

# BC HYDRO ISSUES SHEET

<b>Issue:</b>	<b>EAO INSPECTION RECORD - CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCE COMPLIANCE – HWY 29 REALIGNMENT</b>
<b>Spokesperson:</b>	Dave Conway, Community Relations Manager, Site C

## ISSUE SUMMARY

The Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) has released its Site C inspection record on BC Hydro's cultural and heritage resources management in the Cache Creek/Bear Flat area for the Highway 29 realignment.

The report concludes that the updated, refined design of the Cache Creek bridge, if built, would not be compliant with the Site C project's Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC). Construction activities for the bridge have not yet started.

The review also identified areas that the project's Heritage Resources Management Plan and Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan can be improved. BC hydro is updating these plans in response.

No orders were issued from the inspection.

## BACKGROUND

- In April 2017, Nun wa dee Stewardship Society – which represents West Moberly First Nations and Prophet River First Nation – filed a complaint with the EAO regarding the Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek/Bear Flat.
- Their main concern is with BC Hydro's Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek, due to its proximity to a sweat lodge and potential First Nation burial site.
- BC Hydro has been working with other First Nation groups in the area to mitigate the impacts of the realignment; however, the mitigations proposed do not satisfy the concerns of West Moberly First Nations and Prophet River First Nation.
- As part of the EAO's review of the complaint, it identified that the current bridge design is different than the bridge design filed in the Site C Project Description (changed from a combined bridge and causeway to a longer bridge), which is attached to the project's EAC.
- The EAO has noted in the inspection report, that if BC Hydro were to proceed with construction of the bridge as currently planned, an amendment to the project's EAC will be required.
- BC Hydro is taking into account the EAO's findings and looking at further options.

## KEY MESSAGES

- A recent inspection by the Environmental Assessment Office identified that the updated, refined design of the Cache Creek Bridge which is required for the Highway 29 realignment would not be compliant with the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate, if built as currently planned.
- Construction activities for the bridge have not yet started. BC Hydro is taking into account the EAO's findings and looking at further options.
- The inspection report also identified some opportunities for us to improve cultural and heritage resources management. We've already made some changes to our plans to provide greater clarity effectively manage cultural and heritage resources.

From: [Haslam, David GCPE:EX](#)  
To: [Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX](#); [Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: Fwd: BCUC report on highway diversion.  
Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2017 12:55:39 PM

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Back pocket. Will explain.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX" <[Tim.jHowlett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.jHowlett@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** October 4, 2017 at 12:32:23 PM PDT  
**To:** "Haslam, David GCPE:EX" <[David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca](mailto:David.Haslam@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: BCUC report on highway diversion.

Tim Howlett  
Issues Management  
250.208.4828

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX" <[Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** September 21, 2017 at 8:12:48 AM PDT  
**To:** "Hannah, Matt GCPE:EX" <[Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Matt.Hannah@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** BCUC report on highway diversion.

#### *Highway 29 work*

BC Hydro describes its work to realign six segments of Highway 29, the “arterial highway that connects Hudson’s Hope to Fort St. John, running along the north side of the Peace River”<sup>82</sup>, to avoid flooding by the Site C reservoir. This work was scheduled to commence in summer 2017, in anticipation of the river diversion in fall 2019, but in June 2017 BC Hydro was requested to “delay the start of this work to allow further discussions with local property owners and consultation with Aboriginal Groups”. This postponement would have risked delaying the river diversion.

However, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, under whose jurisdiction the road lies, has since advised that they are “willing to discuss the implementation of mitigation measures that would manage the risk of flooding while allowing River Diversion to continue”<sup>83</sup>. **BC Hydro states that this development will allow the river diversion to**

proceed despite the postponement of highway work.

Deloitte does not comment on the highway 29 work in its description of project risks<sup>84</sup>.

