

**MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND LOW CARBON INNOVATION
INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE**

PURPOSE: For INFORMATION for David Eby, KC, Premier

For INFORMATION for Shannon Salter, Deputy Minister, Cabinet
Secretary and Head of the Public Service

ISSUE: Status update on LNG Projects

SUMMARY:

- There are three LNG projects under construction in British Columbia: LNG Canada (Phase 1) and Cedar LNG in Kitimat (Haisla territory) and Woodfibre LNG in the Squamish area.
- The Kitimat based projects will receive natural gas from the Coastal Gaslink Pipeline (now mechanically complete) while Woodfibre LNG will receive natural gas from the Eagle Mountain Pipeline (under construction).
- LNG Canada has engaged with government on Phase 2 of their project. It has regulatory approvals from the Province, but the investors have not yet decided to proceed.
- On March 14, 2023, British Columbia announced a New Energy Action Framework. As part of this framework, LNG facilities that are in or entering the environmental assessment process must now pass an emissions test with a credible plan to be net-zero by 2030.
- Ksi Lisims LNG (co-owned by the Nisga'a Nation) and Tilbury Phase 2 in Delta are significant projects that are subject to the New Energy Action Framework.¹
- Short-term decisions by the Province on LNG projects include:
[s. 12](#), [s. 13](#), [s. 16](#), [s. 17](#)

BACKGROUND:

LNG Canada (LNGC) – Phase 1 and Phase 2

- LNGC Phase 1 includes the construction of two liquefaction trains that will produce 14 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). A Phase 2 expansion would include two more trains at the Kitimat site and increase the total production capacity to 28 MTPA.

¹ Summit Lake LNG, proposed by JX LNG Canada, is located approximately 30 km north of Prince George and would move 2.7MTPA of LNG by railcar to Prince Rupert. It is in very early stages of its environmental assessment.

- LNG Canada reported that Phase 1 had over 9,000 people employed during construction [s. 12, s. 13](#)
Phase 1 is expected to have 250-350 individuals employed at the facility during operations; [s. 12, s. 13](#)
- The capital expenditure (facility only) for Phase 1 is currently expected to be [s. 13, s. 17, s. 21](#)
Phase 1 is virtually complete and expects to be in full commercial service by mid-2025. [s. 17, s. 21](#)

- LNGC is engaging with government on Phase 2 and is expected to decide whether to advance Phase 2 by mid-2025. [s. 12, s. 13, s. 16, s. 17](#)
- A federal/provincial/LNGC team has been set up to discuss how Phase 2 can meet federal/provincial climate goals.
 - o [s. 12, s. 13, s. 16, s. 17, s. 21](#)
 - o Any final investment decision (FID) by LNG Canada for Phase 2 requires that Coastal GasLink add up to six compressor stations along its existing pipeline route. Such an expansion is approved under CGL's EAC, although CGL has recently requested an amendment to enable electrification of compressor stations. The decision whether to electrify would ultimately be made by LNG Canada. Additional permits from the BC Energy Regulator would be required.
- The LNG Output-Based Pricing System benchmark and stringency are currently under development by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. The concept of industry emissions caps is also being reviewed federally/provincially. Both policy measures, and their impacts, are of key interest to LNG Canada.

Cedar LNG

- Cedar LNG will be a floating liquefied natural gas facility near LNG Canada and is a significant part of the Haisla Nation's economic development plans. The Haisla Nation are the majority owners of the project and are working in partnership with Pembina Pipeline Corporation (who will be the operator).
- With a production capacity of 3.3 MTPA, the project announced its final investment decision on June 25, 2024, and has begun construction.

- The project will receive its natural gas feedstock from CGL – the same pipeline that is supplying LNG Canada. In August, TC Energy announced that it will be spending an extra \$1.2 billion on CGL to accommodate the extra volume of gas needed for Cedar LNG.
- [s. 12, s. 16, s. 17](#)

Woodfibre LNG (WLNG)

- WLNG is a 2.1 MPTA LNG export facility near Squamish. It began construction in 2023 and is targeting first shipments in 2027.
- [s. 13](#)
- Neither WLNG nor the pipeline, FortisBC' Eagle Mountain Pipeline, were able to secure a temporary use permit (TUP) for their workforce accommodation centres from the District of Squamish. WLNG was ultimately ordered into compliance by the EAO to moor their floating workforce accommodation centre at site, despite the lack of a TUP. FortisBC has decided not to pursue the workforce accommodation centre and is transporting their employees to site.

