

Page 01 of 11 to/à Page 07 of 11

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

## ADVICE TO MINISTER

### CONFIDENTIAL ISSUES NOTE

Ministry: Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources  
Date: Draft 1

Minister Responsible: Hon. Bill Bennett

## Paddle to the Premier Site C Rally

### ADVICE AND RECOMMENDED RESPONSE:

- We respect that everyone has the right to express their views peacefully and we understand the importance of thorough consultation and independent environmental review of Site C.
- Site C will be a source of clean and renewable electricity for more than 100 years. It will provide enough electricity to power more than 400,000 homes per year in B.C.
- Site C will help meet B.C.'s future electricity needs by providing 900 megawatts of capacity and 4,600 gigawatt hours of electricity each year.
- Site C will contribute to the local and provincial economy by creating an estimated 7,650 direct construction jobs through the construction period, and up to 35,000 direct and indirect jobs through all stages of the project.

### *Secondary Messaging*

- Site C has entered the regulatory review stage, which will include a thorough and independent environmental assessment. An environmental assessment of Site C will include opportunities for consultation and input by the public, communities, First Nations and stakeholders.
- As part of an environmental assessment, BC Hydro will consider potential environmental and socio-economic effects, impacts to land and water, and opportunities for regional benefits. Where impacts cannot be avoided, BC Hydro will identify and evaluate potential options for mitigation.
- B.C.'s population is growing and so is our demand for energy. BC Hydro is planning now so that British Columbians will continue to enjoy the benefits of a secure, reliable and affordable electricity supply in the future.

### KEY FACTS REGARDING THE ISSUE:

On September 19, 2010, an event is being held in Victoria called "Paddle to the Premier". This anti-Site C event is being organized by the Peace Valley Environmental Association, four members of Treaty 8 First Nations, and the Western Canada Wilderness Committee.

It includes a paddle along the Gorge Waterway from the Selkirk Waterfront to Victoria's inner harbour. At 10:00 AM there will be speakers at the B.C. Legislature, including David Suzuki, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, and the B.C. branch of the Sierra Club. Media coverage is expected.

The Paddle to the Premier may be the start of an organized campaign against the project by environmental groups and First Nations. This event marks the first time that the environmental

movement has come together against Site C.

#### BACKGROUND:

- The Paddle to the Premier is based on the annual Paddle for the Peace event that has taken place on the Peace River for the past five years. It attracts about 200 participants each year on the Peace River who take part to register their opposition to the Site C project.
- The Paddle for the Peace is a joint project of the West Moberly First Nations (WMFN) and the Peace Valley Environment Association (PVEA), and it is endorsed by the Y2Y conservation initiative.

#### Site C

- On April 17, 2010, Premier Campbell announced that it will move forward with the Site C Clean Energy Project.
- The Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C) will be a third dam and hydroelectric generating station on the Peace River in northeast B.C. It will be an earthfill dam, approximately 1,100 metres in length, and 60 metres high above the river bed.
- The reservoir will be approximately 83 km long and will be, on average, two to three times the width of the current river.
- Site C will go through a rigorous and independent environmental assessment process, which is anticipated to commence in early 2011.
- The regulatory review of Site C is expected to take about two years, and it is anticipated that Site C will be available for domestic electricity needs by 2020.
- Site C will produce among the lowest greenhouse gas emissions per gigawatt-hour, when compared with other forms of electricity generation. This will help B.C. further displace fossil fuel-generated electricity with clean energy.
- As the third project on one river system, Site C will generate 30 per cent of the electricity produced at the W.A.C. Bennett Dam with only five per cent of the reservoir area.

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Minister's Office	Program Area ADM	Deputy	Comm. Dir

June 14, 2010

S.22



MINISTER OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES	
TELEPHONE NUMBER	54732
DEPT. TO	CU
DRAFT REPLY ( )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
RECEIVED	JUN 21 2010
REMARKS	

Dear<sup>S.22</sup>

Thank you for your letter regarding government's decision to move forward with an environmental assessment for the proposed Site C Clean Energy Project on the Peace River.

Government has made a commitment to ensuring that British Columbia is energy self-sufficient and BC Hydro has forecast that demand for electricity in British Columbia will grow by 20 – 40 per cent in the next 20 years. We are currently looking at a number of ways to reach this goal and to meet this expected rise in electricity consumption.