[http://www.siteinquiry.com/wp-](http://www.siteinquiry.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DOC_90185_A-13_Preliminary-Report.pdf)

[content/uploads/2017/09/DOC\\_90185\\_A-13\\_Preliminary-Report.pdf](http://www.siteinquiry.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DOC_90185_A-13_Preliminary-Report.pdf)

Tim Howlett

Issues Manager

Strategic Issues Division, GCPE

250.208.4828

From: [Dyson, Cynthia](#)  
To: [Haslam, David GCPE:EX](#); [MacLaren, Les EMPR:EX](#); [Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX](#); [Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX](#)  
Cc: [Scott, Mora](#); [Conway, David](#); [McSherry, Diane](#); [Pillon, Lawrence](#)  
Subject: Issues Note: EAO Inspection Record  
Date: Thursday, August 31, 2017 4:55:32 PM  
Attachments: [2017-08-31 IS - EAO Inspection Report - Cache Creek Bear Flat final.docx](#)

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David, Les and team – the attached Issues Note on the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) release its Site C inspection record is attached.

We will respond as needed to inquiries. Key messages as follows:

- A recent inspection by the Environmental Assessment Office identified that the updated, refined design of the Cache Creek Bridge which is required for the Highway 29 realignment would not be compliant with the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate, if built as currently planned.
- Construction activities for the bridge have not yet started. BC Hydro is taking into account the EAO's findings and looking at further options.
- The inspection report also identified some opportunities for us to improve cultural and heritage resources management. We've already made some changes to our plans to provide greater clarity effectively manage cultural and heritage resources.

Many thanks

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**Cynthia Dyson** | Director, Corporate & Marketing Communications

**BC Hydro**

333 Dunsmuir St, 15th floor

Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

P 604-623-4205

M 604-375-2963

E [cynthia.dyson@bchydro.com](mailto:cynthia.dyson@bchydro.com)

[bchydro.com](http://bchydro.com)

Smart about power in all we do.

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**From:** [Haslam, David GCPE:EX](#)  
**To:** [Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX](#); [Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
**Subject:** RE: EAO - Site C Highway Realignment Complaint  
**Date:** Thursday, August 31, 2017 10:50:40 AM

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Looks good

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**From:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: EAO - Site C Highway Realignment Complaint

I can make revisions to this based on BC Hydro's IN when it arrives, but in the meantime I've drafted the attached based primarily on the EAO note.

Colin



Colin Grewar  
Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
**Phone:** 250-952-0650  
[Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2017 10:06 AM  
**To:** 'Dyson, Cynthia'; Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Scott, Mora; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX; Keim, Jordan  
**Subject:** RE: EAO - Site C Highway Realignment Complaint  
It's for the minister

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**From:** Dyson, Cynthia [<mailto:Cynthia.Dyson@bchydro.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 31, 2017 10:05 AM  
**To:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Scott, Mora; Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX; Keim, Jordan  
**Subject:** RE: EAO - Site C Highway Realignment Complaint  
Hi C- just to confirm –who is this for?

We are putting together an Issues note for you now- we will review yours with an eye to ensuring the messaging is consistent.

Jordan- can we place a priority on finalizing this one by mid day?

thanks

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**From:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX [<mailto:Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca>]  
**Sent:** 2017, August 31 9:26 AM  
**To:** Dyson, Cynthia  
**Cc:** Scott, Mora; Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** EAO - Site C Highway Realignment Complaint

Hi Cynthia: As discussed this morning, please find attached the EAO issues note on the Site C Highway 29 realignment complaint and the cultural and heritage mitigation plans.

Thanks,

Colin



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From: [Rowe, Katherine EMPR:EX](#)  
To: [Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: RE: Highway 29 Realignment  
Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 3:38:16 PM

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Thanks!

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From: Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX  
Sent: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 3:38 PM  
To: Rowe, Katherine MEM:EX  
Subject: Highway 29 Realignment

Hi Katherine: Further to our phone conversation just now, here is the updated language provided for us this morning by MoTI related to the highway 29 realignment. This is from the QA we prepared to support today's announcement on the BCUC review of Site C.

**How will the BCUC review impact BC Hydro's plans to remove property owners from their homes and procure contracts for the Highway 29 Bear Flats to Cache Creek re-alignment?**

- BC Hydro has been in contact with property owners to advise that no action will be taken to remove them from their homes prior to the conclusion of this review.
- Highway 29 Bear Flats to Cache Creek contracts will be deferred pending the results of the BCUC review.
- The Ministry is working with BC Hydro to find ways to mitigate the potential for the highway closures should the schedule be delayed and is confident that there are available mitigation options. One example is the option to build a temporary detour bridge and road alignment adjacent to the Cache Creek Bridge. This temporary detour bridge and alignment will not affect the timeline of the project if the BCUC review shows it should proceed.