[s. 12, s. 13, s. 16, s. 17, s. 21](#)

Ksi Lisims LNG and Prince Rupert Gas Transmission (PRGT) Pipeline

- The Ksi Lisims LNG proposed 12 MTPA project that is co-owned by the Nisga'a Nation (in partnership with Western LNG and Rockies LNG). The project is in the latter stage of its EA process with referral to ministers expected in early 2025.
- Western LNG is a Houston-based company engaged in the development of North American liquefied natural gas export facilities. Rockies LNG is a partnership of natural gas producers including Tourmaline, Ovintiv, Murphy Oil and Canadian Natural Resources Limited.
- Ksi Lisims LNG plans to be fully electrified [s. 17, s. 21](#)
In order to electrify, the project needs a new Nass Valley Regional Transmission Line that will connect into a new BC Hydro substation [s. 17, s. 21](#) as well as connection of the substation to the North Coast Transmission

Line. [s. 12](#), [s. 13](#), [s. 16](#), [s. 21](#)

- The Project would be receiving its feedstock gas through PRGT.
 - The Nisga'a Nation, in partnership with Western LNG, recently purchased PRGT from TC Energy and have signalled that they would consider inviting other Nations along the pipeline route to also become minority owners.
 - PRGT's EA certificate is set to expire on November 25, 2024. In August, the project started construction of a 40–50 kilometre portion of the pipeline wholly within the territory of the Nisga'a Nation. Construction has completed and the workforce was demobilized as of November 3rd.
 - The proponent is in the process of drafting its request for a substantial start determination from the EAO, with the intention of formally submitting it prior to the expiration of its EAC.
 - PRGT faces significant opposition from several First Nations, particularly the Gitksan and Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs. Recent actions have included a “check point” on the Cranberry Service Road. A petition for a judicial review was filed by the Gitanyow Hereditary Chiefs against the EAO in October. Further information is being assembled by the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation.

Tilbury LNG

- The Tilbury LNG facility, owned FortisBC, has been operating in the province since 1971. The facility is powered by hydroelectricity and for over 50 years the facility has stored LNG to ensure our customers have the energy they need even during high winter demand and LNG for transportation (BC Ferries and Seaspan Ferries).
- FortisBC is planning 3 potential expansion projects for its Tilbury LNG facility:
 - A marine jetty next to Tilbury that would supply LNG to vessels for ship-to-ship LNG bunkering. The project received both Provincial and Federal environmental approvals in 2024.
 - A small expansion to Tilbury (Phase 1B) to increase the liquefaction capacity by 0.65 MTPA and replace the original storage tank. [s. 12](#), [s. 13](#)
and a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the BCUC.
 - A larger expansion (Phase 2) that would increase the facility's capacity by 2.5 MTPA to produce LNG for marine fuelling or overseas export. Fortis has advised the EAO that they are currently expecting to submit their application for an EA certificate in mid-November.

DISCUSSION:

There had been several studies that provide different perspectives of the global need for LNG and its impact on global GHG emissions. Investors will be evaluating these

predictions, market trends, project economics and regulatory stability to determine where to invest their capital.

The Supreme Court of BC decision in *Yahey v. BC* (2021) was the impetus for a significant shift in cumulative effects management in the Northeast. ^{s. 13, s. 17}

A priority focus will need to be maintained on advancing planning and restoration in the region.

The Energy Resources Division is responsible for tracking and monitoring all LNG projects with the Clean Energy and Major Projects Office maintaining a close working relationship with projects through construction and into operations to ensure that the Province's 5 conditions for LNG development continue to be met.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

Many First Nation Communities have taken an active, and in some cases a leadership role in LNG projects in the province. The Haisla Nation are the majority owners of the Cedar LNG project, while the Ksi Lisims LNG's governance structure provides the Nisga'a Nation with meaningful input into project development, management, and operations, ensuring it is designed and operated in a manner consistent with the Nisga'a Nation's commitment to stewardship of the land and its people. The Squamish Nation undertook its own EA of the WLNG project.

