipally
17 some \$71,000 annually at current rates, and obviously
18 more going forward. The U.S. has dramatically
19 increased the construction of solar power units,
20 especially in California. That's the one Hydro touts
21 they're going to sell our extra energy to.

22 Yeah, okay, has got -- and the cost of
23 construction has gone down significantly and continues
24 to just decrease. Even in Fernie, B.C. a new solar
25 farm has just opened. A new company in the Okanagan
26 has just opened up and is hiring staff for significant

1 solar installations in that area. I personally was
2 asked for some references for some people that are
3 going to work in that industry starting very shortly.

4 They discuss in this report shows a
5 requirement for electricity -- for electric vehicles.
6 On the way to town tonight -- that electric vehicle
7 thing, keeps talking about it big time. They
8 announced that GM is getting into that big time. And
9 that was on the radio, CBC, tonight. They said they
10 don't expect it for 30 years to go to any kind of a
11 max where it's going to affect the electrical market,
12 and that's GM quoting that tonight on the CBC.

13 Wind energy. There are a number of wind
14 energy projects on the books, development in the
15 Peace. One source tells that Tumbler Ridge, and I
16 believe that's Thunder Mountain, has a similar
17 potential to Site C. There are currently -- are
18 applications for wind energy along all the high points
19 all the way to the Yukon border, along the Alaska
20 Highway all along the highway points. There's -- if
21 you go to the government -- which I used to work for
22 B.C. Lands. If you go to their system there's
23 applications from here all the way to the border.
24 There's not a spot you could put an application on.

25 Buyer energy. This consists of a variety
26 of mediums from wood waste to methane produced in

1 waste products. This has become a significant source
2 of energy for the forest industry. They're using
3 black liquor from the pulp process and other wood
4 wastes from milling. It is noted that First Nations
5 at Fort Ware are building wood waste plant to supply
6 electric energy at this time because they aren't on
7 the grid.

8 So, anyway, thank for allowing me to
9 explain this further. Appreciate your time.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

11 **Proceeding Time 7:40 p.m. T22**

12 **SUBMISSIONS BY MS. CULLING (Continued) (#0162):**

13 MS. CULLINGS: I'd like to address an earlier comment
14 about confusion. The comments that they were --

15 THE CHAIRPERSON: Please --

16 MS. CULLINGS: -- no market gardens in the valley for the
17 past 100 years. And just to clarify that there is no
18 confusion. The Peace Valley had a long history of
19 market gardens. It's documented, well documented.
20 The early and mid-decades of the 20th century, there's
21 an anthology called *The Peace River Chronicles*.

22 But one example, Larry and Linda Peterson
23 immigrated from Idaho to grow potatoes in the Peace
24 River Valley in the early 70s. And they had a highly
25 successful commercial horticultural operation, and
26 prior to the announcement of Site C, initial

1 announcement, they were shipping potatoes from the
2 Peace Valley to Prince George, as far south as Prince
3 George.

4 Now, Larry and Linda went to the mattresses
5 fighting Site C for four decades, until their spirits
6 were finally broken in the last few years and they
7 elected to move out of British Columbia.

8 But one last point. It is not relevant
9 when someone says they drove through the valley and
10 they dismissed the agricultural potential because it's
11 only growing hay. The Canada land inventory doesn't
12 concern itself with what the land is currently used
13 for. It ranks our land capability -- the land,
14 according to the ultimate capability. And the
15 alluvial soil in the Peace River Valley, coupled with
16 a unique microclimate, literally -- and I say this as
17 a Manitoba farm girl who's lived in northeastern B.C.
18 for 30 years -- this valley literally has some of the
19 highest capability land in the entire country of
20 Canada. So please, let's clear that confusion up,
21 that's good ag land there.