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[Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca)

From: [MacLaren, Les EMPR:EX](#)  
To: [Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX](#)  
Cc: [Haslam, David GCPE:EX](#); [Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX](#)  
Subject: RE: Site C Review - BC Hydro Filing  
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2017 12:27:06 PM

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OK

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**From:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2017 12:02 PM  
**To:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX  
**Cc:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Site C Review - BC Hydro Filing  
Thanks Les. Further to the background section on the highway 29 re-alignment we wanted to add bullets related to the diversion of highway 29. Look ok:

*If asked – about Highway 29 re-alignment:*

- The delay in the project and the budget increase is not related to the suspension of work on Highway 29.
- Work to re-align Highway 29 was suspended in June to allow impacted property owners to stay on their land pending a government decision on the future of the project and to allow BC Hydro to consult further with First Nations on the proposed route for the re-alignment.
- Back in June there was an assumption that work on the highway had to start this past summer in order to be complete ahead of river diversion in September 2019.
- However, as described in the BCUC's preliminary report, since that time, the Ministry of Transportation has proposed mitigation measures that would have allowed the river diversion to proceed in fall 2019 despite the postponement of highway work.
- It's also worth noting that Deloitte did not comment on the highway 29 work in its description of project risks



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**From:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2017 11:56 AM  
**To:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Site C Review - BC Hydro Filing  
Some tracked suggestions. Great piece of work Colin!  
Les

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**From:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2017 10:34 AM  
**To:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX  
**Cc:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Site C Review - BC Hydro Filing  
Hi Les: Could you please review the attached IN – now includes sections on LNG load raised in the media this morning – article below FYI.

Thanks,  
Colin



## **B.C. Hydro says three LNG projects need Site C**

National Post

Thursday, October 05, 2017

Page FP4

By Geoffrey Morgan

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[Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca)

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**From:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2017 9:39 AM

**To:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX

**Subject:** FW: Site C Review - BC Hydro Filing

Hi Les: Please hold off for a bit. We are going to add a couple of lines related to LNG load.

Will send new version shortly.

Colin



Colin Grewar  
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Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
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[Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX

**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2017 9:31 AM

**To:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX

**Cc:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Site C Review - BC Hydro Filing

Hi Les: Could you please review the attached IN on the BC Hydro filing to the BCUC today. BC Hydro executive summary also attached FYI.

Thanks,

Colin



Colin Grewar  
Public Affairs Officer  
Government Communications and Public Engagement  
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
**Phone:** 250-952-0650  
[Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Colin.Grewar@gov.bc.ca)

## Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

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**From:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:28 AM  
**To:** Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Request: Moose FM: Site C Review

Good.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2017 10:04 AM  
**To:** Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media Request: Moose FM: Site C Review

Thanks Ryan. David are you ok with this?

**Lindsay Byers**  
Media Relations  
Ministry of Energy, Mines & Petroleum Resources  
P: [250.952.0617](tel:250.952.0617)  
C: [778.678.5539](tel:778.678.5539)

On Aug 3, 2017, at 10:03 AM, Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX <[Ryan.Jabs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Jabs@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Hi Lindsay,  
I'm good with your response and will leave it with your ministry for consistency. All of our work to accommodate site C is on hold until the BCUC review is complete and government decides whether to green light the project or not.

Thanks,

Ryan

**From:** Byers, Lindsay GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 3, 2017 9:45 AM  
**To:** Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FW: Media Request: Moose FM: Site C Review

Ryan,

Please see the request below. How would you like to handle? Our response below has been approved by our ADM, but upon closer look maybe your shop would like to take it?

**Reporter** Jessica Fedigan, Reporter  
Moose FM (Fort St. John) CKFU 101.1  
250-787-7100

[jessica@moosefm.ca](mailto:jessica@moosefm.ca)

**Deadline August 3 ASAP**

### Request

Reporter is looking for some clarification from her interview with the minister yesterday. She is wondering if the Hwy 29 realignment project at Site C will be cancelled until the review is

complete. She also understands that the bridge tender has not been put out, will that be put on hold as well?

