

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REVIEW PANEL ("JOINT PANEL")
ESTABLISHED TO REVIEW THE SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT
("PROJECT") PROPOSED BY BRITISH COLUMBIA HYDRO
AND POWER AUTHORITY ("BC HYDRO")

CANADA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AGENCY

AND

BRITISH COLUMBIA ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICE

PROCEEDINGS AT HEARING

December 11, 2013

Volume 3

Pages 1 to 257

Copy

Held at:

Pomeroy Hotel
11308 Alaska Road
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Jim Little

Treaty 8 First Nations, Tribal Chief Liz Logan, Chief
Norman Davis, Chief Russell Lilly, Chief Lynette
Tsakoza, Chief Roland Willson

Kenneth Forest

Dr. Faisal Moola, David Suzuki Foundation.

Clara London

Philip Hochstein, Independent Contractors and Business
Association

Karen Goodings, Peace River Regional District Electoral
Area B

John Locher, Ethix Consulting Inc.

INTERESTED PARTIES (continuing):

Arthur Hadland and Laurel-Anne Hadland

Guy Lahaye, North Peace Road and Gun Club

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December 11, 2013

Fort St. John, British Columbia
(Proceedings commenced at 1:00 p.m.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good afternoon. Can I call
us to order, please.

Opening Remarks by the Chairman:

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'd like to welcome everybody
to the first general session of the public hearing
regarding the environmental assessment of
BC Hydro's proposal to build the Site C dam.

As before, I would like to thank the Town --
the City of Fort St. John and Treaty 8 Tribal
Association, Treaty 8 First Nations within whose
traditional territory we are holding this hearing
today. My name is Harry Swain, and my colleagues
on the Panel are Madam Jocelyne Beaudet and James
Mattison. Our legal counsel is Brian Wallace, but
I think he's taken the afternoon plane home on the
grounds that everybody here is honest.

The Secretariat, who are mostly over here,
include Courtenay Trevis. Would you wave? And
Brian Murphy. The Secretariat members all have
little tags on, so if there's any help you need

1 with anything, just ask.

2 In addition, we have a Court Reporter, Nancy
3 Nielsen, and her team, and an audio visual system
4 run but Alex Barbour.

5 The purpose of the hearing is to allow the
6 Panel to hear information from interested parties
7 and the general public on the potential BC's five
8 pillars, environmental, economic, health, social
9 and heritage effects of the proposal by BC Hydro to
10 construct and operate a large earth filled dam,
11 power house, transmission line and ancillary works.

12 The hearing is also designed to provide
13 opportunities for Hydro to explain the project and
14 to respond to concerns and questions raised by the
15 participants including federal and provincial
16 governments, the government departments, local and
17 regional and First Nations governments, Metis
18 associations, non-governmental and civic
19 organizations and the general public.

20 We are an independent panel. We are not a
21 part of the government of Canada or the government
22 of BC. We are appointed by the two governments to
23 conduct an assessment of the effects of the
24 proposed project under the two acts: the **Canadian**
25 **Environmental Assessment Act** of 2012 and the **BC**

1 ***Environmental Assessment Act.***

2 As these Acts and their related procedures
3 differ somewhat, the two governments entered into a
4 formal agreement which incorporates specific terms
5 of reference for this joint review panel.

6 We will doubtless have occasion to refer to
7 these to keep our discussions on course. I
8 encourage any of you who have not read this
9 document to do so. It's available from the
10 Secretariat if you haven't seen it. I may from
11 time to time admonish participants to make sure
12 that what they have to say relates to these terms
13 of reference.

14 Let me highlight a couple of the key features
15 of our instructions. Our first task was to review
16 20,500 pages of environmental impact statement and
17 its supplements together with a written record of
18 all the pre-panel stages of this procedure and
19 decide whether the record was sufficient for the
20 purpose of holding public hearings. After three
21 rounds of information requests and responses by
22 Hydro, we found the information now some 27,000
23 pages; not perfect, but sufficient for the purpose
24 of holding these hearings.

25 We are required to provide conclusions on a

1 significance of any adverse environmental effects.
2 We're also required to recommend mitigation
3 measures and follow-up programs for the management
4 of the effects associated with the project should
5 it proceed.

6 We are to include in our report a summary of
7 information received at this hearing and in the
8 record that may bear on a determination by the two
9 governments with respect to the justification for
10 the project.

11 With respect to First Nations, the Panel will
12 receive information related to the nature and scope
13 of the asserted and/or established Aboriginal
14 rights or treaty rights within the project area and
15 assess the potential adverse effects or potential
16 infringements of those rights. We may recommend
17 measures to mitigate any real or potential adverse
18 effects of the project on those rights.

19 However, the Panel does not have a mandate to
20 make any determination on the validity of rights or
21 title claims asserted or on the strength of those
22 claims. We may not determine the scope of the
23 Crown's duty to consult First Nations, nor may we
24 determine whether governments have met their duty
25 to consult and accommodate.

1 Following the completion of our assessment,
2 we will prepare our report for the two governments.
3 This report will be submitted within 90 days of the
4 close of the hearing and will be made available to
5 the public by the governments, not by us.

6 I would like to thank you for taking part in
7 these proceedings. Your participation and your
8 involvement is very important to us.

9 We will rely in part on information received
10 through the hearing, and we also believe it will be
11 helpful to Hydro and to other participants in the
12 hearing.

13 We recognize that the conclusions and
14 recommendations that we will provide to the two
15 governments on this matter will have an effect on
16 participants here today and of those who live in
17 Fort St. John and the surrounding communities. We
18 want to assure you that we take this responsibility
19 very seriously, and we ask everyone here to do the
20 same.

21 We ask in particular that you conduct
22 yourselves in a manner that is respectful of the
23 important responsibility we jointly have. People
24 in the hearing should be courteous and respectful
25 when asking questions or making comments.

1 Any participants who are not respectful will
2 not be allowed to ask further questions or make
3 further comments.

4 You have all seen the schedule for the next
5 two weeks and for the three weeks in January. We
6 have a lot of territory to cover and, courtesy of
7 our governments, not much time and that's without
8 taking into account the winter weather in the
9 Peace. Changes to the schedule may have to be
10 made, indeed may be forced upon us. We'll do our
11 best to communicate any last-minute changes to the
12 hearing schedule. All changes will be immediately
13 posted on the website that I think everybody must
14 be familiar with at this point.

15 We have a great deal to cover today and
16 tomorrow, and we are going to extend this hearing
17 into the evening. We will break from 5:00 until
18 7:00 for dinner and reconvene at 7:00 with the idea
19 of finishing at 9:00.

20 Your role requires us to remain independent
21 and objective, including with respect to all
22 participants who are before us, and as a result, we
23 will not engage in private discussion on these
24 matters with anyone involved in these proceedings,
25 outside of ourselves and the Secretariat.

1 We ask that you not attempt to discuss the
2 project or any of the hearing matters with us
3 outside the hearing. So I apologize if we appear
4 detached or unapproachable. This is a wonderful
5 part of the country, and there are many wonderful
6 people here, and we would like to chat, but we
7 really must not. We need to assure that our
8 behaviour does not give anyone any reason to be
9 concerned regarding our impartiality.

10 I'd like to draw your attention to some of
11 the procedures that we follow during these
12 hearings. Copies of the public hearing procedures
13 are available at the door or from the Secretariat.
14 Participants presenting themselves before the Panel
15 are not required to give evidence under oath or
16 affirmation and certainly don't have to have a
17 lawyer. But everyone is expected to speak honestly
18 and provide the best information available.

19 People who are presenting information and
20 wish to use a handout or something on the screen
21 have been asked to bring four copies in: four hard
22 copies for the use of Panel and Hydro, and to give
23 the Secretariat an electronic copy as they come in
24 the room. That will be immediately on the website
25 for everybody else.

1 If presenters are showing slides or figures,
2 of course they will be on the screens.

3 Our terms of reference dictate that time is
4 of the essence. We will try to strike a balance
5 between formality and expediency while still being
6 fair to all parties. All the documents filed in
7 this proceeding must be placed on the public record
8 unless it is ordered otherwise by the Panel as a
9 result of a formal request for confidentiality.
10 Our strong preference is to avoid accepting
11 information that can't be shared, and the legal
12 threshold for doing so is very high.

13 You should also note that transcripts are
14 being produced by our court reporter as we go, and
15 for that reason it is essential that all
16 participants use the microphones when speaking.
17 Transcripts of testimony will generally be
18 available on the website the next day.

19 When you do come forward to speak, we ask
20 that you identify yourselves so that your name is
21 on the record and spell your last name for the
22 court reporter. We would also ask that you speak
23 relatively slowly and distinctly, because otherwise
24 their fingers fall off. I would remind you to
25 direct questions or comment to me as the Panel

1 Chair. I will then direct them to the appropriate
2 person or group for a response.

3 And please remember that you're presenting
4 your material to us, to the Panel. In some sense
5 this whole exercise is to inform the Panel so that
6 we may consider and condense information in a form
7 of advice to ministers.

8 Finally, you are also reminded as you have
9 been for the last several decades to turn off the
10 ringer on your Blackberry or cell phone.

11 Please note that filming or photography is
12 allowed with prior approval, but please not the use
13 of flashes or flood light.

14 Anyone with questions about photography
15 should see Lucille Jamault who is our media
16 relations officer.

17 Where is Lucille? There she is.

18 Wave. Thank you.

19 With respect to the presentations, a daily
20 agenda will be made available each morning
21 outlining the order in which speakers will appear
22 before the Panel. The agenda can be picked up at
23 the entrance or at the Secretariat table.

24 The length of presentations and the time
25 available for questioning has been estimated by the

1 Secretariat, and the Chair will do his best to keep
2 the schedule and will not allow repetitious or
3 overly leisurely presentations or questions or
4 answers.

5 Anyone who would like to make a presentation
6 to the Panel and who has not yet registered should
7 see a Secretariat member at the registration desk,
8 and she -- I think it's Catherine Bailey-Jourdain
9 will register you and let you know when and if you
10 can be able to address the Panel.

11 If your information is similar to that of
12 another witness we may ask that you collaborate in
13 a single presentation in the interest of time. And
14 remember that if time does run out on us, you can
15 always submit written material any time until the
16 close of the public record, and it will be read and
17 considered by the Panel and posted on the registry.

18 I thank you for your attention.

19 I would now like to call on BC Hydro to
20 introduce the project.

21

22 **Introduction of the Project by BC Hydro:**

23

24 **Bridget Gilbride**

25 **Michael Savidant**

1 **John Nunn**
2 **Trevor Proverbs**
3 **Susan Yurkovich**
4 **Siobhan Jackson**
5 **Judith Reynier**

6

7 MS. YURKOVICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Panel
8 members and participants.

9 Good afternoon. My name is Susan Yurkovich,
10 and I'm the executive vice-president at BC Hydro
11 responsible for the clean energy project, Site C
12 clean energy project.

13 I'm joined today on my right by Al Strang,
14 our environment manager; John Nunn, our chief
15 project engineer; Mike Savidant, our commercial
16 manager; Siobhan Jackson, our socioeconomic
17 manager; Judith Reynier, who manages our
18 properties; and Trevor Proverbs, our director of
19 First Nations.

