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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16 ; s.17

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR: Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia

ISSUE: s.13; s.16; s.17

KEY MESSAGES/SUMMARY:

- Expanding transmission access to the North Coast is needed to electrify projects such as the Port of Prince Rupert, critical minerals mining and liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- BC Hydro is currently developing an Expression of Interest to gauge interest and ensure that a new line is appropriately sized to meet the electrification demand in the North Coast. In advance of launching the Expression of Interest, BC Hydro will be engaging with potentially impacted Nations.
- Many of the Nations along the proposed transmission line route are members of the First Nations Climate Initiative (FNCI) and/or the First Nations Major Projects Coalition (FNMPC), and have expressed support for ~~net-zero LNG~~, expanded transmission capacity and Indigenous equity ownership of transmission infrastructure.
- s.13; s.16; s.17

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- s.12; s.13; s.16; s.17

- ~~British Columbia (BC)~~ and Canada have a history of collaborating on transmission infrastructure under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, and are continuing to advance the need for electrical infrastructure investment through the Regional Energy and Resources Table (RERT) led by NRCan.

MINISTRY RESPONSE:

- BC is seeking to advance a new high-voltage transmission line with an estimated cost of \$3 B, to support low carbon economic development on the North Coast of the Province. Once complete, the new infrastructure will:

- Electrify new metal and critical mineral mines;
- Support the expansion of the Port of Prince Rupert for exporting Canada's low embedded carbon goods to our key trading partners; and
- Electrify value-added natural gas projects including LNG Canada (LNGC) Phase 2 ^{s.17}, Cedar LNG (Haisla) and Ksi Lisms LNG (Nisga'a).

● s.13; s.16; s.17

BACKGROUND:

Electrification is an essential part of meeting BC's climate objectives. Although BC Hydro has a surplus supply of clean electricity, the ability to transmit the electricity to some areas of the province is constrained, and new electrical infrastructure is required to ~~be able to serve~~ them serve growing demand. This is particularly true in the North Coast.

The North Coast region is served via a single radial line, with limited generation in the region (Attachment A, Figure 1) that runs from the ~~Williston substation near Prince George to the Skeena substation near Terrace~~. The Prince George to Terrace Capacitors Project (PGTC) will increase the capacity of the radial transmission system from 800 megawatts (MW) to 1,300 MW, an increase of 500 MW or 60%. The federal government has committed to providing up to \$96.95 million in grant funding for the PGTC under its Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. That project is expected to be brought into service by 2027.

The increased capacity provided by PGTC will allow BC Hydro to serve customers that have formally requested electricity service in the North Coast area, but it is not sufficient to supply the significant number of new or expanded projects that have expressed interest in electrifying.

DISCUSSION:

To date, proponents in the North Coast area have expressed interest in electrifying projects, which total nearly ^{s.17} of electricity demand (Attachment B), with nearly half that demand coming from new or expanding critical mineral and metal mining projects and the electrification of ~~region~~ ports.

The aggregate level of interest across all sectors far exceeds the transmission capacity of the existing system and will require adding a second 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission circuit across the three segments of the North Coast radial line at a capital cost of about \$3 B.

BC Hydro's Electric Tariff sets out the terms and conditions for industrial connections to the grid. As part of the interconnection process, BC Hydro identifies any upgrades to its existing transmission system (known as System Reinforcements) required to supply electricity to a customer's facility. It can be cost prohibitive for one customer to trigger the need for the line, and introduces uncertainty as that customer may choose not to advance their facility.

As an alternative to having a single project trigger the need, and to fully understand the scale of the electrification interest, BC Hydro is proposing to use an Open Season approach. The first stage of the Open Season would consist of an Expression of Interest to gauge customer interest and determine customer location and size of electrification needs.

The Expression of Interest would be non-binding and does not require any regulatory amendments or approvals to proceed. Subsequent stage(s) of the Open Season would require a binding commitment of some form from customers seeking transmission capacity on the North Coast. The timing of the commitment would likely be tied to a decision to start construction of the line.