British Columbia's supply of hydroelectric power was instrumental in the development of our province. The addition of Site C to our province's heritage assets will build on that legacy and contribute to the Northern economy while ensuring that residents in all areas of our province continue to benefit from this reliable, clean source of electricity. I have asked staff to provide you with some information on this project that I hope you will find to be of interest.

If you have access to the internet, you may be interested in viewing further information on the environmental assessment process, opportunities for public involvement and the Crown's duties to consult and accommodate First Nations interests on the provincial Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) web site: <http://www.eao.gov.bc.ca/about%20eao.html>.

A copy of your letter has been shared with the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, for his information as well. You can be assured that your feedback will be included in related discussions between the Minister and his staff.

Again, thank you for writing. I appreciate your input and the time that you have taken to make me aware of your views.

Sincerely,

Gordon Campbell  
Premier

Enclosure

pc: Honourable Bill Bennett

May 23, 2010,

The Premier, B.C.,  
Victoria B.C.,

Dear Sir;

How can there be peace in the valley when the river is dammed?

Thirty years ago it was wrong. The cards are not right now.

Let the future generation with change in the technology decide if Site "C" is needed but for now it should be put on hold.

Yours Truly,

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES**

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

**I PREPARED FOR:** Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

**II ISSUE:** Telephone call with Roger Harris in relation to the Site C Project –s.16  
s.16

**III BACKGROUND:**

Project Background

Site C is one option being considered to meet British Columbia's future electricity needs. If built, Site C would be a third dam and generating station on the Peace River, seven kilometres southwest of Fort St John, and would provide a clean, dependable and renewable source of electricity.

As currently defined, Site C would generate approximately 4,600 GWh of electricity per year, enough to power about 460,000 homes. Importantly, Site C would provide in the range of 900 MW of capacity or about eight percent of the existing peak demand on BC Hydro's system.

The evaluation of Site C has now completed its second stage. Stage 2 included three rounds of public and stakeholder consultation, with additional consultation programs for First Nations and property owners.

During Stage 2, BC Hydro also initiated and completed baseline field studies to better understand current environmental and socio-economic conditions in the project area and to gather technical and engineering information on the dam. Stage 2 verified the feasibility of continuing to pursue Site C.

The current stage, Stage 3, will include investigations to support an application for an Environmental Assessment Certificate pursuant to the British Columbia *Environmental Assessment Act*, a review pursuant to the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* and applications for other required permits and approvals.

As part of the recently passed *Clean Energy Act*, Site C has been designated a Heritage Asset, which prohibits its sale in whole or in part by BC Hydro.

## First Nations Consultations on Site C

During Stage 2, BC Hydro initiated consultation and engagement with 41 Aboriginal groups consisting primarily of Treaty 8 First Nations in British Columbia, as well as Aboriginal groups in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

British Columbia Treaty 8 First Nations have been extensively engaged by BC Hydro as part of its investigative and information gathering initiative associated with the proposed Site C hydro-electric facility. BC Hydro entered into a consultation agreement with the British Columbia Treaty 8 Tribal Association for Stage 2 of the Site C review and met with them on over 30 separate occasions and exchanged over 100 letters.

BC Hydro is pursuing agreements with British Columbia Treaty 8 First Nations and other First Nations for Stage 3 of the Site C review. First Nations from Alberta and the Northwest Territories will also continue to participate in Stage 3 consultation activities.

## **IV KEY MESSAGES:**

The Province understands Treaty 8 Chiefs have a strong interest in regards to the proposed Site C project. The environmental review of Site C will include opportunities for consultation and input by First Nations.

The Province encourages Treaty 8 First Nations to avail themselves of the opportunities of engagement on Site C that are being offered by BC Hydro for Stage 3.

In addition to respecting Treaty rights and addressing environmental concerns, the Province and BC Hydro acknowledge that Site C has the potential to provide a legacy of benefits for northern communities, First Nations and the Province as a whole.

BC Hydro and the Province will continue to consult with communities and First Nations on identifying what those lasting legacy benefits from Site C should entail.

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BC Hydro and the Province are committed to business, jobs and skills training opportunities for northern communities and First Nations for the future construction planning for Site C.

### **DRAFTED BY:**

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