20 On Monday at the opening of the hearings, I
21 spoke about why BC Hydro is proposing the Site C
22 project to meet the province's future electricity
23 need. And I also summarized the assessment process
24 that we have followed. This afternoon I'd like to
25 provide a brief overview of our consultation to

1 date.

2 Our consultation for the Site C project has
3 included four distinct approaches for public
4 property owners, local governments and Aboriginal
5 groups. Our Aboriginal engagement has been
6 undertaken in a separate but parallel process, and
7 we look forward to the discussions at the upcoming
8 meetings in First Nations' communities and at the
9 topic-specific session on asserted or established
10 Aboriginal or Treaty -- and Treaty rights on
11 January 17th.

12 For today, I'd like to focus my remarks on
13 our public consultation and local government
14 engagement and then spend a few minutes summarizing
15 some of the proposed mitigation measures that speak
16 to the interests of residents in the District of
17 Taylor, the City of Fort St. John, and surrounding
18 areas.

19 On Friday in Hudson's Hope, we will provide
20 more information about our property owner
21 consultation and summarize some of the proposed
22 mitigations for the district of Hudson's Hope and
23 Chetwynd.

24 Section 1.1 of the EIS guideline states that
25 the overall objective of public participation is

1 best achieved when all parties have a clear
2 understanding of the proposed project as early as
3 possible in the review process. It also states
4 that the public will be provided with opportunities
5 to participate in the environmental assessment
6 process.

7 We believe our consultation has been
8 consistent with this guiding principle. Our
9 consultation started early in 2007, approximately
10 three and a half years before the start of the
11 formal environmental assessment process. We've
12 provided extensive notification in advance of
13 consultation opportunities. We've held seven
14 rounds of consultation over six years, providing
15 current project information and offering several
16 ways to participate, and we've documented how input
17 has been considered, and this is summarized in
18 section 9 of the EIS.

19 BC Hydro began its project consultation in
20 December of 2007 with a pre-consultation process
21 where we asked people how they would like to be
22 consulted and on what topics.

23 People told us they preferred open houses and
24 face-to-face meetings over online methods of
25 consultation, and they wanted mail notification to

1 households in the region in addition to
2 notification by other means.

3 They also told us they wanted to have access
4 to information about the project. In response in
5 2008, we opened a community consultation office in
6 Fort St. John and later in the year expanded that
7 to include a part-time office in Hudson's Hope.

8 At the consultation office, we provide
9 current information about field programs,
10 engineering studies, environmental reports, maps
11 and models of -- and maps and models of the
12 proposed reservoir and dam site.

13 In addition, we provide a library including
14 the full EIS and a high-speed computer terminal to
15 facilitate public access to the extensive body of
16 information that is available on our project
17 website.

18 BC Hydro has held or participated in more
19 than 500 meetings, open houses, presentations and
20 trade fairs since 2007. We've met local
21 governments, provincial agencies with
22 responsibilities for health, ambulance, the school
23 districts, RCMP, BC Housing and the North Peace
24 Regional Airport along with various community
25 organizations.

1 We've responded to approximately 3,200 public
2 inquiries in addition to the 4200 information
3 requests as part of the formal environmental
4 assessment process.

5 The City of Fort St. John has also conducted
6 community consultation, and they shared their
7 results of their discussion with us in 2012. This
8 input has been important in guiding our mitigation
9 measures in the region.

10 We know that as important as listening and
11 consulting is, it's also important to communicate
12 how the consultation has been considered.
13 Consideration memos were prepared that reflect how
14 we considered public input to refine the project
15 design and to develop mitigation and compensation
16 measures.

17 More details about our consultation and
18 considerations can be found in volume 1,
19 appendix G, but I'd like to share a few examples
20 with you today.

21 For the Highway 29 realignment at Lynx Creek,
22 the alignment option we have chosen now follows
23 Miller Road. This suggestion came to us from a
24 property owner during consultation in 2008 and has
25 been adopted into the design of the project.

1 For the 85th Avenue industrial lands,
2 following consultation with the City of Fort
3 St. John, the Peace River Regional District and
4 local residents, BC Hydro changed its initial plan
5 to truck materials from 85th Avenue to the dam
6 site. Instead, we plan to use the conveyer belt
7 system which will significantly reduce local truck
8 traffic, noise and dust.

9 We also heard a lot from people and
10 organizations in the region about the tight labour
11 market and the need to expand the local labour pool
12 by providing training opportunities.

13 So in discussion with local education
14 providers, BC Hydro established a 1 million dollar
15 bursary program with the Northern Lights College
16 Foundation to support access to skills and trades
17 training for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
18 students. We've also provided funding to the North
19 East Native Advancing Society, Northern
20 Opportunities, and the regional school districts to
21 support regional trades training and apprentice
22 programs.

23 Recognizing the unique role of local
24 governments in representing communities, we
25 established a local government liaison committee in

1 2010, expanding upon their participation in the
2 2008/2009 technical advisory committee process that
3 I referenced in my opening remarks on Monday.

4 The committee includes mayors, regional
5 directors and chief administrative officers from
6 the local and regional governments. I am pleased
7 to be able to chair this committee as it provides
8 our team with the opportunity to hear collectively
9 from regional leaders about their interests and
10 concerns.

11 But because each community also has specific
12 areas of interest and concern, we meet directly
13 with community officials and staff to share
14 information and discuss options to address issues
15 of importance to them.

16 BC Hydro recognizes the important role of the
17 Peace region and providing electricity to the
18 province, and we want to provide lasting, economic
19 and social benefits to the region. To that end, we
20 sought to negotiate a regional legacy benefits
21 agreement with the Peace River Regional District
22 and its member municipalities.

23 Agreement was reached and announced in June
24 of this year in which BC Hydro will provide an
25 annual payment of \$2.4 million, indexed to

1 inflation, for a period of 70 years once the Site C
2 project becomes operational.

3 In addition to the legacy benefit agreements,
4 we have been working closely with communities to
5 discuss potential direct effects of the project and
6 proposed mitigation and monitoring measures. While
7 not a requirement of the environmental assessment
8 process, we believe that reaching community
9 specific agreements will provide greater clarity to
10 communities about the implementation of proposed
11 mitigation and monitoring measures. I'm pleased
12 that we have a financial agreement with the
13 District of Chetwynd. We've also had constructive
14 discussions and anticipate an agreement shortly
15 with the District of Taylor.

16 Our discussions with the City of Fort St.
17 John are continuing, and we look forward to
18 resuming discussions with the District of Hudson's
19 Hope and Peace River Regional District in the near
20 future.

21 Before closing I'd like to share a few
22 examples of some of the proposed mitigation
23 measures that might be of interest to area
24 residents. We have committed to build 40 new
25 housing units in Fort St. John. These units will

1 be used temporarily by the project workforce during
2 construction. And then provided to the community
3 for long-term affordable housing following
4 construction.

5 Our camp will be fully serviced and not
6 reliant on municipal services. It will include
7 on-site recreation and emergency and medical
8 services, which address many concerns raised by
9 community residents. Further, our site safety and
10 security plans are being informed with input from
11 the RCMP and neighbouring communities, and we have
12 proposed to provide funding to support additional
13 RCMP resources that may be required in the region
14 as a result of the project.

15 We will support transportation and local road
16 safety improvements in the area. Some of these
17 include additional lighting along Highway 97
18 through Taylor, new highway message boards on
19 either side of the Taylor Bridge and improvements
20 to local roads.

21 To ensure maintenance of regional
22 transportation routes used by the project, we will
23 provide funding to the Ministry of Transportation
24 and Infrastructure to increase their pavement
25 condition monitoring and will fund any required

1 improvements.

2 To support regional recreation, we have
3 proposed to build three new permanent reservoir
4 boat launches, establish a community recreation
5 fund to support the development of new shoreline
6 wreck sites and to develop at least 20 new
7 long-stay serviced RV sites at Peace Island Park.

8 Finally, we heard from the not-for-profit
9 sector about the potential pressures on social
10 service providers and have proposed an annual
11 contribution of \$100,000 during construction per
12 year to support North and South Peace non-profit
13 organizations.

14 In addition, we've proposed direct
15 contributions to the local Salvation Army, North
16 Peace Community Resource Society and Women's
17 Resource Society to support transitional and
18 emergency housing.

19 These are just a few of the mitigation
20 measures that are proposed in the EIS and are
21 summarized in section 39.

22 I've shared with you a high-level summary of
23 our consultation with communities over the last six
24 years as well as some of the examples of mitigation
25 measures proposed to address the potential effects

1 of the project.

2 We recognize that our consultation efforts to
3 date have not resolved the concerns of all
4 participants. However, we have worked hard to hear
5 and to understand their concerns and to consider
6 them thoroughly in the work we have undertaken.

7 If we are successful in achieving
8 environmental certification, we will continue to
9 work with communities throughout the construction
10 and operation of this project.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to make opening
12 remarks. We look forward to the discussions this
13 afternoon.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Ms. Yurkovich.

15 I should have said one other thing and that
16 is that sometimes in this room it's hard to hear.
17 If anybody would like a set of earphones, you can
18 call at the Secretariat and they'll provide you a
19 loaner.

20 Thank you for those opening remarks.

21 I would like now to turn to the first of our
22 presenters this afternoon, Arlene and Ken Boon.
23 Welcome.

24

25 **Presentation by Arlene and Ken Boon:**

1 MR. KEN BOON: Thank you.

2 MS. ARLENE BOON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the
3 opportunity for Ken and I to speak today to present
4 to these public hearings.

5 We were told that man has lived in this
6 valley for about 10,000 years and maybe more. In
7 1793 Alexander Mackenzie became the first white
8 person through here on the historic crossing of the
9 North American continent. He was followed by other
10 explorers, fur traders and prospectors. The Rocky
11 Mountain Fort and other sites were established and
12 over 100 years of fur trading activity continued
13 before agricultural-based homesteading started as
14 well.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Could I ask you to bring the
16 microphone a little bit closer.

17 MS. ARLENE BOON: Certainly.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 MS. ARLENE BOON: I'll just get positioned
20 here.

21 My grandfather Lloyd Bentley Senior first
22 came to the Peace country in 1919 and homesteaded
23 near Rala (phonetic). He farmed and ranched there
24 and later near Dawson Creek. He started buying
25 land in the Bear Flat from the original

1 homesteaders in the 1940s and moved to Bear Flat in
2 1950s where he established a farm and ranch
3 operation.

4 My parents followed him from Dawson Creek and
5 moved to the adjoining land in 1959 where they
6 started their own ranch and where I was born and
7 raised.

8 In the 1970s, BC Hydro tried to buy my
9 grandfather's home and much of his land for Site C.
10 And at this time he did not have power at his
11 house. But he refused to sell, and as a direct
12 result his land stayed in the family after he
13 passed away.

14 Ken and I now own the lower part of my
15 grandfather's place, and we live in the same house
16 that he built in 1959.

17 I have lived in this house for 33 years.
18 Here we carry on a farming and mixed grain and hay
19 production. We also run the Bear Flat campground
20 that my parents started, and Ken and his partner --
21 and Ken is a partner in the log home construction
22 company and works from home.

23 My mother has lived with us since Dad passed
24 away in 1998. Her home is the original -- is the
25 restored original Bear Flat one-room log

1 schoolhouse built in 1921.

2 It is a recognized heritage building, and we
3 have several other historic buildings in our yard
4 as well. Four generations of Bentleys have lived
5 on the flat. My two sons were raised there and now
6 our grandchildren. The fifth generation are often
7 brought out to visit and we hope will live there
8 themselves one day.