In advance of the Expression of Interest, BC Hydro will be engaging with Indigenous Nations along the route to share the purpose of the Open Season approach and to introduce the potential for partial Indigenous ownership of the transmission line. A number of the potentially impacted First Nations are members of the FNCI and FNMPC, and support the expansion of transmission infrastructure to the North Coast to enable ~~the production of net-zero LNG~~ low carbon economic development.

s.13; s.16; s.17

CONCLUSION

s.13; s.16; s.17

Attachments:

Attachment A: s.13; s.16; s.17

Attachment B:

DRAFTED BY:

Amy Sopinka, A/ED, EPB
778-698-7280

APPROVED BY:

Les MacLaren, ADM, EAED
Fazil Mihlar, DM

s.13; s.16; s.17

s.13; s.17; s.21

FW: Site C BN, Minute and Decision Letter

From: Foster, Doug FIN:EX <Doug.Foster@gov.bc.ca>
To: MacLaren, Les EMLI:EX <Les.MacLaren@gov.bc.ca>, Sopinka, Amy EMLI:EX <Amy.Sopinka@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: December 3, 2022 10:43:46 AM PST
Attachments: EMLI-Site C Update BN - Dec 6, 2022 - V3.docx

Here's a copy of the final note that has gone up for uploading to TB members.

Thanks for your help with this.

Note sure if BCH has provided NDAs but have requested forms so I can get one from Brian C.

Amy, think this gives you the rest of what you need for SNs for MBR.

Note that in different places I have added some more references to the EMLI sub attachments – there are good.

The photos of the penstock and crane will be helpful for members and I suggest that MBR refer to that attachment in his SNs for these and other matters as well.

And I have also added cross ref to the Indigenous benefits attachment too.

Thanks again. Next time round I will get at hydro's tables sooner as we aren't quite there yet.

d

From: Foster, Doug FIN:EX
Sent: December 3, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Reed, Matt FIN:EX <Matt.Reed@gov.bc.ca>; Johnson, James FIN:EX <James.Johnson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ma, Tiffany J FIN:EX <Tiffany.Ma@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Site C BN, Minute and Decision Letter

EMLI has signed off the BN on facts/analysis.

I have also made a few other changes/fixes, as well as shortened the note to 10 pages total including appendix.

Enclosed are:

1. Site C briefing note
2. Site C minute of Dec 6th
3. Site C decision letter – note that the next Cabinet date needs to be inserted at top

The previous update I have shows that the Site C agenda item is 12:05pm and the meeting is split between Vic and Van Cabinet offices – this will allow BCH/EY staff to attend in Van.

I will need confidentiality undertakings so I can get Hydro/EY folks to complete in advance (if not already done).

Attendees:

Finance
Doug Foster
James Johnson
Matt Reed

EMLI
MBR
DM Fazil Mihlar
ADM Les MacLaren (I also ask if Amy Sopinka (ED EMLI) can attend too given her work on putting together the submission with BCH)

BC Hydro
Board Chair Doug Allen
CEO Chris O'Riley
Project Assurance Board Chair Mitchell Gropper
Vice President, Site C Project Darren Kahl

Ernst and Young
Project Oversight Advisor Brian Campbell, Partner, EY

When available, I can review/update the Chair speaking script.

d

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.12 ; s.13 ; s.17

Fwd: FOR ACTION: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

From: Sopinka, Amy EMLI:EX <Amy.Sopinka@gov.bc.ca>
To: Amy Sopinka <drasopinka@gmail.com>
Sent: December 15, 2022 6:02:14 AM PST

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From: Sopinka, Amy EMLI:EX <Amy.Sopinka@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, November 22, 2022 10:20:18 AM
To: Buchanan, Jack EMLI:EX <Jack.Buchanan@gov.bc.ca>; Cutler, Scott EMLI:EX <Scott.Cutler@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Janes, Darci EMLI:EX <Darci.Janes@gov.bc.ca>; Rowe, Katherine EMLI:EX <Katherine.Rowe@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

You're heading in the right direction –

A

From: Buchanan, Jack EMLI:EX <Jack.Buchanan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 21, 2022 4:35 PM
To: Sopinka, Amy EMLI:EX <Amy.Sopinka@gov.bc.ca>; Cutler, Scott EMLI:EX <Scott.Cutler@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Janes, Darci EMLI:EX <Darci.Janes@gov.bc.ca>; Rowe, Katherine EMLI:EX <Katherine.Rowe@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

I'll reach out to Mora and Leela, as well as Mike Mac. I THINK that what the MO is actually after is a question for BC Hydro rather than Powerex, but I'll reach out to both. If it were just an ask for net imports or exports, I'd be able to prepare it from IRP tables but as they need gross imports and exports someone at BC Hydro would need to provide.