While there is generally support from First Nations at the LNG facility sites, there has also been considerable opposition by others, especially along the pipeline corridors.

GBA+ OR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS:

Major projects in BC are strongly encouraged to support diversity and inclusion. Some LNG proponents have initiated programs to attract and retain equity-seeking groups into the workforce through workshops, special programs and training.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

None – due to timelines.

Prepared by:

Mark Urwin
ED, Energy Resources Division

Rachel Shaw
Sr. ED, Clean Energy and Major Projects Office

Approved by:

Nathaniel Amann-Blake
ADM
Energy Resources Division

Attachment: Summary Table

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Appendix: Current LNG Export Projects

Project	Location	Volume (MTPA)	Estimated Emissions (MT) & Intensity (CO2e/tonne)	Regulatory Approvals			Estimated Capital Expenditures (Cdn, Billions)	Estimated Jobs	
				CER Export License	Environmental Assessment				
					Provincial	Federal			
Under Construction ^{s. 13}									
LNG Canada Phase 1 (Shell, PETRONAS, PetroChina, Mitsubishi, KOGAS)	Kitimat	14	2.1 (0.15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	\$20	Construction: Peak ~9,000 summer 2024 Operations: 350-550
Woodfibre LNG (Pacific Energy, Enbridge)	Squamish	2.1	0.04 (0.02)	✓	✓	✓	✓	~\$5	Construction: 650 Operations: 100+
Cedar LNG (Haisla First Nation, Pembina Pipeline)	Kitimat	3.3	0.24 ¹ (0.08)	✓	✓	✓	✓	~\$5	Construction: 500 Operations: 100+
Major Regulatory Approvals Issued ^{s. 13}									
LNG Canada Phase 2 (Shell, PETRONAS, PetroChina, Mitsubishi, KOGAS)	Kitimat	14	2.1 (0.15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	tbc	^{s. 13}
Tilbury Marine Jetty (FortisBC, Seaspan, Musqueam IB)	Delta	N/A	0.006	N/A	✓	✓	N/A	\$0.15	Construction: tbd Operations: tbd
Obtaining Regulatory Approvals ^{s. 13}									
Tilbury LNG Phase 1B (FortisBC, Musqueam IB)	Delta	0.65	0.05 (0.076)	✓	N/A – Sub EA	Not Submitted	Not Submitted	\$1.1	Construction: 250 Operations: 30
Tilbury LNG Phase 2 (FortisBC, Musqueam IB)	Delta	2.5	0.19 (0.076)	✓	Application pending	Not Submitted	Not Submitted	\$3 - \$3.5	Construction: 1,100 Operations: 110
Ksi Lisims LNG (Nisga'a Nation, Western LNG, Rockies LNG)	Wil Milit (Nisga'a Territory)	12	^{s. 21}	✓	Revised application accepted Sept 2024	Not Submitted	Not Submitted	\$10	Construction: 600 Operations: 150 - 200
Summit Lake PG LNG (JX LNG Canada)	Prince George	2.7	0.1 (0.037)	Not Submitted	Initial Project Description Submitted	Not Submitted	Not Submitted	tbc	tbc

Confidential – Contains Commercially Sensitive Information

¹ Net annual emissions during operations.
² Depending on power source (gas drive vs. electrified)

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions

ISSUE: Wind Resources in British Columbia

SUMMARY:

Onshore wind is expected to be the lowest-cost source of clean energy in British Columbia (BC). Clean energy projects must undergo an Environmental Assessment (EA) and permitting prior to construction, with permitting and assessment [s. 13](#) *The Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) requires that a clean energy project of 50 MW or more undergo an environmental assessment or if a project is comprised of 15 or more turbines but below 50MWs.

MINISTRY RESPONSE:

[s. 13](#)

BACKGROUND:

BC currently has ten wind projects in operation and selling energy to BC Hydro. Seven of these projects are in the Northeast, while two are in the central interior and one is in North Vancouver Island (See Attachment 1). These projects generate roughly 3% of BC's energy.