9 In addition to making our living from the
10 home-based activities mentioned above, we also
11 receive many benefits from our home at Bear Flat in
12 the Peace River Valley. We are fortunate to have a
13 large vegetable garden, and there are several other
14 families from town that put in vegetable gardens
15 alongside ours. We also lease out some river
16 bottom land to a local family who operates a
17 successful market garden business.

18 There are excellent wild berries in the
19 Valley and I can a year's supply of saskatoons and
20 chokecherry fruit every year. Many people come out
21 to the Valley to pick berries as well.

22 Our home has an excellent domestic water
23 supply from the same spring that has been used by
24 white settlers and no doubt natives before that.
25 We heat our home with wood, and we have a plentiful

1 supply of firewood. In March of 2007, we opened
2 the door to the unofficial Bear Flat Museum in our
3 yard in the restored Jim Watson house, which was
4 originally built at the west end of Bear Flat.

5 To date, we have over 800 people through our
6 door. We guide school class and other tours
7 through the museum, the property and to highlight
8 the history, the unique agricultural capability,
9 critical wildlife habitat, and unfortunately how
10 Site C could destroy this all.

11 This Valley is one giant archaeological site.
12 There are many recognized heritage act sites on our
13 property and the adjoining Crown land.

14 The Dopp family homesteaded in 1917 where we
15 now live. Their daughter, Blanche, has told us how
16 their family found arrowheads by the pailful in
17 this flat. She also related how they picked
18 buffalo skulls along with roots when clearing the
19 land for farming. We continue to find arrowheads
20 and other artifacts in our home flat as well as
21 fossils and other paleontology in the creek beds
22 and washes. My sister found part of a mammoth tusk
23 along Cache Creek.

24 We enjoy all the wildlife viewing, hiking,
25 photography, boating, fishing and hunting that the

1 valley offers. This valley has a wide range of
2 biodiversity, critical winter habitat and critical
3 birthing grounds unique to the north for numerous
4 wildlife species.

5 South facing Native grass hillsides are
6 critical to winter and early spring survival of
7 wildlife. The Valley is also a critical travel
8 corridor for the important Yellowstone to Yukon
9 concept of connectivity.

10 The attachments titled "Wildlife Sightings
11 and Valley Activities" is our years' snapshots of
12 just that where we documented wildlife and
13 recreational activities that we witnessed from our
14 home.

15 We own land on the south facing river bank
16 hillsides that are a host to a grassland ecosystem
17 that offer critical water, wintering habitat.
18 These slopes are home to the prickly pear cactus,
19 and we endeavour to photograph them every year when
20 they flower, often on Canada Day. The Peace River
21 Valley is the only location in northern BC where
22 they are found.

23 The campground has a core group of regular
24 campers and groups that appreciate the beauty of
25 the valley and come back yearly. These are people

1 who appreciate our ban on ATV use and the quiet
2 nature of the campground. Part of our social
3 fabric is socializing with these people year after
4 year.

5 Various Native groups such as Treaty 8 and
6 individual communities hold gatherings at our camp
7 ground such as the annual Nenan youth and elders
8 camp. With our permission, an elder has from one
9 of the communities has erected a sweat lodge at the
10 campground, and it has been used every year since.

11 Paddle For the Peace is an event on the river
12 that draws several hundred people and boats. It is
13 put on by the Peace Valley Environment Association,
14 West Moberly First Nations and Halfway River First
15 Nations and with support from Treaty 8. It usually
16 involves either launching or take out of boats on
17 our river flat field, and Ken and I are on the
18 Paddle for the Peace committee and help out with it
19 every year.

20 We allow public access for fishing, hunting,
21 canoe launch and take out through our private land,
22 and we enjoy helping others to be able to utilize
23 the Valley that way. We consider people who live
24 30 miles up the valley as our neighbours, but our
25 nearest neighbours are miles away.

1 The above information is a snapshot of our
2 life in the Valley and touches on some of the
3 unique features. We often have a hard time
4 explaining how connected our life is to the river
5 valley and hope the above list sheds some light on
6 that. Most of our land would either be flooded,
7 impacted by statutory right of way or taken up by
8 the road alignment should this project proceed,
9 that includes our home and my mom's home.

10 It should be fairly obvious that everything
11 mentioned here, our heritage, livelihood, way of
12 life, and connection to this place will basically
13 be wiped out or burnt down as BC Hydro has done in
14 the past.

15 The destruction of our home place will have
16 grave impacts mentally and physically on us, our
17 family and our friends.

18 The valley is a special place in many ways,
19 and as a result families tend to stay here. There
20 are a number of multi general -- sorry.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you like to take a
22 short break?

23 Why don't we just break for three minutes
24 right now. Thank you.

25 MS. ARLENE BOON: Thank you.

1 **(Brief adjournment)**

2 MS. ARLENE BOON: Thank you.

3 The valley is a special place in many ways,
4 and as a result the families tend to stay here.
5 There are a number of multi-generational families
6 live in the valley on the same land that their
7 families homesteaded who have their own deep-rooted
8 attachments similar to ours.

9 They have developed a self-sustainable --
10 self-sufficient, sustainable lifestyle in tune with
11 the valley. They have an appreciation for the
12 farmland, the river, the forest, the grassland
13 hills and all the other features that are blended
14 together in this unique valley.

15 Furthermore, this stretch of valley is a
16 special place for many people who do not live in
17 the valley but have their own attachment to it for
18 various reasons. We are constantly reminded of
19 this by the many visitors who encounter -- who we
20 encounter who are drawn to the valley and are
21 horrified to think that most of this -- that it
22 will be lost by a reservoir.

23 We have had a few visitors to our home who
24 were in favour of the dam but slowly changed their
25 mind as they spent time in the valley. Over the

1 years we have seen the effects happening to some
2 BC Hydro employees working on the Site C file, but
3 after a while for some reason we don't see them
4 anymore.

5 BC Hydro fails to acknowledge the involuntary
6 displacement in the EIS. A study which explored
7 the experience of farmers and ranchers who were
8 involved in an involuntary displace by the Oldman
9 River dam in southern Alberta concluded that while
10 families and land owners were compensated
11 financially for the market value of their buildings
12 and land, the loss of their home was neither
13 acknowledged or valued.

14 It is important to remember that in addition
15 to not wishing to sell their land, most of the
16 people in this valley are opposed to the project,
17 and many are actively engaged in fighting the
18 project.

19 MR. KEN BOON: Any project that has a
20 27,000-page environmental impact statement
21 obviously has a big environmental impact. Almost
22 every aspect of the Site C project is negative.
23 Much of the 7.9 billion-dollar price tag for Site C
24 is needed for things that have nothing do with
25 producing electricity. A large amount of money

1 presumably will be used for countless mitigation,
2 legacy and compensation measures that have been
3 identified, often with results that would be
4 unsatisfactory.

5 In fact, BC Hydro acknowledges in the EIS
6 that many adverse effects of the project cannot be
7 mitigated and are given a determination of
8 significance.

9 Northeast BC is a very resource-rich area and
10 the extractions of these resources have a very real
11 environmental impact.

12 Furthermore, the expansion of the shale gas
13 sector is expected to expand if LNG exports become
14 a reality. The EIS fails to look at these and
15 other cumulative impacts on the region. Perhaps
16 the most obvious oversight is the failure to
17 consider the accumulative impacts from the previous
18 dams up river.

19 In our opinion, these and other issues with
20 this project do not adhere to the principles of
21 sustainability as proposed in here in document
22 number 1644, which is a proposal for a frame work
23 for sustainability-based assessment for the Site C
24 joint panel review.

25 For an example of this, let's look at a

1 snapshot of the highway realignment required in our
2 little stretch of Bear Flat. So what we've done
3 here is taken -- this is an aerial photograph
4 looking north over top of our place, and you can
5 see the existing highway, and then the black line
6 is where we draw in -- where the new highway would
7 go as proposed by BC Hydro on their maps, so -- and
8 most of the highway on the bottom part there would
9 all be submerged by reservoir, so that's why of
10 course the highway is getting moved up north, and
11 of course all that farmland and everything else
12 down below there.

13 So we'll pretend we're coming in from the top
14 right side. That's the east side, and we're
15 driving west towards Hudson's Hope. So driving
16 west on Highway 29 from Fort St. John, one comes
17 down the steep hill into Bear Flat. Part way down,
18 the highway has to be relocated with a sharper
19 corner to avoid the reservoir. Then the new road
20 goes through class 1 and 2 farmland until it runs
21 right through our home. That's where the first
22 arrow is there. And that's not just our house, but
23 that's Arlene 's mom's house and our whole yard
24 there.

25 Then the little 2.5 million-dollar existing

1 bridge is bypassed for a new mega project. Almost
2 a quarter mile long to cross a deep canyon over the
3 new reservoir. Normally a new causeway of this
4 magnitude would involve a grand opening with the
5 Premier in attendance, but, no, this is just a
6 byproduct of trying to put a highway alongside a
7 reservoir to replace a perfectly good existing
8 road.

9 The road then goes right through a major arc
10 site, just missing a grave site, which is now under
11 water to run right into an active First Nations'
12 sweat lodge, and then it runs right through the
13 middle of our campground, and its entire
14 infrastructure, and that's the arrow you see on the
15 left-hand side. Then the new road carries on doing
16 more destruction on other people's land for a total
17 of 8.5 kilometres.

18 Now, as mentioned this is the just the Bear
19 Flat stretch, so there are many more areas similar
20 to this, and the Halfway River part is really
21 crazy. This in our opinion is not sustainable
22 development.

23 Do we truly need this electricity? Even if
24 we do, in this day and age, is this still the best
25 way to produce it? We say not.

1 Having lived in the valley threatened with
2 destruction from a proposed hydro dam for many
3 years, Arlene and I have developed an interest in
4 energy use and production. We have become
5 conscious of our own consumption, and have taken
6 many steps to try to reduce wasteful practices and
7 are aware there is more to do yet. Our society has
8 only scratched the surface for potential savings
9 through conservation.

10 We live in a province with tremendous
11 opportunity to develop clean and green
12 alternatives, but we seem to be lacking the
13 political will to do so. Our government has been
14 very openly supportive of the Site C dam, and it is
15 frustrating for many of us to see the measures
16 taken by them to promote it at the expense of the
17 lost of opportunity of pursuing other methods.

18 Due to the **Clean Energy Act**, the only major
19 new infrastructure project BC Hydro can pursue
20 themselves is the Site C dam. That is still
21 reflected in the latest IRP where the emphasis is
22 on the Site C dam.

23 BC has many other options we should be
24 actively using. Many of these have been
25 highlighted in the last two days, and the following

1 is just one small example of that Arlene and I can
2 speak to.

3 Arlene and I have an agreement with BC Hydro
4 whereby we installed 14 solar panels and net
5 metering back into the grid. BC Hydro has an
6 interconnections department to deal with people
7 like us who wish to grid tie with solar panels,
8 wind turbines, et cetera. Whereby instead of
9 charging batteries when more power is produced and
10 consumed, the excess power is fed back into the
11 BC Hydro grid system and people receive a credit on
12 their bill.