### **Suggested Response**

- BC Hydro has been in contact with property owners to advise that no action will be taken to remove them from their homes prior to the conclusion of the BCUC review of the Site C project.
- Highway 29 Bear Flats to Cache Creek contracts will be deferred pending the results of the BCUC review.
- The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is working with BC Hydro to find ways to mitigate the potential for the highway closures should the schedule be delayed and is confident that there are available mitigation options. One example is the option to build a temporary detour bridge and road alignment adjacent to the Cache Creek Bridge. This temporary detour bridge and alignment will not affect the timelines of the project if the government's decision is that it should proceed.

## Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

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**From:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2017 3:28 PM  
**To:** Scott, Mora  
**Cc:** Sandve, Chris; Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX; Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Media request: Canadian Press

I'm fine with that. Including Ryan jabs.  
CD for MoTI.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

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**From:** Scott, Mora  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2017 3:24 PM  
**To:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Sandve, Chris; Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Media request: Canadian Press

Hi David – A Canadian Press reporter reached out about Site C. She said the Minister mentioned that an alternative route may have been found to avoid the Boon's property. She is looking to confirm the \$630 million cost is no longer a concern and she would like to know if BC Hydro is concerned about a project delay as a result of the BCUC review. We're proposing the following response: *While some highway realignment work will be delayed, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has identified mitigation options so that river diversion can remain on schedule and the overall project schedule and budget can be maintained, should the project proceed. For further details, please contact the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.*

Please let me know if you have comments.

Thanks,  
Mora

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## Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

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**From:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2017 8:48 AM  
**To:** Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fw: Site C Update  
**Attachments:** IBN\_H29 Bear Flats to Cache Ck Realignment Postpone Tender Options\_July ....docx; H29 Shoreline Alignment Options.pdf

Ryan see below and attached. Will call you later this am.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX <Les.MacLaren@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2017 8:44 AM  
**To:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Site C Update

Here is MoTI's briefing material. I have not seen their comms material.

Les

**From:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2017 8:36 AM  
**To:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX; Nikolejsin, Dave MNGD:EX; Winstanley, Lori PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Wieringa, Paul MEM:EX; Rowe, Katherine MEM:EX  
**Subject:** Re: Site C Update

Thx. I'm in contact with MoTI CD.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

**From:** MacLaren, Les MEM:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2017 8:22 AM  
**To:** Nikolejsin, Dave MNGD:EX; Haslam, David GCPE:EX; Winstanley, Lori PREM:EX  
**Cc:** Wieringa, Paul MEM:EX; Rowe, Katherine MEM:EX  
**Subject:** Site C Update

Good morning:

I have reviewed and commented on a draft BCUC News Release this morning and will circulate the next version expected mid-morning. The BCUC is meeting with Ernst and Young today and Deloitte tomorrow to discuss the scope of work and assess the teams they would put forward to do that work, and cost.

I spoke with my MoTI colleague Kevin Richter yesterday to flag for him that MoTI and his Minister need to be ready to roll out their contingency plan for Highway 29 realignment. David, Kevin was going to have his Comms Director contact you. If that hasn't occurred, can you please reach out and be sure we are aligned.

*Les MacLaren*  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Electricity and Alternative Energy Division

BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
Office: 250-952-0204  
Cell: 250-889-3479

*Energizing BC—clean, sustainable and productive*

Page 16 to/à Page 18

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13;s.17

## **Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX**

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**From:** Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 1:15 PM  
**To:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX; Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX; Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** RE: Media request: Vancouver Sun

Thank you.

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**From:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 11:34 AM  
**To:** Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Zadravec, Don GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX; Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX; Dalal, Suntanu GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Fw: Media request: Vancouver Sun

Ryan. Fyi below. I have no concerns. Currently with my MO.

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the TELUS network.

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**From:** Scott, Mora <[Mora.Scott@bchydro.com](mailto:Mora.Scott@bchydro.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 8, 2017 11:24 AM  
**To:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** Pillion, Lawrence; Keim, Jordan; Grewar, Colin GCPE:EX; Beaupre, Darren GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Media request: Vancouver Sun

Hi David – Vaughn reached out about Site C (email below). I've included our proposed response below. Let me know if you have comments.

Thanks,  
Mora

### **Response:**

Last week, the Environmental Assessment Office provided feedback that the refined design of the Cache Creek Bridge, which is required for the Highway 29 realignment, would not be compliant with the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate, if built as currently planned.