From: Sopinka, Amy EMLI:EX <Amy.Sopinka@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 21, 2022 2:24 PM
To: Cutler, Scott EMLI:EX <Scott.Cutler@gov.bc.ca>; Buchanan, Jack EMLI:EX <Jack.Buchanan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Janes, Darci EMLI:EX <Darci.Janes@gov.bc.ca>; Rowe, Katherine EMLI:EX <Katherine.Rowe@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: FOR ACTION: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Jack, follow up from the MO's office. Could you work with Powerex on a reply?

A

From: Cutler, Scott EMLI:EX <Scott.Cutler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 21, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Sopinka, Amy EMLI:EX <Amy.Sopinka@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Janes, Darci EMLI:EX <Darci.Janes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Hi Amy – first I have seen of this email trail. Were you involved in this last week?

From: Janes, Darci EMLI:EX <Darci.Janes@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 21, 2022 2:14 PM
To: Cutler, Scott EMLI:EX <Scott.Cutler@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: FOR ACTION: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Hi Scott,

Please advise who I can send this to for response.

Thank you,
Darci

From: McCann, Meghan EMLI:EX <Meghan.McCann@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 21, 2022 9:33 AM
To: Janes, Darci EMLI:EX <Darci.Janes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR ACTION: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Hi Darci,

Please assign to staff to complete request from MO below, thanks.

From: Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 21, 2022 9:25 AM
To: Jang, Monica EMLI:EX <Monica.Jang@gov.bc.ca>; McCann, Meghan EMLI:EX <Meghan.McCann@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Warnock, Joie EMLI:EX <Joie.Warnock@gov.bc.ca>; Meehan, Patrick EMLI:EX <Patrick.Meehan@gov.bc.ca>; Edmonds, Claire EMLI:EX <Claire.Edmonds@gov.bc.ca>; Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Thanks, Monica. Is there a way to get a year-by-year projection of how much Powerex is modelled to import/export between now and 2040? Here's what we're thinking:

Column 1 (Year), Column 2 (Projected import volume in GWh), Column 3 (Projected export volume in GWh), Column 4 (Net Import/Export Volume in GWh)

Thanks again,

Eugene

From: Jang, Monica EMLI:EX <Monica.Jang@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: November 18, 2022 5:25 PM
To: Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>; McCann, Meghan EMLI:EX <Meghan.McCann@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Warnock, Joie EMLI:EX <Joie.Warnock@gov.bc.ca>; Meehan, Patrick EMLI:EX <Patrick.Meehan@gov.bc.ca>; Edmonds, Claire EMLI:EX <Claire.Edmonds@gov.bc.ca>; Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Hi Eugene:

In response:

BC Hydro's IRP includes a scenario (the North Coast Scenario) with rapid load growth in northwestern BC, brought on by mining, port expansion and LNG development. The North Coast scenario brings on over 700 MW of new load west of Prince George by 2030, consistent with an electrified Phase 2 expansion to LNG Canada plus other developments(emphasis added) and ultimately brings on the equivalent of roughly three times Site C's energy to serve it. However, the statement in the Vancouver Sun article is misleading as most of this energy would be used by other customers –s.17

s.17

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From: Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 18, 2022 4:52:47 PM
To: McCann, Meghan EMLI:EX <Meghan.McCann@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Warnock, Joie EMLI:EX <Joie.Warnock@gov.bc.ca>; Meehan, Patrick EMLI:EX <Patrick.Meehan@gov.bc.ca>; Edmonds, Claire EMLI:EX <Claire.Edmonds@gov.bc.ca>; Jang, Monica EMLI:EX <Monica.Jang@gov.bc.ca>; Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Hi Meghan,

Just one more question on the response to #1 - we'd like to fact check specifically the claim that "the electricity equivalent of three more Site Cs will be needed by 2040." What's the basis of this claim?

Thank you,

Eugene

From: McCann, Meghan EMLI:EX <Meghan.McCann@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: November 18, 2022 2:30 PM

To: Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Warnock, Joie EMLI:EX <Joie.Warnock@gov.bc.ca>; Meehan, Patrick EMLI:EX <Patrick.Meehan@gov.bc.ca>; Edmonds, Claire EMLI:EX <Claire.Edmonds@gov.bc.ca>; Jang, Monica EMLI:EX <Monica.Jang@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Hi Eugene - Responses as per below:

1. "If LNG Canada's Phase-2 expansion proceeds (it has the necessary approvals) and uses electricity rather than natural gas for liquefaction (as it must to fit within the province's climate targets), the electricity equivalent of three more Site Cs will be needed by 2040 — most of which will be required in the early 2030s."