13 Net metering in our opinion is the 100 mile
14 diet of electricity. Our excess power is likely
15 used by our neighbours. We are all getting smart
16 meters, and with net metering, we make the grid
17 smart. The existing infrastructure is put to
18 greater use with electrons flowing both ways as
19 required and with no need for expensive expansion
20 of the infrastructure. Net metering is also the
21 perfect incentive program to conserve electricity,
22 because people realize it is possible to receive a
23 credit instead of a bill in the mail through the
24 combination of conserving and produce electricity.
25 And as individuals, you know, it's impossible for

1 us to produce fossil fuel, but it's really quite
2 easy to produce electricity.

3 And with the recent rate hikes in BC, the
4 payback on net metering systems will be more
5 feasible as well.

6 However, it remains one of the best kept
7 secrets from the general public, and it's not
8 publicly promoted at all. As of the spring of this
9 year, BC Hydro's net metering program had a total
10 of 228 projects installed. Like, in our opinion,
11 that should be much higher. I am told that BC is
12 one of the few jurisdictions in North America where
13 there is not an incentive program in place to help
14 encourage consumers to take part in that metering,
15 but we are also told that Alberta and even Texas
16 does have that.

17 Strictly from an energy security point of
18 view, we question the wisdom of our province
19 relying on so much of -- relying on a series of
20 hydro dams on just two rivers for such a large
21 percentage of its powering. And let's not forget
22 the W.A.C. Bennett Dam sink holes back in 1996 and
23 the uncertainly of climate change effects on
24 electricity.

25 In our opinion, what we need to do is upgrade

1 existing facilities, pursue a mix of clean and
2 green renewables, including geothermal, net
3 metering, demand side management, and then top it
4 up with some sensible use of natural gas, and that
5 would give us a truly diverse and perhaps in
6 Christy Clark's words, world class portfolio.

7 The Peace River valley is a low-elevation
8 river valley in the far north with a unique
9 microclimate, far removed from any comparable
10 farmland. Much of the land we farm at Bear Flat is
11 class 1 and 2 farmland.

12 This valley has the only class 1 land north
13 of Quesnel in the province of BC. Corn will always
14 mature in our garden, and melons that are started
15 under cover will ripen in the garden as well. The
16 river bottom soil types are perfectly suited to
17 large scale mechanical harvesting of potatoes and
18 other rooted-type vegetables. The Peace River
19 country of BC and Alberta has many thousands of
20 acres of acres of good grain farm and country, but
21 the irreplaceable value of the threatened river
22 valley is its ability for market garden production.
23 With rising fossil fuel prices, rising demand for
24 local food production, uncertainty with future
25 climate change impacts and concern for future

1 northern food security, to purposely flood this
2 valley is madness.

3 Site C would involve the largest extraction
4 of high-capability farmland from the agricultural
5 land reserve in British Columbia for a single
6 project by far. This is proposed in the province
7 where less than 5 percent of our area is arable
8 farmland, and we produce only about 45 percent of
9 our food. Meanwhile, we're arguably
10 self-sufficient with electricity right now, and we
11 have so many other options to be self-sufficient in
12 the future without flooding farmland.

13 Where is the protection for this farmland?
14 Will the Agricultural Land Commission receive an
15 application for the removal of this land from the
16 agricultural land reserves? How about the
17 provincial interest clause under the ***Agricultural***
18 ***Land Commission Act?***

19 Its use would require the provincial
20 government to hold hearings throughout the
21 province. I understand the first criteria under
22 that clause is protection of farmland.

23 As BC residents, BC Hydro customers and
24 affected landowners, it seems that our rights are
25 being trampled by the push to build Site C. The

1 Crown grants -- and that's a copy of a Crown grant
2 right there that Arlene's holding for our home
3 quarter. The Crown grants for various titles of
4 land make it abundantly clear that the government
5 or in this case BC Hydro cannot take the land
6 necessary for the proposed reservoir.

7 The various Crown grant historic titles have
8 different wording depending on their vintage, and
9 the following example that I'll read is from our
10 home quarter Crown grant that's written right on
11 that right there. And that was granted in
12 September 15th of 1926, where it says:

13
14 "So as nevertheless that the
15 land so to be resumed and taken,
16 shall not exceed 120th part of the
17 area hereby granted."

18
19 Now, this is on a quarter section that would
20 all be needed by BC Hydro for Site C. So a hundred
21 percent of it's gone.

22 Now, where our society expects that the use
23 of the Crown's power of expropriation be reserved
24 for where it is required for a public need or
25 benefit, there is a problem. Who needs this power?

1 Our political leaders keep telling us that they
2 believe that Site C is needed for industrial use
3 such as LNG and powering the Horn River Basin. So
4 then we ask: Is your society prepared to see land
5 expropriated to flood a river valley for the
6 benefit of industrial uses by corporations for
7 profit?

8 Furthermore, the flood reserve was only
9 placed on Crown land in the valley to an elevation
10 of 1,525 feet above sea level in 1957. However, it
11 was not placed on private property. And,
12 therefore, our titles do not have any mention of a
13 flood reserve or any such charges, liens or
14 interest. The fact that this government has not
15 permitted BC Utilities Commission oversight at this
16 project is not only shameful but could result in a
17 financial disaster.

18 In fact, it could be argued that it already
19 has. The Site C project has cost around
20 \$300 million so far, and this has not been paid
21 for. That cost has been deferred, a practice
22 slammed by our auditor general of BC. I mean, it
23 would also be a sad irony that the people who lose
24 their land would end up paying increased rates to
25 pay for this destructive mega project.

1 Much will be said on wildlife issues, and we
2 do have our own wildlife report attachment as
3 mentioned earlier, and it's on the written
4 submission that we submitted earlier. However, due
5 to time constraints, I just want to tell a couple
6 short stories on wildlife in the valley. This
7 first one, it's an example of a specific incident
8 that we have seen firsthand and never been captured
9 or reported in a BC Hydro funded study.

10 On April 13 and 14 of 2012, a widespread
11 spring snowstorm swept through the entire northeast
12 of BC. However, as often happens in these spring
13 and fall storms, it came mostly as rain down in the
14 Peace River Valley bottoms. So where the entire
15 northeast was covered in several inches of wet
16 snow, the Peace River Valley was still bare ground
17 and was likely the only such place for hundreds of
18 miles.

19 And then we started to notice robins
20 everywhere, and then more and more robins. And it
21 got to the point where there were thousands of
22 robins around our home. Our river bottom field is
23 140 acres in size. And we estimated there was 2-
24 to 3,000 robins just there. I actually saw an
25 albino robin among them.

1 We noticed traffic slowing down on the
2 highway to avoid hitting them. I drove to the west
3 end of Bear Flat, and there were just as many
4 robins in the fields there as well. There were
5 many other birds as well and many hawks swooping in
6 trying to kill what they could. From talking with
7 neighbours, this situation occurred all through the
8 valley, up towards Hudson's Hope. These conditions
9 lasted for two days and the river valley was likely
10 key to the survival of many of these birds. A
11 reservoir would take this unique and essential
12 feature away from the north forever.

13 For that reason and all the other arguments
14 we're hearing, our society has to scrap the Site C
15 project, remove the flood reserve, and move forward
16 with options that are not so disruptive.

17 In closing I just want to tell one more
18 wildlife story. Just over three weeks ago, on
19 Sunday afternoon of November 17th, Arlene and I
20 decided to take a break from working on our written
21 submission for these hearings and go for a walk.
22 It was snowing and about minus 13 degrees. We
23 crossed Cache Creek and climbed up to the grave
24 site point when we struck fresh tracks from a
25 fair-sized grizzly bear in the snow. From our

1 vantage point, we followed his tracks with
2 binoculars as best we could to see where he crossed
3 Highway 29, and he headed into the river flat bush
4 going south towards the river.

5 Almost every year in November we strike a
6 grizzly track following this same general route.
7 Where does he spend his summer? Where is his den?
8 What will he do if one fall he comes through and
9 there's a reservoir in his way that is over 1
10 kilometre wide at that point and with sloughed-in
11 banks? I guess we will never know since the
12 grizzly and black bears were not included in the
13 studies for this project. We hope that our
14 grandkids and their grandkids can continue to see
15 the tracks of a grizzly bear in a November
16 snowstorm heading to its den in the valley.

17 Thank you. And we welcome any questions.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

19 **(Applause)**

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, hold your applause
21 for a more public occasion.

22 I looked at my watch and just to discover
23 that you were perfectly on time, and it was I who
24 had forgot to allow people to ask questions of
25 Hydro. So what I would propose is that we -- while

1 you're on the stands ask if anybody in the audience
2 has some questions they would like to put to you,
3 and then we'll come back to Hydro and see if there
4 are questions relating to their introductory
5 remarks.

6 So questions for the Boons?

7 Madam Beaudet.

8 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 Living so many years in the valley and
10 witnessing an event like you had with the robins,
11 are there any other major events that have an
12 impact like this one that you'd like to tell us
13 about in terms of observing wildlife?

14 MR. BOON: Well, I would say every year
15 at certain times we see wildlife events that are
16 unique to the valley. Where we live, there is a
17 lot of wildlife in the north country here, but
18 especially in the late winter/early spring when the
19 hillside start bearing off, we notice every year
20 that's such a key, key time and area for the
21 wildlife to utilize those hill sites. At home --
22 we have a lot of mule deer at home, but we don't
23 see very many white tail throughout the year. They
24 stay in the north country and then the bush country
25 and the top benches. But sometimes there's a

1 two-week stretch there where we'll see, you know,
2 dozens or even hundreds of them on them hillsides.
3 And because that's so key to their survival at that
4 time. And then once the snow melts in the back
5 country, then they move back. But there's a short
6 period of time there where it's so critical.

7 And the robin event -- we've seen that robin
8 event actually several times. And I would say
9 almost every second year there's -- either in the
10 spring or in fall there's one of those snowstorms,
11 but it will not snow in the valley. And you know,
12 it's just an elevation thing and microclimate
13 thing. And there's a definite heavy snow line.
14 And sometimes it's just -- it's even on our flat.
15 You know, our flat looks flat, but it's does
16 slow -- slowly slope up. And sometimes it's right
17 just past our house, and -- and there's just birds
18 everywhere. And I always talk about it with the
19 neighbours up the valley, and they see the same
20 thing.

21 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you.

22 BC Hydro, do you have any comments on that?
23 You want to reserve any comments when we do the
24 wildlife section?

25 MS. YURKOVICH: Yes. I think that was our

1 understanding as we would cover that off at the
2 topic specific.

3 MS. BEAUDET: I'd like to go on to another
4 aspect which is the impact lines of the reservoir,
5 and I believe we have Ms. Reynier here today, so
6 we'll take advantage of your presence.

7 I think it would be useful for us to
8 understand when you have people impacted on the
9 land like that, how do you determine what is
10 impacted? Do you go according to your flood impact
11 line or your erosion impact line? If we could put
12 on the screen figure 11.2.10, that would help the
13 discussion.