The initial bridge design, which was filed in the Site C project description, was for a short bridge with causeway. Last year, we refined the design to address geotechnical issues in the area and to mitigate impacts to a potential burial site, which resulted in a longer bridge design. The reason it would be non-compliant is because current bridge design is different than what we filed in the project description. The remainder of the Highway 29 realignment at Cache Creek remains compliant with the project description.

As you are aware, work related to the Highway 29 realignment is on hold (and construction activities for the bridge haven't started) while the project is reviewed by the BCUC. We are currently looking at alternate options to address this issue.

The EAO also identified some opportunities for us to improve cultural and heritage resources management. We've already made changes to our plans to provide greater clarity on effectively managing cultural and heritage resources.

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**From:** Palmer, Vaughn [mailto:vpalmer@postmedia.com]  
**Sent:** 2017, September 08 9:49 AM  
**To:** Scott, Mora  
**Subject:** me again

Posting on twitter says that BC hydro has been found to have violated environmental approval certificate for Site C, regarding First Nations.

Could you please provide me with any clarification or explanation on this please?

Thank you.

—vaughn

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## Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX

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**From:** Jabs, Ryan GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 1, 2017 2:51 PM  
**To:** Haslam, David GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** FINAL - KM/QA Hwy 29  
**Attachments:** KMs\_QA\_Hwy 29 tender cancellation.docx

Hi David,

Here are some lines on the Highway 29 tendering. Give me a call when you get a second

Thanks,

Ryan  
250-413-7121

## **Hwy 29 realignment - tender cancellation**

### **Key Messages**

- I understand that BC Hydro will be sending the Site C project to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) for review.
- Because of this review, the ministry will be cancelling our tender to realign Highway 29, until the outcome of the review has concluded.
- The ministry will allow the BCUC review to take place and will not presuppose the outcome at this time.

## **Hwy 29 realignment - tender cancellation**

### **Q&As**

#### ***What is the scope of the project being deferred today?***

- The Bear Flats to Cache Creek section is the first of six sections of Highway 29 that need to be relocated to accommodate the proposed Site C reservoir.
- The Bear Flats to Cache Creek was scheduled to be tendered in two contracts, the road construction and bridge construction.
- The road contract tender is being cancelled today; the bridge contract has not been tendered yet.
- Approximately 8.5km of road will be reconstructed in this project and the bridge design is 455m long.

#### ***What are the risks of deferring the road tender package?***

- Should the highway relocation proceed following the BCUC review, the road and bridge relocation completion dates may be delayed into another construction season.
- In this event, there is a small chance that a short section of existing highway, including the Cache Creek Bridge, will be impacted by a combination of flooding caused by the dam construction and spring freshet in the coming years.

- The Ministry is working with BC Hydro to find ways to mitigate the potential for the highway closures and is confident that there are solid mitigation options.
- One example is the option to build a temporary detour bridge and road alignment adjacent to the Cache Creek Bridge.
- This temporary detour bridge and alignment will not affect the timeline of the project if the BCUC review shows it should proceed.
- Again I'm confident that the ministry and BC Hydro will be able to put together strategies to mitigate any impacts to the timeline.

*How much is this going to cost?*

- We do not have a firm estimate at this time.

*When are the remaining sections of Highway 29 scheduled to be released?*

- Pending the results of the BCUC review, the remaining sections are all scheduled to be tendered over the next few years.
- The project team is working towards having all the impacted sections of highway moved prior to the full inundation of the reservoir in 2023.

*By sending the Site C project to BCUC for review, what are the implications of this delay on the project's timeline?*

- The ministry has done a thorough technical review on the implications of deferring the Highway 29 realignment, which includes building a temporary detour bridge and alignment while a long term realignment is finished.
- This temporary detour bridge and alignment will not affect the timeline of the project if the BCUC review shows it should proceed, and I'm confident that the ministry and BC Hydro will be able to put together strategies to mitigate any impacts to the timeline.

***What about reports that suggest the project would lose \$600M if this realignment did not take place?***

- **This is a question you'll have to ask BC Hydro.**
- **Again, provided the BCUC review concludes that the Site C project should continue, the ministry is confident that the work will be done in accordance with the original timeline.**