LNG Canada is in the process of building one of the lowest greenhouse gas-emitting facilities of its kind. The project fits into the climate goals of CleanBC.

All sectors, including LNG, will need to manage their overall emissions to ensure B.C. achieves its emissions reduction targets.

To date, LNG Canada has not made a Final Investment Decision about whether they will proceed with Phase 2.

.

2. "To help meet our 2030 needs, B.C. Hydro intends to purchase additional electricity from neighbouring jurisdictions to make up shortfalls in this province." Can we also get Powerex' modelling on electricity import and export volumes into 2030 and 2040?

This statement is not accurate. The Base Resource Plan does not – and cannot due to self-sufficiency requirements – rely on outside of BC resources for peak loads (or energy) in average water conditions. BC Hydro's IRP includes a number of other potential scenarios, including three with more aggressive load growth. In these scenarios, BC Hydro temporarily plans imports of up to 2,000 GWh in some years prior to fiscal 2031 (April 2030-March 2031) as a temporary bridge until construction of domestic resources is complete. In all scenarios, these are ultimately replaced by the deployment of future generating resources in BC, sufficient to meet BC Hydro's projections of the needs of its customers in the 2030s and in 2040. Where BC Hydro temporarily relies on energy imports, on a planning basis, those deficits are limited to 2,000 GWh, or less than the province's energy deficit due to low-water conditions in 2019. When, in low-water years, BC Hydro is short on domestic energy supplies it is able to meet its customers' needs by purchasing energy at times of low market prices to essentially store behind its network of large hydroelectric dams, to be used when market prices are high. In all years, in all scenarios, BC Hydro's Contingency Resource Plans provide for enough capacity to meet its customers' projected peak demands.

3. "The Western Electricity Coordinating Council, which coordinates electricity grids in the western U.S. and Canada, determined that no subregion in its coverage area generates enough electricity to meet its own needs during periods of high demand. They all rely on imports to avoid outages." Does this include BC?

To support this claim, the writers cite a Bloomberg story from May 2021 suggesting a risk that drought conditions in the US had created a risk of summer blackouts in the event of a "worst-case scenario" heat wave that impacted the entire

western US. [U.S. West Facing White-Knuckle Summer With Power in Short Supply - BNN Bloomberg](#). The 2022 update to the study referenced in this Bloomberg article showed significant improvements in the Northwest Power Pool – NW - the subregion that includes British Columbia. These studies are snapshot of conditions that do not reflect the actions that parties are taking to meet load growth. Across all these regions, over the time period studied, generation capability is being added, and this has been accelerated by the U.S. *Inflation Reduction Act* both in terms of additional clean generation and batteries.

While this cited article does make the claim the writers repeat in the Vancouver Sun, the discussion, and graphic, in that article are centered around the risks of US states meeting peak load in the summer. British Columbia is not mentioned. In fact, British Columbia was in both capacity and energy surplus in 2021. BC Hydro faced record-high demand of 10,902 megawatts (MW) on December 27, 2021, more than 1,000 MW less than its system's peak load carrying capability. Over the year as a whole, British Columbia exported over 6,000 GWh more than it imported.

The writers in the Vancouver Sun also conflate the problem that the Bloomberg article and WECC look at – the risk of running out of capacity at peak – with the question of whether we have enough energy over the year to serve new facilities. These are fundamentally different problems. With storage capabilities, off-peak power purchases as contemplated in some IRP scenarios are able to address energy shortfalls over the year. Meanwhile, the particular peak event addressed in the WECC study has less relevance to B.C. While the scenario of a severe summer heatwave across the west could impact the price and availability of market energy, this would not represent a peak event for BC Hydro. Peak demand in British Columbia does not occur at the same time as peak demand in California and Arizona. BC Hydro's record summer consumption, during the heat dome, was 8,568 MW – more than 2,000 MW lower than its winter peak and 3,000 MW lower than BC Hydro is capable of serving.