14 MS. YURKOVICH: Madam Beaudet, would you like
15 us to wait until the figure is up?

16 MS. BEAUDET: Yeah, I think it will be
17 useful.

18 Yes, please, go ahead.

19 MS. REYNIER: Would it be helpful if I
20 introduced myself and told you what my role was on
21 the project?

22 So my name is Judith Reynier, spelled,
23 R-e-y-n-i-e-r. I'm the manager of the properties
24 department for the Site C project. I work with a
25 team of approximately ten people, and what we are

1 charged with is the responsibility of acquiring and
2 managing the land and rights that are required for
3 the project. So one of the first things that we
4 had to do was determine what that land and what
5 those rights were. And we've described that in
6 Chapter 11.3. But if you would like me to discuss
7 the figure that's on the -- sorry, the map that's
8 up. So we would acquire -- the land that's
9 flooded, we would acquire in fee simple as well as
10 the lands that's required for the highway
11 realignment. And there are six sections where the
12 highway is realigned for the project.

13 We would also acquire land in fee simple for
14 the dam site and any permanent structures.

15 Our mandate is to maximize the flexibility of
16 land use and to minimize the amount of land that's
17 taken for the project. So we were asked to do that
18 by the BCUC in 1983. So what we will be doing is
19 where there isn't a need to buy land in fee simple
20 because it's totally taken by the project. We're
21 going to buy a statutory -- we'll require rights in
22 the form of a statutory right of way. So that's
23 limited rights on the land. The land owner still
24 owns the underlying land. And the rights provide
25 for BC Hydro's -- for the effects of the project in

1 the case of the impact lines, for the erosion
2 impact line, the flood impact line and the
3 stability impact line. Within those zones, certain
4 uses are safe and therefore allowable.

5 Other areas where BC Hydro would acquire land
6 or temporary rights to the land would be where
7 there's a shorter use of the land, for example, an
8 access road to a clearing site. So we would get --
9 acquire temporary rights for something that had a
10 short-term need.

11 So the engineers did the studies and have
12 drafted the impact lines around the reservoir. And
13 what we've done is we've been to each of the
14 property owners who stand to be affected by those
15 impact lines and discussed the impact lines in
16 relation to their individual properties.

17 We were able to sit down with I would say
18 about 90 percent of the people who are in that
19 position. Other people had told us they just
20 wanted the information by mail. And I think there
21 were three people in the entire reservoir that we
22 simply haven't been able to get ahold of.

23 MS. BEAUDET: What happens when you have
24 land acquired as Mrs. and Mr. Boon has acquired
25 through a government grant many, many years ago?

1 Because I believe that quite a few families in the
2 valley, for instance, when they came back from the
3 War as veterans they got land, et cetera. So what
4 type of fee do you apply to that, or are you
5 allowed to acquire those land?

6 MS. REYNIER: I'm sorry, you said, what
7 kind of ...

8 MS. BEAUDET: You were talking of single
9 [sic] fee earlier.

10 MS. REYNIER: Fee simple. Fee simple.

11 MS. BEAUDET: Okay.

12 MS. REYNIER: Yes. And that's the Crown
13 grants -- the Crown granted lands that Mr. and
14 Mrs. Boon own are fee simple lands.

15 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: While we have the Boons here,
17 I would like to ask, you mentioned a complicated
18 process for taking the land out of the Agricultural
19 Land Reserve. Could you describe that process,
20 please.

21 MR. BOON: Yes. Well, because most --
22 all of the land down in the valley there, most of
23 it is covered by the Agricultural Land Reserve.
24 And so it's virtually impossible to take any of
25 that land out of the land reserve. You know, it

1 has to be kept for agriculture purposes, so -- and
2 we were told that one time, this provincial
3 interest clause, when the framework of -- there was
4 actually a framework established at one time under
5 that clause, where if there was going to be a major
6 extraction of farmland such as this, it would
7 require public hearings throughout the province.
8 And in fact, the example they used as a possible
9 project was Site C dam. This was told to us by the
10 former head of the ALC, Kirk Miller. And so -- and
11 I don't know what's happened to that. We don't
12 hear anything -- we don't hear any talk about
13 that's going to be the case and that there is going
14 to be separate hearings for such a major extraction
15 of farmland. In fact, maybe BC Hydro could answer
16 that question.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, maybe we should take
18 advantage of Ms. Reynier's presence and ask what is
19 your understanding of getting land out of the ALR?

20 MS. REYNIER: I'm actually going to pass
21 that to Susan, to Susan Yurkovich to answer.

22 MS. YURKOVICH: Yes. So there is a process
23 that would be required under the Agriculture Land
24 Commission. Our understanding is should this
25 project be successful in achieving certification,

1 the government would determine how those lands
2 would be removed if they would be removed.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: I see. In the possible case
4 that some land owners within the affected area did
5 not wish to sell or didn't like your price or
6 something like that, what happens then?

7 MS. REYNIER: So BC Hydro's preferred
8 option and far and away the most commonly used
9 option is to negotiate a settlement with
10 landowners. So landowner -- the conversation is
11 prescribed in legislation about how to compensate
12 landowners, and they're entitled to compensation
13 for the land and any buildings that are on it. And
14 compensation would be due for the statutory right
15 of way.

16 There are other elements of compensation that
17 are also included, for example, business loss. If
18 somebody's operating a business from the land,
19 they're entitled to the business loss for that.
20 Timber values, if the Crown grant contains the
21 timber in it, then possibly the value of the timber
22 would be compensable. Things like moving costs,
23 getting expert advice, whether it be from land
24 appraisers or geologists or lawyers. Those
25 items, -- those elements of compensation are all

1 compensable.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: That assumes a negotiated
3 agreement, does it?

4 MS. REYNIER: That is -- that assumes a
5 negotiated agreement.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: And in an extreme, if that's
7 not possible, what happens?

8 MS. REYNIER: If that's not possible
9 BC Hydro does have the power of expropriation under
10 section 16 of the **BC Hydro and Power Authority Act**.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Are there other
12 questions that people would like to raise up?

13 We have one and two. Go ahead.

14 MS. CULLING: Thank you Mr. Chair.

15 My name is Diane Culling, C-u-l-l-i-n-g.

16 So the question that I have is with respect
17 to the slide of the cabin that was on the edge of
18 the Williston reservoir. And given that the
19 Williston reservoir, the erosion impacts have
20 continued for the many decades since impoundment,
21 and I believe that they actually exceeded what
22 BC Hydro projected at that time. So I have -- my
23 question is twofold: what are the existing -- what
24 is the compensation for lands that are impacted
25 from the existing Williston reservoir that -- lands

1 that are lost over long-time erosion and sloughing
2 at the current day, and then what would
3 compensation be for long-term loss of lands
4 after -- if Site C were to go through?

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Hydro?

6 MS. REYNIER: So the lands around the
7 Williston reservoir were purchased I believe it was
8 in the 1960s. I can check that for you, but I
9 believe it was in the 1960s. And what BC Hydro did
10 in that era was a long time ago. What they did in
11 that era was they purchased what they called
12 blanket easements. So it was temporary -- sorry,
13 it limited rights over the entire parcel of land,
14 but it didn't preclude uses the way I talked about
15 for the Site C project.

16 So what happened with the -- in the land
17 that's shown in the photo is the then owner built a
18 building on a slope that was subject to erosion.
19 And the document that was in place didn't preclude
20 that person doing that. So we've actually --
21 since -- BC Hydro has since purchased that piece of
22 land. That building disappeared a long, long time
23 ago and that piece of land has been purchased by
24 BC Hydro.

25 MS. CULLING: That didn't actually answer

1 my question. I wasn't asking specifically about
2 that, that cabin. I was asking -- I know I
3 recreate on the Williston reservoir in the winter
4 and summer and am very familiar with the erosion.
5 And quite frankly, I think that the erosion -- this
6 is just a layperson's opinion -- certainly it
7 doesn't seem to be declining. It seems to be --
8 you know, certainly the extent doesn't seem to be
9 declining, but I am familiar with the fact that
10 multiple properties along the Dunlevy Road have
11 lost land to erosion. So I'm not talking about
12 that specific piece of property. I'm talking about
13 the general practice.

14 MS. REYNIER: The purchasing of the blanket
15 easements in the Williston area and the subsequent
16 erosion that happened, we, as I said before quite
17 clearly, we're doing things differently on the
18 Site C project. We will not be doing that. We're
19 buying a statutory right of way to cover the area
20 from the stability impact line right down to the
21 edge of the flooding. And within that document we
22 will preclude the building of residences so that
23 doesn't -- so we don't have that situation occur
24 again.

25 Property owners will be compensated. When

1 BC Hydro buys the right of way, the property owners
2 are compensated for the right of way.

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have a supplementary
4 question?

5 MS. CULLING: Yes. Just if I could
6 clarify, then -- so with -- on the existing Dunlevy
7 Road properties that have lost -- you know, I
8 believe one property has lost 50 percent of the
9 parcel. So that property was compensated in
10 current day for the value of the land that they've
11 lost or it wasn't? For those landowners who are --
12 so I'd like to know if there is anything with the
13 properties that we were seeing losing land now, is
14 there any compensation for those?

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: You're speaking with respect
16 to Williston Lake?

17 MS. CULLING: Right, right.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All right. I
19 understand.

20 MS. CULLING: To understand -- yeah. And I
21 appreciate the ...

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have a comment about
23 current problems on Williston?

24 MS. REYNIER: We are talking to the
25 property owners, there's about 21 of them, I think,

1 in total. And we're currently speaking to them and
2 negotiating for the acquisition of additional
3 rights on their land, and I -- I -- yeah.

4 MS. CULLING: Thank you.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Madame Beaudet has a question and a
7 clarification.

8 MS. BEAUDET: Let us summarize here. So
9 you don't think differently for Site C, we agree.
10 You will buy the land or negotiate to buy the land
11 or expropriate the land that will be flooded.
12 After that, you say that you're going to buy right
13 of way but preclude people to do anything with the
14 right of way between the flood line and the
15 stability impact line, or is it the erosion impact
16 line on this map there? Which one, please?

17 MS. REYNIER: No, it's certainly not to
18 preclude that the property owner does anything.
19 The idea of putting a statutory right of way in
20 place rather than buying the land is to actually
21 allow for that land use flexibility. So for
22 example, the farming of the land could continue to
23 go on. And with further geotechnical review, it
24 may be possible that buildings can remain even in
25 that area. We would need to check the exact piece

1 of land because it varies quite a lot up and down
2 the reservoir.

3 MS. BEAUDET: If eventually there is a loss
4 of building or loss of use, then you will
5 compensate when that happens?

6 MS. REYNIER: Yes.

7 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you.

8 MR. CHAIRMAN: Ma'am.

9 MS. PHILLIPS: My name is Rosemary Phillips.
10 I've been a resident of the Peace River for over
11 25, 30 years. And so I'm very much interested in
12 saving this valley.

13 My question is -- I'm back to that cabin.
14 And the soil around the banks has eroded. It's
15 sedimentary soil. And it's montmorillonitic
16 [phonetic] -- I can't pronounce it that well.
17 Montmorillonite clay. It will always be sloughing.
18 What study has been done that this will continue?
19 Because our river valley will go down the river and
20 the land will be lost forever. So I'd like to
21 direct this question to BC Hydro: How much study
22 has been done on this type of clay?

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: Hydro?

24 MS. PHILLIPS: There has been some research,
25 I've submitted a written submission, and I

1 addressed that. And the Montmorillonite clay is a
2 serious problem. How much study have you done on
3 that?

4 MR. NUNN: Mr. Chair.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nunn.

6 MR. NUNN: Volume 2, appendix B,
7 section 2 contains a technical data report which
8 basically describes all the investigations along
9 the reservoir shoreline and the various geological
10 sections which exist there. And those specific
11 geotechnical conditions have been taken into
12 account in establishing the impact lines.

