Please consider the attached letter requesting an extension of the Nov 7, 2011 deadline for submission of comments on the Draft Agreement (including the terms of reference) to conduct a cooperative environmental assessment, including the establishment of a joint review panel, of the Site C Clean Energy Project.

I would also respectfully submit that $140 000 is insufficient participant funding for a project involving so many parameters, when BC Hydro has already spent so much while advertising for support and the project itself will impact the environment and people in BC, Alberta and the Northwest Territory.

Rita Churchill
Linda Jones, Project Manager  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
22nd Floor, 160 Elgin Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0H3  

Oct. 27th, 2011

Re: Site C Clean Energy Project: extension of the Nov. 7th deadline for comments on the Draft Agreement, including the Draft Terms of Reference and application for participant funding

Dear Ms. Jones,

I am pleased that your agency has agreed to hold public hearings to examine the effects of the proposed project. I am writing to support the Peace Valley Environment Association’s request for an extension to the deadline for comments on the draft agreement including terms of reference and participant funding application.

I am requesting an extension of 40 days beyond the Nov. 7, 2011 deadline for submission of comments on both the Draft Agreement as well as the participant funding application.

Additionally, while I appreciate that the CEAA is making some participant funding available, I respectfully submit that $140,000 is inadequate for a full examination of a project of this magnitude. I ask that you consider at least doubling this amount.

In order to keep costs in control, a number of interest groups who are concerned about the impacts of this project have been working together to ensure that their approach and input to the environmental assessment process is efficient and not duplicated. This effort takes time to coordinate effectively. Additionally, given that CEAA has chosen to provide a single window of opportunity within the process to submit a funding request, intervenors must attempt to plan and budget for the entire process at present. This includes determining priority issues as well as identifying and retaining professional and legal expertise. The difficulty of these tasks is further compounded by the fact that interested parties are required to accomplish them without the guidelines for the environmental impact statement.

I feel that 30 days is an unreasonable amount of time to prepare a thoughtful, well planned and coordinated approach to the environmental assessment.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully yours,

<original signed by>

Rita Churchill