BC Hydro purchases its energy from independent power producers (IPPs), including wind producers, through competitive calls for power. BC Hydro is currently reviewing applications through its current Call, which is targeting 3,000 gigawatt-hours per year (GWh/yr) of energy between 2028 and 2031 and plans to announce which projects have been selected in December. A summary of wind projects bidding into this call can be found in Attachment 1.

Wind projects take approximately two years to construct, with construction following design and permitting/environmental assessment phases. Projects bidding into BC Hydro's calls have completed design phases. Participants in BC Hydro's current Call have not completed permitting or the EA process, [s. 13](#)

DISCUSSION:

Onshore wind is expected to be the lowest-cost and most abundant source of clean energy in British Columbia. [s. 13](#), [s. 17](#), [s. 21](#)

s. 13, s. 17, s. 21

Roughly half of this potential is in the Peace River region, while most of the remainder is split between the southern interior and the North Coast.

~~s. 13~~, s. 21

The *Environmental Assessment Act* (EAA) requires that a clean energy project of 50 MW or more undergo an environmental assessment.¹ Clean energy projects under 50 MW may still require a project notification process under the EAA and projects of any size undergo a review process by WLRS under the *Land Act*. Previous wind projects were all reviewed prior to 2018 updates to the EAA, s. 13

s. 13

NEXT STEPS:

BC Hydro will announce successful bids to the Call in December, s. 13

To help expediate the permitting and assessment process attached to clean energy project development, the EAO has shared their draft AIR addendum with relevant stakeholders and First Nations. EAO is accepting comments until December 20, 2024 for consideration in developing the final document.

Attachments: Attachment 1: Summary of BC Wind Projects.
Attachment 2: Map of Wind Resource Potential in BC.

DRAFTED BY:
Jack Buchanan, EPB
(778) 698-7293

APPROVED BY:
Chris Gilmore, ADM, EURD
Peter Pokorny, DM, EMLI

¹ A land-based wind generating facility is also reviewable if it is comprised of 15 or more turbines but below 50 MWs.

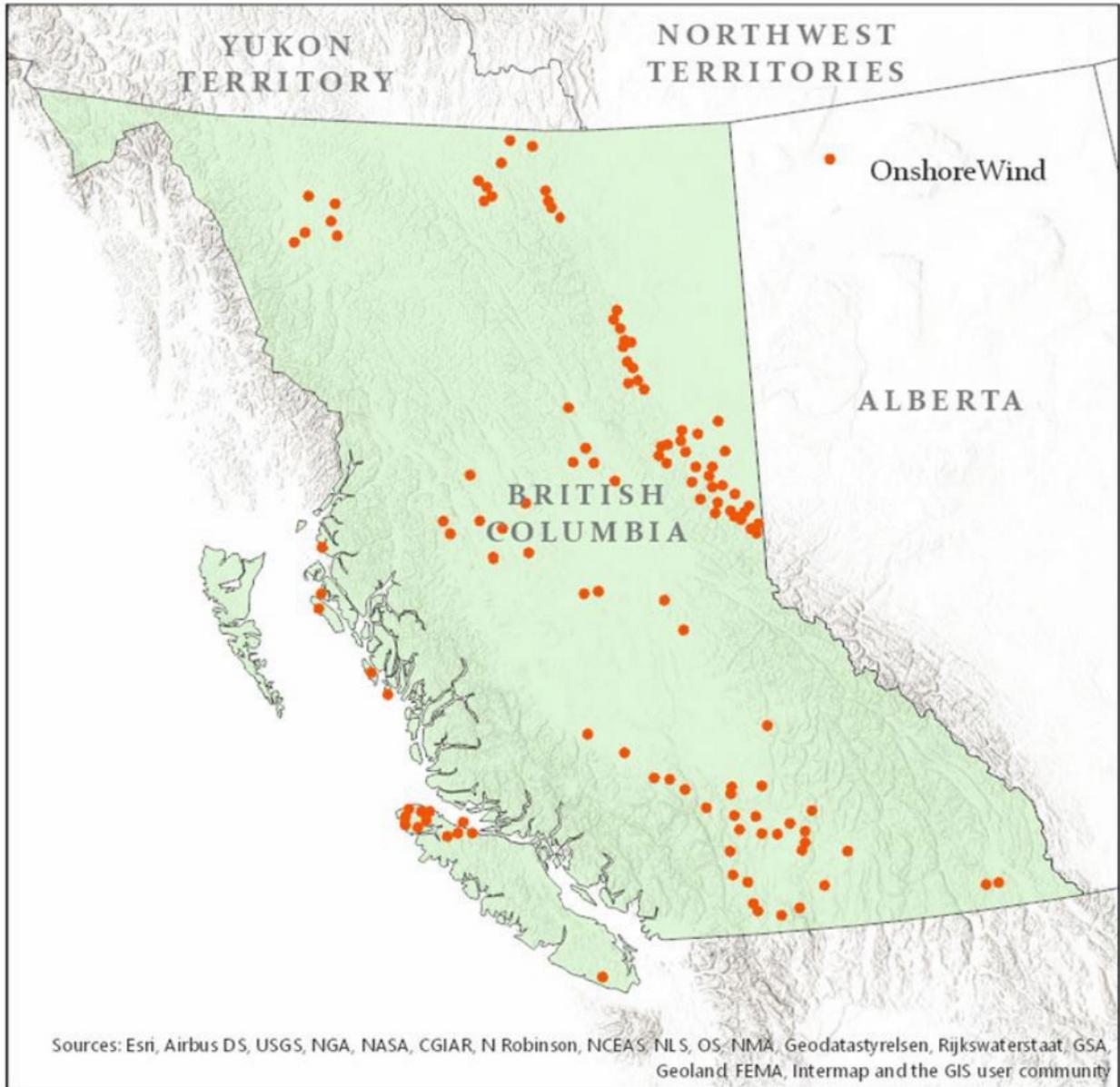
Attachment 1: Summary of BC Wind Projects.