13 MS. PHILLIPS: This clay -- this type of
14 soil cannot be controlled. As the water rises, the
15 soil will -- there's going to be an incline, and
16 the gravitational forces will force the land into
17 the river. Nobody can control that. So what kind
18 of a study did you do about this particular soil?
19 That's what I'd like to -- I'd like to address that
20 and find out this information where this study was
21 done.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nunn?

23 MR. NUNN: Mr. Chair, that was all taken
24 into account in those studies. There aren't -- the
25 Montmorillonite clay does exist in some of the

1 glacial lacustrine deposits. There was a study
2 done by BGC Consultants. They're the expert on
3 that matter. They'll be in the topic-specific
4 session on January the 14th when we get into more
5 detail. But I think it's fair to say that the
6 processes which have been described by the speaker
7 have been recognized and taken into account in the
8 analysis, and that is what results in the erosion
9 impact line and the stability impact line based on
10 the specifics of the geology and every section
11 around the reservoir.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

13 We will be returning to geo technical
14 questions at a topic specific section in January.

15 MS. PHILLIPS: I can find a place where this
16 has been studied. You know, is there a clause
17 where I can take a look and see exactly what's been
18 done so far because --

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. Yes, there is. And may
20 I ask you to have a word with Hydro offline about
21 that because I know that they do have some work on
22 that.

23 MS. PHILLIPS: Okay. Thank you.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 Chief Willson.

1 CHIEF WILLSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Good
2 afternoon. We heard earlier during the Boons'
3 presentation about the grizzly bear, there is a
4 Yellowstone to Yukon conservation initiative going
5 right now on trying to protect the last remaining
6 habitat of grizzly bear from the Yukon all the way
7 down to Yellowstone. They've identified in their
8 conservation document the pinch point of this whole
9 conservation area is the Peace break. This area
10 that's being identified as the inundation zone
11 Site C.

12 An a part of our so-called consultation
13 process, the Treaty 8 First Nations requested
14 numerous times studies being done -- to be done on
15 bear, especially grizzly bear because they are a
16 special animal for us. I would like to know why
17 grizzly bear were not studied, or bear at all in
18 this area? We have pictures. There are bear
19 there. You've heard earlier that the grizzly bear
20 has been there.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Chief Willson, that specific
22 question I'm sure is going to come up in the
23 topical session on wildlife in some detail. If
24 Hydro has an immediate response to that, it might
25 be helpful.

1 MS. JACKSON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

2 As you mentioned we will be having our
3 experts attending the wildlife sessions in January
4 to speak to this in detail. We've also responded
5 in several of the information requests throughout
6 the spring and fall on this topic.

7 In general terms, we established this study
8 program beginning in 2007 and 2008. It included
9 consultation and advice from the Ministry of
10 Environment locally. With their input, the program
11 at the time and as we continued did not focus on
12 bears, grizzly bears, for one reason, primarily
13 because they're considered to be not -- not
14 substantially present in a population in the valley
15 of -- which is advice from the Ministry of
16 Environment. Black bear are commonly found on the
17 landscape and were not considered to be a
18 vulnerable species or a species considered
19 vulnerable. And for those reasons, the program
20 didn't focus on bears at the time.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm thinking of that bear
22 that comes down the hillside in November. Is he on
23 his way to Yellowstone for the winter?

24 Next speaker.

25

1 **Presentation by Jim Little:**

2 MR. LITTLE: Yes, thanks.

3 It's Jim Little, L-i-t-t-l-e. And I'm going
4 to qualify some of what I'm going to say. I'm a
5 professional agrologist, professional forester and
6 a professional appraiser.

7 To speak to just -- shortly to speak on
8 Williston Lake, I was involved with the land
9 settlement stuff on Williston Lake because I worked
10 for the BC Government at that time in the lands
11 department.

12 For 35 years of my history was with BC
13 government and lands. The land that was traded on
14 the Williston reservoir, what Hydro did was they
15 acquired Crown land and traded it for some of the
16 private land that they flooded under Williston
17 Lake. And at that time some of my recommendations
18 that I find which are on record on those files that
19 said -- suggested that those lands were erodible
20 and could easily fall under the deal, but to
21 accomplish the settlements with the landowners,
22 they went ahead with it. So now we are
23 compensating again. So that point made.

24 To go on further in terms of the Agricultural
25 Land Commission, which I've done a lot of stuff

1 with and was partly involved with the creation of
2 the land reserves in the Peace River and that
3 because we had to review that in my capacity in
4 government at that time.

5 To remove land in the ALR is significantly
6 hard. And you're allowed to do certain actions on
7 agriculture land reserves, but to do that you have
8 to get their permission if you're going to put a
9 gravel pit and so on, so forth.

10 But in the cases of Hydro for this reservoir,
11 it goes beyond that. The government's already said
12 how they would deal with that. They will do it by
13 Cabinet order. They'll just -- the land commission
14 will have little to no end to that. They've
15 already said that politically.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, could you slow down.

17 Transcription is having trouble keeping up with
18 you.

19 MR. LITTLE: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 MR. LITTLE: They have said that's how it
22 would be dealt. And then to put some truth to
23 that, as we've already heard, the Ministry of
24 Agriculture is stating he's in favour of the
25 project and he also looks after the land

1 commission. So I think that covers itself.

2 The final point I'll make, and that's to do
3 with the Boons' presentation. I think it was a
4 good presentation. But beyond that, they didn't
5 mention some of the stuff that they are doing,
6 which is co-operation. They are doing -- it is
7 co-operation with the government. They have a
8 significant gravel quarry on their properties which
9 supplies the provincial government with significant
10 aggregate and road services and material for the
11 province. And that is within their lands. So as
12 much as that they're saying we would not like the
13 government to do stuff on our lands, they more than
14 cooperated at this point in time to assist in
15 government to accomplish a lot of development and
16 stuff in this area.

17 Thank you very much.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 The gentleman -- yes, sir.

20 MR. APSASSIN: Clarence Apsassin. I'm a
21 member of Blueberry First Nation and also a member
22 of Treaty 8 Territory.

23 My question to BC Hydro is quite a simple
24 one. Before the treaty was signed in 1899, how was
25 the compensation handled? In terms of the use of

1 the land, how is that compensation going to be
2 handled today?

3 We've used the land in the Peace River since
4 my great-great grandfather signed the Treaty and my
5 great-great grandfather beyond that. I know
6 stories of the land use in the Tettachi area
7 through the Moberly Lake, the shortcuts that were
8 taken in the Peace River, the crossings and those
9 lands.

10 In terms of the compensation that you guys
11 are talking about for the fee simple lands, land
12 being held in today's terminology, I hear from
13 BC Hydro is that they have to go to the cabinets,
14 they have to go to the government and the
15 government determines on those compensations are
16 going to be paid to the landowners.

17 How is that going to be looked at in terms of
18 the First Nations' land use that's taken away from
19 us, that we've used for decades and years in the
20 valley where we fished and hunted and harvested in
21 those specific areas?

22 We do not camp there anymore out of respect
23 of the farmers that live there in those areas. We
24 have specific sites that we've travelled through
25 there and hunted and harvested wildlife that's

1 sustained us for time on end. How is that going to
2 be compensated in today's terminology? How are you
3 going to determine the loss over the decades before
4 the Treaty was signed?

5 We were Aboriginal owners of that land before
6 the Treaty was signed. The Treaty was signed in
7 1899. The first white man came into this country
8 was 1793. Actually it was in 1780 I heard from my
9 great grandfather's stories up in that area. So
10 how is BC Hydro going to determine the compensation
11 for the First Nations also of the land use that's
12 being lost today for the last how many years?

13 Even in the Williston Lake area, for example,
14 do you guys have answers for those? How are we
15 going to do this? How is the government going to
16 determine it? How is BC Hydro going to do this?
17 Because I think in my own opinion, it will be hard
18 to do. You're going to have to sit down with not
19 only the First Nations but the landowners
20 collectively and gotta come up with a strategy to
21 do that.

22 But also, remember, by doing this, we're not
23 actually negotiating for the loss of the land in
24 the valley at all. We do not want that flooded.
25 So we can't predetermine, can't prenegotiate this

1 by hearings like this.

2 It's like the consultation process. What is
3 consultation versus what's real and what's not, for
4 example? So that's my question.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That was a
7 powerful question and seems to encapsulate a great
8 deal of the history of the country right there. We
9 will be spending some time on Aboriginal rights and
10 Treaty rights later on, But I would certainly allow
11 Hydro a brief response at this time.

12 MR. PROVERBS: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chair.
13 My name is Trevor Proverbs, last name is
14 spelled P-r-o-v-e-r-b-s. I'm the director of First
15 Nations engagement.

16 The issue of land use and land loss since the
17 treaties were signed, we're not in a position
18 really to deal with that as part of this process.

19 Having said that, the referenced the
20 Williston reservoir and the Bennett dam. There is
21 a process in place with BC Hydro through the
22 Aboriginal relations branch to deal with any
23 grievance issues that are associated with that
24 infrastructure. And that process is ongoing and
25 First Nations are in a position to bring their

1 grievances to BC Hydro on that front.

2 In terms of the Site C process, the process
3 really goes to the discussions that we're having
4 with Aboriginal groups around mitigation,
5 avoidance. And as part of the accommodation around
6 that, we have indicated that we're prepared to
7 enter into discussions with Aboriginal groups, with
8 First Nations that are affected by the project in
9 this area. And in some cases we are engaging in
10 those discussions around benefits from this project
11 at this time under which we call impact benefit
12 agreements.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that.

14 That's I think a partial answer. Let me
15 suggest that we hear from one more speaker and then
16 turn to Treaty 8 who have brought a presentation.

17 Mr. Hendriks.

18 MR. HENDRIKS: Thank you.

19 Rick Hendriks with Treaty 8.

20 Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Boon. I was not
21 aware that you were solar pioneers in the province.

22 And that leads me to a question for BC Hydro,
23 I'm wondering if I could get table 5.20 from the
24 EIS up on the screen, please. 5.20. 5.20. It's
25 on page 34 of the PDF of section 5.

1 While you're looking for that table 5.20, I
2 just wanted to ask BC Hydro, if I may --
3 Mr. Chairman, this table is in the original EIS.
4 And I just wanted to confirm, which version of the
5 IRP that this table is based on?

6 MS. SAVIDANT: This would be based on the
7 2010 resource options report, which would have been
8 included in the 2012 draft IRP. Updated
9 information was used in the evidentiary update
10 analysis of alternates.

11 MR. HENDRIKS: Okay. I looked in the
12 evidentiary update, and I didn't see an update to
13 this particular table. But I did notice an update
14 in the IRP that was filed as evidence yesterday.

15 And I'm just waiting for the table to come up
16 here.

17 And I'm presuming that the table in -- that
18 the IRP that was released a couple of weeks ago is
19 based on the 2013 resource options report; is
20 that's correct?

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, could you just tell
22 everybody in the room what this is about.

23 MR. HENDRIKS: Sure. This table -- yeah,
24 it's a bit difficult to see. I don't know if we
25 can zoom in at all. But this is a list of the

1 hypothetical solar projects. BC Hydro can perhaps
2 elaborate if I get this wrong. Hypothetical solar
3 projects of a capacity of 5 megawatts. And they
4 picked various sites throughout the province.