22 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

23 **Proceeding Time 7:43 p.m. T23**

24 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. NAPOLEON (Continued) (#0171):**

25 MR. NAPOLEON: Bud Napoleon again. If you can bear with
26 me for a few moments.

1 Because of the -- when I was talking about
2 the loss of sheep and caribou, because of the lost
3 sheep and caribou, the West Moberly First Nations and
4 my reserve have taken the initiative to save our small
5 herd that we have. I believe we started with seven,
6 and now I think we're up to about 30, 32 or so.

7 And we look after them in the mountains
8 over there, and both reserves take turns looking after
9 them. And we make sure that -- we're trying to
10 replenish, make them grow again like they were at one
11 time. And as a result, both of our membership on both
12 reserves do not even bother hunting them.

13 The main transmission that runs through our
14 territories went through the reserve, and we never did
15 get any compensation or mitigation. They were not
16 even mentioned. At our Site C hearing, at the
17 reserve, one person spoke -- not one person spoke in
18 favour of it. One elder even asked, how do you
19 justify the \$7 billion bill on this dam? BC Hydro
20 could not even answer that question.

21 In the past, our Hydro bills used to come
22 to the reserve by mail. And they even charged us tax,
23 all these years since the 60s. And by rights, under
24 the treaties, we are not even supposed to pay tax.
25 Yet all these years we pay tax on hydro. And they got
26 away with it, and nobody gave them a slap on the hand.

1 Three years ago, I moved back from
2 Edmonton, after living in Edmonton and Cold Lake for
3 18 years. I missed the Peace River. I moved back
4 because I missed the hills. I missed the mountains, I
5 missed the animals, I missed the horses. The first
6 thing I did was when I went to Moberly, I unpacked all
7 my stuff. I drove from Moberly to Fort St. John. I
8 just love that drive. I've always loved that drive,
9 because there is so much beauty, so much beauty a lot
10 of people take for granted.

11 I felt the peace within my heart when I was
12 driving. I even stopped one place, I sat on the side
13 of the road, just looking at the waters, looking at
14 the hills.

15 I had that monetary value within me. It's
16 something that money cannot buy. And I came to Fort
17 St. John, I picked up a Tim Hortons coffee and I drove
18 back to Moberly. Only to find myself three hours
19 later to drive back again. Because that's how much I
20 missed this land when I was gone.

21 But now it hurts me when I drive from
22 Moberly to Fort St. John to see the destruction that's
23 already there. And just to think that what might
24 happen if this Site C is built, and okayed. Because
25 that's something that a lot of us have within our
26 hearts that nobody really explained. Hurricanes,

1 monsoon winds, floods, are all acts of God. We have
2 no control over them, but we must deal with them
3 later. But with dams like Site C, we have the
4 control, even before that happens, and that's the
5 purpose of why we're here.

6 Now is the time to make it happen. No --
7 we'll say no to the dam on behalf of my people. There
8 is too much uncertainties on this project. Some of
9 them have been mentioned already with the slough of
10 the sliding hills, wildlife being drowned. What about
11 the mercury pollution that's going to happen in the
12 fish, like it happened in the other lake?

13 Why don't they take this money that they
14 have, and upgrade the Bennett Dam? Because I think
15 it's getting old. Because if it ever floods, breaks
16 down, nothing's going to stop it.

17 I'm glad that lady talked about fracking,
18 because I had that in my notes here. It seems like
19 fracking was one of the causes of earthquakes. So the
20 thing is, what happens -- what's going to happen if we
21 ever have a major earthquake with the Wacky Bennett
22 Dam? Is it stable enough to even withhold all that
23 pressure? I doubt it. That's why all that money
24 right now should be spent in fixing it up, and never
25 mind this dam.

26 And there's another thing that's not even

1 mentioned yet is, there is some seepages on the side
2 of the hills over there and I think it's some kind of
3 green slime. I don't know what kind of chemicals they
4 may have, but if it -- if the dam is built and the
5 water does come up, are those chemicals going to be
6 going into the water? And what safety is there?

7 I guess in closing when I think about Site
8 C what does that letter C stand for? It must stand
9 for Christy Clark, because she's the one who okayed
10 it. Thank you.