Wind Projects in Operation

Project Name	Region	Location	(MW)	(GWh/yr)
Pennask Wind Farm	Central Interior	Westbank	15	50
Shinish Creek Wind Farm	Central Interior	Summerland	15	55
Bear Mountain Wind Park	Peace/NE	Dawson Creek	102	197
Dokie Wind	Peace/NE	Chetwynd	144	375
Meikle Wind	Peace/NE	Tumbler Ridge	185	541
Moose Lake Wind Project	Peace/NE	Tumbler Ridge	15	56
Quality Wind	Peace/NE	Tumbler Ridge	142	477
Sukunka Wind Energy Project	Peace/NE	Chetwynd	15	50
Zonnebeke Wind Energy Project	Peace/NE	Chetwynd	15	46
Cape Scott Wind	Vancouver Island	Port Hardy	99	316
Total			747	2161.8

s. 17, s. 21

Attachment 2: Map of Wind Resource Potential in BC.



MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR: Honourable David Eby, Premier, and Honourable Adrian Dix,
Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions

ISSUE: Columbia River Treaty Modernization – Canada-United States Relations

KEY MESSAGES/SUMMARY:

- The governments of Canada and the United States (U.S.) are pursuing ratification of amendments to the Columbia River Treaty (Treaty) during the current Biden administration. This will require the “advice and consent” of the U.S. Senate.
- The Treaty amendments implement an Agreement in Principle (AIP) on Treaty modernization announced in July 2024 by Canada and the U.S. (with the Province’s support).
- Treaty negotiations have been led by Global Affairs Canada (GAC), with guidance from British Columbia (B.C.), BC Hydro and the three First Nations in the Canadian Columbia Basin (FNs).
- The Canadian negotiations team is continuing to work diligently with U.S. counterparts to achieve early ratification.