5 This is a table of hypothetical solar sites.
6 And they're each of a 5 megawatt capacity at
7 various locations throughout the province. And on
8 the far right is what's called the UEC at POI which
9 means the unit energy cost at the point of
10 interconnection.

11 So the best solar resource in the province is
12 in the southeast, so the east Kootenay project
13 reflects that. And it has a price in this table of
14 \$382 per megawatt hour. And then in the material
15 that was filed with the new IRP, that price has
16 dropped to \$266 per megawatt hour, which, by my
17 rough math, quickly is about a 35 percent drop
18 between the two resource options reports.

19 And I'm wondering if Hydro could comment on
20 the significance of that drop, in light of the
21 Boons' comments about being involved in the net
22 metering program, and --

23 MR. FELDBERG: Mr. Chairman, just before
24 -- just while you're thinking about that question,
25 I note that we had a session for nearly two days on

1 need, purpose and alternatives, where these topics
2 were specifically addressed, and Mr. Hendriks was a
3 pretty keen participant in that process, presented
4 a paper; he asked many questions.

5 My concern if participants in those sessions
6 are going to ask follow-up questions in the next
7 sessions is that frankly there's little purpose to
8 the separation, and we don't have our experts here
9 on that. What we brought was the general Panel,
10 because we understood that to be the nature of
11 this, and I don't mind obviously when members of
12 the public come up and ask questions that touch on
13 those areas, because this is their only
14 opportunity, but it's a little bit different with
15 people like Mr. Hendriks.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Understood.

17 Let me suggest that Hydro simply undertake to
18 explain the decline in price or time. It's a very
19 interesting general question, and I'm sure there's
20 a perfectly sensible reason for it.

21 Thank you. Does that cover your point?

22 MR. HENDRIKS: Yeah, I would be okay if

23 Hydro wanted to take that away as an undertaking.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, they just did.

25 MR. HENDRIKS: Okay.

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. All right.

2 Number 9, I think it is. 13? Good heavens.

3

4 **UNDERTAKING 13: Have Hydro explain the decline**
5 **in price or time**

6

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Mr. and

8 Mrs. Boon.

9 I would now like to call on Treaty 8 First

10 Nations, Chief Logan.

11

12 **Presentation by Treaty 8 First Nations:**

13 **Tribal Chief Liz Logan**

14 **Chief Norman Davis**

15 **Chief Russell Lilly**

16 **Chief Lynette Tsakoza**

17 **Chief Roland Willson**

18

19 TRIBAL CHIEF LIZ LOGAN: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair and

20 Panel members.

21 I'd like to again introduce myself, I'm Liz

22 Logan.

23 What.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, When we have a Panel,

25 our transcription service needs a map of who is

1 here, so she's just going to get your names, if we
2 can do that. Thank you.

3 Thank you very much. Sorry for the
4 interruption.

5 Chief Logan.

6 TRIBAL CHIEF LIZ LOGAN: She asked me to give her
7 2 minutes.

8 Well, I won't get into my discussion. I'll
9 just introduce myself again.

10 My name is Liz Logan. I'm the Tribal Chief
11 of Treaty 8 Tribal Association, and I am here
12 sitting with four chiefs who are Dane Zaa people,
13 the original people of this land; we have Chief
14 Roland Willson from West Moberly First Nations; we
15 have Chief Russell Lilly from Halfway River First
16 Nations; Chief Lynette Tsakoza from Prophet River
17 First Nations; and Chief Norman Davis from Doig
18 River First Nations.

19 They represent the Dane Zaa people as I said
20 who have occupied this land for over 10,000 years.
21 This area that --

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Chief Logan, can you slow
23 down a little bit.

24 TRIBAL CHIEF LIZ LOGAN: Okay. Sorry.

25 These nations have polled their communities

1 also. They sent out information packages to their
2 communities by door to door and then went back with
3 a questionnaire asking if they supported this
4 project. They came back with a resounding 85
5 percent no. So that is the mandate from these four
6 chiefs to move forward in this project.

7 So thank you, Panel, for allowing us to speak
8 here today. The proposed Site C is something that
9 has hung over the heads of our communities for a
10 long, long time. We're looking forward to seeing
11 you in our communities to give you more in-depth
12 specific details about our concerns. And so we had
13 asked to have more time this morning, but we were
14 restricted to 20 minutes, so we're going to try and
15 rush as quickly as we can through this.

16 We want you to hear directly from our elders
17 who are very concerned and who have dealt with this
18 looming project for many years. The memories are
19 going to be difficult for some of those elders
20 because revisiting this process again for the third
21 time is just not a good thing in our minds and
22 theirs. A lot of damage has been done by the two
23 previous dam in our territories on this river, in
24 this valley. This river has been declared the most
25 endangered river in British Columbia by the Outdoor

1 Recreation Council because of many, many factors,
2 cultural, agriculture, et cetera. I'm here to tell
3 you that the Peace River Valley is a special place.
4 The area is irreplaceable and the idea of
5 mitigating impacts is simply not possible in so
6 many ways. The valley is a sacred place for our
7 people. It is a home to many, many things, such as
8 it's an important gathering place that the Boons
9 referred to. One of the area is the Bear Flats,
10 archaeological and heritage sites, spiritual sites,
11 grave sites, a variety of wildlife sites and
12 species, home to rare and medicinal plants that my
13 people still rely on, a place to practice our
14 Treaty rights. The list goes on. And as the
15 Saulteau rep told you yesterday, it is our grocery
16 store. It is our pharmacy and it is our pantry.
17 There are no other rivers like the Peace River.
18 And I know you will hear from a number of people
19 from all different backgrounds about the importance
20 of maintaining the Peace River Valley for future
21 generations.

22 The Dane Zaa people, again, you must
23 understand that this valley is of very important
24 significance to them and there's a huge cultural,
25 spiritual and emotional attachment to that valley.

1 It is the core area and the heartland of our people
2 and territory, and we are not going away, we --
3 away from this Peace region.

4 This project, if built, will impact everybody
5 in this province not just the First Nations. Why?
6 Because the rates are already going up. These are
7 the core issues around this project that will
8 impact everybody in British Columbia, not just us.
9 The project is very, very expensive. The price has
10 gone up since they started talking about this in
11 the last few years. There are alternatives that
12 are both more affordable and have fewer
13 environmental impacts.

14 This process is occurring on top of many
15 other industrial activities that are stretching our
16 communities to their very limits.

17 We have been the cash register for this
18 province since the late '40s. We're dealing with
19 over almost 30,000 wells in our territory. Over
20 8 million cubic metres of timber are cut, four
21 mines are active in our area, two big dam projects.
22 And you're going to hear more specific detail on
23 this from other individuals who will be presenting.
24 In the words of one of our former leaders, and I
25 hope he's here, he says our lands are dying a death

1 of 1,000 cuts; this will be the straw that will
2 break our mother earth's back in our territory.

3 BC Hydro and the Government act like this
4 project is a done deal. We have something to say
5 about that, and we appreciate the Joint Review
6 Panel has come into our territory to listen to us.

7 There's been a lot of talk, yes, but it's not
8 a balanced approach. That's truly and sincerely
9 considering our values and our input. A lot of us
10 say it's just lip service.

11 They're putting the cart before the horse.
12 It's always just all about the project. It's not
13 about relationship building.

14 This project and its impact violates our
15 Treaty rights, and we will speak more about that in
16 January. And you can't attach a dollar value to
17 that. Our Treaty rights are not for sale.

18 I think I'm going to pass it to Chief Roland
19 Willson.

20 CHIEF WILLSON: Thank you, Liz.

21 Chair, I am Roland Willson, Chief of the West
22 Moberly First Nations. My community has adhered to
23 Treaty 8, 1914. We will be celebrating our 100th
24 year in the Treaty along with our sister community,
25 the Halfway River First Nations. We were one of

1 the original Dane Zaa nations called the Hudson's
2 Hope Band. We have occupied the lands constantly
3 since time of memorial. I mentioned earlier that
4 there's a place just north of here, a few
5 kilometres called Charlie Lake Caves, which are
6 some of the earliest known sites of human
7 habitation in North American. It was our ancestors
8 that occupied that space.

9 I had also mentioned earlier that we're not
10 opposed to the creation of energy. What we're
11 opposed to is the flooding of this valley, and is
12 an unnecessary impact being proposed by BC and
13 BC Hydro in order to meet the energy demands the
14 province has forecasted.

15 And the impacts from W.A.C. Bennett and the
16 Peace Canyon dams are ongoing.

17 The sloughing that occurs on an annual basis
18 from the raising and lowering of the waters during
19 peak demand times as you saw it in images from the
20 Boons' presentation, the cabins that have
21 disappeared into the reservoir and the lands that
22 have been gone.

23 The other impacts that have happened to that
24 are the impacts to the wildlife. The caribou
25 migration patterns that used to exist here do no

1 longer exist. We are in a state of emergency with
2 caribou in our region.

3 My age, I am 48 years old, and I have not
4 been able to hunt a caribou in my territory. There
5 are less than 400 caribou left in the South Peace.

6 The fish in the Williston reservoir are
7 contaminated in methylmercury. Part of my
8 presentation that you're going to see later, I will
9 go more into that when you go into the community.

10 The treaty that we have signed, part of the
11 treaty is an oral promise that there will be no
12 forced interference with our mode of life, that
13 we'll be able to carry on a promised way of life
14 after the signing of the treaty as if we had never
15 entered into the treaty.

16 My son most likely won't be able to hunt
17 caribou in our own territory. We have had elders
18 pass on and have lost vital information on the use
19 and the practices of our way of life. And lots of
20 it due to this, the caribou, the fish. There's a
21 big focus on caribou, the mountain sheep, the
22 mountain goat. BC Hydro refuses to discuss with us
23 the impacts of grizzly bear on here, formally
24 stating that there are no grizzly bear in the area
25 even after we show them pictures of it, even after

1 they hear the stories of seeing the tracks in the
2 snow.

3 The flooding of the Williston reservoir is an
4 ongoing impact that we have never had a resolve to.
5 We've asked for an cumulative impact study to exam
6 the level of impact that has already transpired on
7 the land. We asked for a regional strategic
8 environmental assessment to be done to take a look
9 at what's coming from Site C. Site C is not just
10 the flooding of the Valley. Site C opens the door
11 to future developments. This, where we're sitting
12 right now is the Montey shale gas place, the only
13 site in Canada right now activity developing shale
14 gas. We have 40 -- four 48-inch pipelines being
15 proposed to leave this territory to go to the coast
16 for LNG. We are told by the province of British
17 Columbia that the creation of energy through gas is
18 not acceptable. But we are shipping all of our gas
19 or proposing to ship all of our gas from
20 northeastern BC, the Montey shale gas to other
21 countries so that they can burn it.

22 When BC set up the **Clean Energy Act**, they
23 wrote in there, no allowance for natural gas. The
24 Province soon amended that, the **Clean Energy Act**
25 because the Canadian Association of Petroleum

1 Producers went in there and enlightened them on the
2 fact that they would cut their industry off if they
3 were not allowed to burn gas. So BC amended the
4 **Clean Energy Act** to include natural gas for the
5 production of self-powering for these facilities.