From: Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: November 16, 2022 11:54 AM

To: McCann, Meghan EMLI:EX <Meghan.McCann@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Warnock, Joie EMLI:EX <Joie.Warnock@gov.bc.ca>; Tseng, Eugene EMLI:EX <Eugene.Tseng@gov.bc.ca>; Meehan, Patrick EMLI:EX <Patrick.Meehan@gov.bc.ca>; Edmonds, Claire EMLI:EX <Claire.Edmonds@gov.bc.ca>; Jang, Monica EMLI:EX <Monica.Jang@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: [RUSH] LNG & Electrification

Hi Meghan,

Sorry for another rush, but can we please fact check the following claims in this op-ed? [LNG export dreams would leave B.C. powerless to pursue other opportunities | Vancouver Sun](#)

1. "If LNG Canada's Phase-2 expansion proceeds (it has the necessary approvals) and uses electricity rather than natural gas for liquefaction (as it must to fit within the province's climate targets), the electricity equivalent of three more Site Cs will be needed by 2040 — most of which will be required in the early 2030s."
2. "To help meet our 2030 needs, B.C. Hydro intends to purchase additional electricity from neighbouring jurisdictions to make up shortfalls in this province." **Can we also get Powerex' modelling on electricity import and export volumes into 2030 and 2040?**
3. "The Western Electricity Coordinating Council, which coordinates electricity grids in the western U.S. and Canada, determined that no subregion in its coverage area generates enough electricity to meet its own needs during periods of high demand. They all rely on imports to avoid outages." **Does this include BC?**

Thanks,

Eugene

MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and
Low Carbon Innovation

ISSUE: s.13; s.16; s.17

KEY MESSAGES/SUMMARY:

- Expanding transmission access to the North Coast is needed to electrify projects such as the Port of Prince Rupert, critical minerals mining and liquefied natural gas (LNG).
- BC Hydro is currently developing an Expression of Interest to gauge interest and ensure that a new line is appropriately sized to meet the electrification demand in the North Coast. In advance of launching the Expression of Interest, BC Hydro will be engaging with potentially impacted Nations.
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MINISTRY RESPONSE:

- BC is seeking to advance a new high-voltage transmission line with an estimated cost of \$3 B, to support low carbon economic development on the North Coast of the Province. Once complete, the new infrastructure will:
 - Electrify new metal and critical mineral mines;
 - Support the expansion of the Port of Prince Rupert for exporting Canada's low embedded carbon goods to our key trading partners; and
 - Electrify value-added natural gas projects including LNG Canada (LNGC) Phase 2 s.17 Cedar LNG (Haisla), and Ksi Lisims LNG (Nisga'a).
- s.13; s.16; s.17

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s.13; s.16; s.17

CONCLUSION

s.13; s.16; s.17

Attachments: s.13; s.16; s.17
Attachment A:
Attachment B:
Attachment C:

DRAFTED BY:
Amy Sopinka, A/ED, EPB
778-698-7280

APPROVED BY:
Les MacLaren, ADM, EAED ✓
Shannon Baskerville, DM ✓

s.13; s.16; s.17

s.13; s.17; s.21

ID: 7956, Title: Electrifying Industry; North Coast Transmission Project

Full Name:

Approval Route: EAED-DMO-EAED

Assigned To: Schmidt, Cathy A EMPR:EX Rush: No Briefing Note - Information Note Signature: Deputy Minister

Branch: Electricity Policy & Regulation Other Number: 117777

Link: N/A

Due Date: 12/19/2022 Date Completed: N/A Date Initiated: 12/20/2022 N/A

Item History

12/22/2022 04:10 PM

McCann, Meghan [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to Schmidt, Cathy A EMPR:EX for action

Shared with MO, ok to save final and close logs. Thanks!

12/22/2022 04:06 PM

McCann, Meghan [Assignee] added a comment

DM approved via email.

12/20/2022 02:58 PM

McCann, Meghan [Assignee] added a comment

Emailed to DM for approval.

12/20/2022 02:40 PM

Schmidt, Cathy A EMPR:EX [Assignee] forwarded an eApprovals item to McCann, Meghan for action for DM approval

12/20/2022 02:37 PM

Schmidt, Cathy A EMPR:EX created this item

12/20/2022 02:37 PM

Schmidt, Cathy A EMPR:EX added a document: 117777_IN_MO_EPB_Electrifying_Industry_North_Coast_Transmission_Project_ADM_Revised.docx

12/20/2022 02:37 PM

Schmidt, Cathy A EMPR:EX added a document: 117777_Attachment_C_DRAFT_LNGC2 letter_updated_V3_Oct13_SM.docx