BACKGROUND:

- Under the Treaty, Canada agreed to build three large storage dams that regulate flows to manage flood risk and increase power generation in both countries. In 1964, Canada received a US\$64.4 million (M) payment for 60 years of flood risk management, and US\$254.4M for Canada’s share of the downstream power benefits for 30 years.
- The 1963 Canada-BC Agreement transferred most rights and obligations under the Treaty to the Province, including the U.S. payments which were used to construct the Treaty dams.
- Since 1998, the power benefits have been delivered to the Canada-U.S. border, and are sold on the Province’s behalf by BC Hydro’s marketing subsidiary Powerex. Over the past decade in the power benefits have contributed between C\$100-400M to the consolidated revenue fund.
- The expiry of the 60 years of pre-paid flood risk management in September 2024 led to negotiations, beginning in 2018, to modernize the Treaty.
- U.S. objectives included securing ongoing planned flood risk management and reducing the amount of power delivered to B.C. B.C./Canada’s objectives were to secure overall benefits equivalent to the current Treaty continuing, while achieving more flexibility to manage the B.C. reservoirs to meet domestic objectives. Both countries agreed that ecosystem health should be included as a Treaty purpose.

Agreement in Principle

- The July 2024 AIP achieved both B.C./Canada and U.S. objectives. B.C. will receive fixed annual amounts of power over 20 years, with lower amounts in the early years and higher

amounts in the later years than expected under the current Treaty. B.C. will receive new annual indexed payments for flood risk management and other benefits the U.S. receives as a result of coordinated operations. B.C. secured unilateral flexibility to change operations to address domestic objectives such as reservoir stability, and the creation of new bi-national bodies to advise on ecosystems, FN/Tribal values and operations on the Kootenay River system.

- s. 12, s. 16

a number of provisions of the AIP have been implemented under the current Treaty through agreements between the Treaty operating Entities (BC Hydro for Canada and jointly the Bonneville Power Administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers for the U.S.) that have been endorsed through diplomatic exchanges of notes between Canada and the U.S.:

- An agreement to confirm operations and set out the power benefits that Canada/B.C. will receive over the next 20 years.
 - An agreement to establish BC's rights to transmission in the US to both deliver the Treaty power benefits and access other power supplies that benefit the BC system.
 - A flood risk management to set out the reduced volume of assured space in B.C.'s reservoirs, and confirm the annual payments for an initial 3 years starting 2024/25.
 - Other BC benefits secured in the AIP, such as annual payments for additional benefits, , unilateral flexibility to change operations to meet domestic objectives, establishment of a Joint Ecosystem and Indigenous and Tribal Cultural Values Body and a Kootenay/i Transboundary Collaborative Workgroup, and commitments to adaptive management and salmon reintroduction, require the amended Treaty for implementation.
- s. 12, s. 16

DISCUSSION:

- s. 12, s. 16

- s. 12, s. 16

In 2019, Canada, B.C. and the Ktunaxa, Secwepemc, and Sylix/Okanagan (FNs) entered into a Negotiations Protocol Agreement with Canada and B.C. that, among other things, committed B.C. and Canada to seek the FN's FPIC prior to agreeing to an amended Treaty.

The FN's have been directly involved in the Treaty modernization negotiations, and have supported the AIP, s. 12, s. 16

s. 12, s. 16

The former Minister Responsible committed to consulting with Basin residents on the AIP. Community meetings were deferred with the election/interregnum period. MECS has posted AIP provisions on its website, hosted a webinar, conducted a survey, and solicited questions to which responses have been posted on the MECS Treaty website. A further webinar is planned for mid-December.

Some Basin residents are likely to be critical of any accelerated ratification of Treaty amendments. However, extensive consultations with Basin residents have occurred since 2012, and the provisions of the AIP reflect Basin residents' views and are broadly supported. If an amended Treaty is ratified under the current U.S. administration, MECS will hold community meetings in early 2025 to review the amendments.

NEXT STEPS:

- s. 12, s. 16

- Absent ratification, the current Treaty would continue. B.C. would still receive the power benefits and payments for flood risk management set out in the Entity agreements, but would forego the other AIP benefits described above that require Treaty amendments. The U.S. would be motivated to complete Treaty amendments within three years as the interim Entity agreement on flood risk management expires in 2027.