11 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, sir.

12 **Proceeding Time 7:49 p.m. T24**

13 **SUBMISSIONS BY MR. BEHNAM (#0174):**

14 MR. BEHNAM: Hello, my name is Sean Behnam, B-E-H-N-A-M.
15 I'm not Canadian, so I would like to apologize if I
16 can't speak like you, but I will try to do my best.

17 Anyway, there are a couple questions about
18 Site C, like is it economical or not, do we really
19 need that much electricity in the future or not? Is
20 there any other option in compared to Site C?

21 I'm a mining engineer, I have a Ph.D., and
22 I know that it is not about my personal opinion. I
23 might believe in constructing Site C or not, but it's
24 about expert people, we need expert people to make
25 that decision. It's not about personal decision.

26 I know if government is going to stop Site

1 C, I will lose my job, but I prefer to see a decision
2 which is according to expert opinions. So, I prefer
3 to see that kind of report. And I believe that
4 preparing this kind of report will need at least one
5 year investigation, it's going to happen within one
6 month or two months. It's not reasonable to see this
7 kind of report just issued within one month or two
8 month. It needs more investigation, I believe in
9 that.

10 So, what I expect to see, I expect to see a
11 comprehensive report, investigation, and study in this
12 regard, with considering all kind aspects, economical,
13 technical and social issues. So, I believe it is not
14 reasonable to see this kind of report within just one
15 month, or two months. It will take time, it will take
16 at least one year, according to my experience.
17 Because I did feasibility study, and I know what that
18 is. It is really complicated.

19 Second thing, unfortunately we have to
20 sacrifice something to earn something. I just moved
21 to Canada like a year ago, I am so far from my family.
22 But why I did it, because I was hoping to have a
23 better future. So sometimes you have to spend
24 something to earn something else. It is about -- we
25 cannot satisfy everyone, it's impossible. But we have
26 to make the best decision to satisfy important things

1 like economical, or technical, or whatever. And when
2 I'm talking about having other alternatives, am I
3 really an expert about that? Am I really expert about
4 geothermal or all kinds of options? No, I'm not. I
5 can tell you my personal opinion, but it doesn't mean
6 that my personal opinion is correct. So, just think
7 about, okay, when we are going to have other options
8 like, I don't know, using wind or geothermal, it still
9 needs material like metal, and metal needs to be
10 extracted from mines, and mines will have some
11 environmental issues. So, as I said, it's really
12 complicated.

13 Last thing, I heard that this project is
14 not on schedule, or on budget. I worked 12 years for
15 civil construction or infrastructure projects, and to
16 be honest, I've never seen a project finished on
17 budget or on schedule. Why? It's so simple, because
18 it's about prediction. But you can't predict 100
19 percent everything. Just imagine you want to buy a
20 house, you will say, okay I'm going to save that much
21 money every month, and then after for example, I don't
22 know, 10 months I can buy that house, but next month
23 something bad happens for your family, and you have to
24 spend money from your savings. It doesn't mean that
25 you made a bad plan or you didn't do your best. It is
26 what it is. Something like this happened for,

1 hole, and it was determined that there was no way of
2 actually knowing how much rebar was left in that dam,
3 and how that dam would be affected. And the engineer
4 who was involved with that said that he would never
5 really have any confidence in the W.A.C. Bennett Dam.
6 He is very concerned about that, and how well it would
7 stand up in years to come.

8 So it's called "The 60-storey Crisis,"
9 explains the whole thing there. Thanks.

10 THE CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, ma'am.

11 Well, I'd like to thank everyone who came
12 out tonight very much, and I'd especially like to
13 thank those who made a presentation. It's very
14 helpful to us, and very interested in everything you
15 had to say.

16 So I hope you all have a really wonderful
17 evening, and thanks again, and good night.

18 **(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 8:00 P.M.)**

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

23 
24 A.B. Lanigan, Court Reporter

25 October 3rd, 2017

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