DRAFTED BY:

Kathy Eichenberger, ED
Columbia River Treaty

APPROVED BY:

Les MacLaren, ADM and A/DM ✓

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Energy and Climate Solutions

ISSUE: Declaration Act Action Plan Reporting

BACKGROUND:

- The Declaration Act Annual Report (Annual Report) contains status updates for key sections of the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (Declaration Act) which came into force in 2019.
- The Annual Report outlines the progress made in implementing the Declaration Act in consultation and cooperation (C&C) with Indigenous Peoples, reflecting the Province's ongoing commitment to reconciliation in B.C.
- The Biannual 1 (B1) reporting fulfills a Cabinet request for a mid-year check-in to assess progress.
- The previous Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) had three action items for reporting:
 - 2.14 details the action to modernize the *Mineral Tenure Act* (MTA). With the restructuring of provincial ministries, the MTA Modernization Office (MTAMO) in the Ministry of Mining and Critical Minerals (MCM) is leading this work in C&C with First Nations and First Nations Organizations.
 - 4.43 includes identifying and supporting First Nations-led clean energy opportunities, specifically those related to Clean BC, the Comprehensive Review of BC Hydro, and the BC Utilities Commission Inquiry on the Regulation of Indigenous Utilities. The Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions leads this.
 - 2.06. Co-develop strategic-level policies, programs and initiatives to advance collaborative stewardship of the environment, land and resources, that address cumulative effects and respects Indigenous Knowledge. This will be achieved through collaborative stewardship forums, guardian programs, land use planning initiatives, and other innovative and evolving partnerships that support integrated land and resource management. There were no relevant activities or updates to report under this action item for this year, therefore no information was reported.

DISCUSSION:

Highlights of the Actions:

Action Items 2.14:

- In July 2023, EMLI established the MTAMO to lead the work of C&C on behalf of the Ministry.
- A working group with the First Nations Leadership Council (FNLC) and First Nations Energy and Mining Council technical team was established to co-develop foundational

documents and a C&C Framework for MTA modernization, and to provide advice to the ministry on MTA reform work.

- In February 2024, MTAMO began C&C with First Nations. Pre-engagement information sessions in March 2024 saw participation from over 100 First Nations representatives. The inaugural meeting of the First Nations Technical Advisory Group had over 30 representatives.
- To facilitate collaboration with rights holders, the MTAMO has established a number of C&C forums including bilateral government to government discussions focused on co-development, technical forums, and all-nation information sessions.
- In September 2023, a B.C. Supreme Court decision found the Province must consult with Nations prior to the registration of mineral claims. The Court suspended an order for 18 months (concludes March 26, 2025) to allow the Province to consult with First Nations on the development of a new Mineral Claim Consultation Framework. The MTAMO is addressing this court order, while pursuing work on the broader MTA reform.

Action Item 4.43:

- The Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities (ICEO) initiative aims to increase the involvement and leadership of First Nations in B.C.'s clean energy sector by enhancing capacity, building strategic relationships, and addressing unique challenges.
- In June 2023, ICEO held a virtual workshop focusing on hydrogen market opportunities, the electricity sector, and BC Hydro's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) implementation plan, with participation from 50 First Nations.
- An Electricity Table Advisory Group (ETAG), comprising First Nations and non-Indigenous experts, played a crucial role in advising this workshop as well as advising other ICEO Electricity Table activities. As a result of relationships established on the ETAG, First Nations representatives have served as advisors on BC Hydro's Task Force and UNDRIP Implementation Committee, supporting various initiatives.
- In 2024, the ICEO is commencing a study on the financial viability of First Nations utility models with the intent to inform future policy work on a regulatory framework for First Nations utilities.
- BC Hydro's 2024 Call for Power includes a requirement for a minimum 25% Indigenous equity, which will bring Indigenous partners into the clean energy business.
- The Province's \$140M contribution to the BC Indigenous Clean Energy Initiative aims to support smaller Indigenous-led grid-connected projects, addressing some of these concerns.
- Despite these advancements, challenges persist, including the need for consistent revenue streams for First Nations' clean power projects, and concerns over the structure of BC Hydro's Call for Power with a 40 megawatt minimum project size.

DRAFTED BY:
Kazi Mohua, SIPD

APPROVED BY:
Matthew Rodgers, SIPD ✓
Heather Noble, SIPD ✓
Viva Wolf, A/ADM, SIPD ✓
Les MacLaren, A/DM, ECS ✓