6 Yet, we're being told that is unacceptable
7 for us to do this. Across the border, they are
8 building two brand new gas fire generation
9 stations, the Shepherd plant and the one in
10 Edmonton by Enmax at a fraction of a footprint, at
11 a fraction of the cost of what Site C is being
12 proposed. At the -- and scalable, 100 percent
13 scalable. We have approached BC and have told BC
14 that this is something that we would be interested
15 in sitting down and discussing with them on an
16 approach, as an alternative to Site C only to be
17 told by the Minister sitting across the table from
18 us that they have been given their marching orders
19 that Site C been built. This is not a consultation
20 process, this is an informative session. None of
21 our concerns are being addressed.

22 You've heard earlier that agricultural land
23 in the river basin, the valley is the only class 1
24 and class 2 agricultural lands north of Quesnel. I
25 would ask -- well, I hope somebody asks, if they

1 flood that what are we going to do? There is no
2 other class 1 and class 2 agricultural lands here.
3 There's enough land in that valley to feed
4 everybody up here. The reason why it's not being
5 done is because BC has placed a flood reserve on
6 there.

7 Along with the class 1 and class 2
8 agricultural lands there is also calving zones for
9 the moose, the deer and the elk. It's a wildlife
10 habitat corridor. It's the only piece of river
11 that we have left after they destroyed the up
12 stream from the W.A.C. Bennett dam and the Peace
13 Canyon dam. The Peace River, the Philly River and
14 the Parcelet River were the main corridors which
15 were the highways for our communities to interact
16 with each other.

17 We have family that live in Quinnatcha and
18 Saykay. BC Hydro makes a deal with them and
19 settles with them on the impacts that they have
20 with the W.A.C. Bennett and the reservoir, which
21 are all inside the Treaty 8 territory, but yet they
22 fail to sit down and talk to us about those
23 impacts. And they consider imposing new impacts on
24 us with the flooding of Site C.

25 So we just -- how much are we supposed to

1 give? We don't know how much has already been
2 taken. Nobody can tell us how much more the land
3 can sustain on it. They just keep taking it.

4 My argument is, the amount of development
5 that is coming from the shale gas place and the LNG
6 demand that the province is banking everything on,
7 Site C is too much. Losing all that land in the
8 valley is too much. And they have to look at these
9 alternate.

10 Thank you.

11 CHIEF LILLY: Thank you, chief Chief Willson.

12 Good afternoon, My name is Chief Russell
13 Lilly of the Halfway River First Nations. I am
14 here today to tell you we do not want this project.
15 The proposed Site C project will flood
16 14 kilometres of the Halfway River and flood an
17 area very important to my community. The mouth of
18 the Halfway River where it meets the Peace River,
19 our members have felt the impacts of the past two
20 dams, and we do not want anymore. The footprint of
21 this project is too large and the impact's too
22 great. The Peace River Valley is a very important
23 place and needs to stay the way it is and be free
24 from this project.

25 My community is surrounded by industrial

1 activity, and we are very concerned about the
2 health of the land and the animals. Site C is yet
3 another large project that would cause more harm.
4 My community members always ask, why isn't BC Hydro
5 looking at other options instead of another large
6 dam? Why are we here today talking about a project
7 that has been stopped twice before? The land, the
8 water together as one is like our blood. We must
9 protect it for future generations to come. I want
10 to thank the Panel for taking the time in your
11 lives to participate in this process. I'll ask
12 that you listen carefully to our elders, our youth
13 throughout your time here in Treaty 8 territory.

14 Thank you.

15 CHIEF TSAKOZA: Good afternoon. My name
16 is Chief Lynette Tsakoza. I am from the Prophet
17 River First Nations. I am here today in the unity
18 with my fellow chiefs to tell you that Prophet
19 River First Nation is opposed to the Site C dam.

20 Like Chief Lilly had said that we felt the
21 past impacts from two of the dams, and we do not
22 understand why another project of this size is
23 needed. The Halfway First Nation members is our
24 family and our relatives as we shared a current and
25 historic use of the Peace River Valley, and we

1 share our concerns about the amount of the activity
2 already occurring on our land each day with the
3 impacts of the Site C project.

4 It is time to take a look at the solutions of
5 our energies that needed to offer a balance of our
6 value. Chief Willson says what about our
7 alternative? Prophet River First Nations would
8 prefer it if you had more time to come to our
9 community to have a session in our community that
10 we -- you can understand where we all come from,
11 but we are on all tight schedules, as we all are.

12 I would like to remind the Joint Review Panel
13 to the Peace River Valley is important, not only to
14 our communities, but also to our First Nations
15 peoples all over our Treaty 8 that call Fort
16 St. John and the surrounding area, our home.

17 Our Treaty rights exist throughout the
18 Treaty 8 territories, regardless where each of our
19 members are living.

20 We can exercise our rights anywhere, and this
21 is an important point because all our members all
22 over the Treaty 8 territory practice our rights in
23 the Peace River Valley.

24 Thank you.

25 CHIEF DAVIS: Hello, my name's Chief Norman

1 Davis, Doig River First Nations, formerly City of
2 Fort St. John Beaver Band, so it's just outside
3 town here. I'm here to tell you we are all united
4 in our opposition to this project. The Peace River
5 Valley is a unique place and important to so many
6 people. As you will see through these hearings,
7 it's not a remote valley. Out of sight and out of
8 the mind. This valley is home to ranchers and
9 farmers, used by our members to practice their
10 rights. Home to important gathering places such as
11 Bear Flats and the mouth of the Halfway River, and
12 it's very important to a number of wildlife
13 species. My community is very concerned over the
14 numbers of moose in this area. The numbers are way
15 down, and we're concerned that BC Hydro is
16 minimizing the importance of the Peace River Valley
17 there in the harsh cold winters.

18 The valley offers protections to a number of
19 animals there in the hard winters, and this is an
20 important point to remember.

21 Our former chief was (*Aboriginal word spoken*)
22 on the Valley here, Chief Attachie. And we have a
23 -- Dane Zaa people had a real history on this
24 valley here. (*Aboriginal word spoken*), even before
25 the Treaty was signed, were here. And there's

1 other ways to create energy.

2 That's it. Thank you.

3 TRIBAL CHIEF LIZ LOGAN: Mr. Chair, if you would
4 indulge me and let me finish what I was saying in
5 the beginning and then we'll be done.

6 Site C, its costs and impacts carry
7 significant risk not only for Treaty 8 First
8 Nations but for all British Columbians as a whole.
9 BC Hydro's mandate of maximizing the hydro electric
10 potential of the Peace River cannot be reconciled
11 with our Treaty rights. This mandate maximizes
12 costs, putting all British Columbians at risk.
13 BC Hydro has said that building Site C is in the
14 public interest. That's an interesting statement
15 considering that the BCUC, the BC Utilities
16 Commission, who helps determine such a conclusion
17 has been completely removed from the
18 decision-making process.

19 We hope that in your wisdom, Panel, that at
20 the end of these hearings you will see that this
21 project is in fact not in the interest of all
22 British Columbians, and it having been rejected
23 twice before by the BC Utilities Commission, that
24 it needs to disappear for good, and we look forward
25 to talking to you further in our community, so

1 thank you very much.

2 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Chief
3 Logan and the Treaty 8 chiefs.

4 I would like to ask if any people here have
5 questions they would like to direct to the chiefs.

6 Gentleman in the back.

7 May I perhaps remind you that these are
8 supposed to be questions rather than speeches.

9 MR. APSASSIN: Aren't we in Canada here? We
10 have a freedom of speech.

11 MR. CHAIRMAN: Up to a point.

12 MR. APSASSIN: Am I right or wrong? Or am I
13 out of place? Oh, I understand.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: No, but I would like to use
15 -- let me put it this way: If one registered as a
16 participate to speak, one can speak at some length.
17 What I'd like to do is to use this period to ask
18 questions of clarification or fact, whatever, to
19 the people who are making the presentations, but
20 that's --

21 MR. APSASSIN: I appreciate that, Chairman.
22 I appreciate that, but at the same time, we don't
23 get much chances in these kinds of things from --
24 we come from the bush, so I don't live too far from
25 here, about 45 miles into bush over here, and our

1 community, Blueberry Reserve it's called. I don't
2 know whether this is a question, but I'm going to
3 try to make it a question so that BC Hydro probably
4 knows about this already anyways.

5 The important point -- we've been acting
6 within a process created by the proponents and are
7 bound within the legislation of BC Environmental
8 Assessment Act or the Canadian Environmental Act
9 created by BC and Canada with their perspectives
10 and the motivations, and they both hold the ability
11 to amend -- allow for less stringent guidelines on
12 environmental impacts. This is the pathway that
13 has been imposed on First Nations for responding to
14 the environmental impact.

15 The Aboriginal perspective on the
16 environmental impacts in relation to the governance
17 of Aboriginal rights such as harvesting rights must
18 be safeguarded to ensure continuance of practice of
19 our traditional ways for ourselves and our future
20 generations and generations unborn.

21 We will be met under both of these acts.
22 Aboriginal perspectives are markedly different
23 when it comes to the BC Canadian environmental
24 standards currently being utilized. The Aboriginal
25 perspective must be adequately addressed, and it is

1 the nation -- our nations -- and we determine the
2 advocacy of this kind of a consultation process.
3 Thank you.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that comment.
5 I perhaps should say that our terms of reference
6 specifically enjoin us to listen hard and take
7 account of traditional ecological and Aboriginal
8 knowledge on these matters, and we will try and do
9 that.

10 Before I undertook this task, an Algonquin
11 friend said that her mother said God gave us two
12 ears and one mouth and for a reason, so we'll try
13 and live up to that.

14 Are there further comments for Treaty 8
15 chiefs?

16 In that case, I would suggest that we take 15
17 minutes, get a cup of coffee and reconvene at 3:25.

18 Thank you.

19

20 **(Brief adjournment)**

21

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Ladies and gentlemen, can we
23 reconvene, please. Bring your coffee. Our next
24 speaker is Mr. Kenneth Forest.

25

1 **Presentation by Kenneth Forest:**

2 MR. FOREST: Sorry for the delay. I can't
3 see.

4 Thank you to the Panel for the opportunity to
5 present here today. I'm going to be talking on
6 Peace Valley, ensuring our future for food
7 security, and in particular I'm going to centre
8 some of that discussion on climate change, and
9 because of that, because climate effects the entire
10 planet, I'm going to be talking around climate
11 change on a global basis even though I want to have
12 an idea that it's going to impact us here.

13 This presentation is about the effects on our
14 food supply here through the years 2030, 2050 and
15 2100. Those are long times from now; I won't be
16 around to see them. Many people in this room
17 won't, but our children and our grandchildren and
18 their children will, and they will be effected by
19 what happens here today.

20 I'm first focus on what our current food
21 capabilities are, and then constrain --

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Forest, can I --

23 MR. FOREST: Sorry?

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: You are being transcribed,
25 and there is maximum speed in which this can

1 happen.

2 MR. FOREST: Sure. I'll go a little bit
3 slower. I timed this yesterday for I think 18
4 minutes, so I hope we're okay with that.

5 I'll first focus on what our current food
6 capabilities are and then constraints on importing
7 our food, ending with the loss of our soil, which
8 is essential to our food production. The effects
9 of Site C will determine in a major way future
10 health and welfare of Peace area citizens.

11 For me, I came up here in the '60s. I landed
12 here in 1967, saw the area. The Peace River drew
13 me, and I came back with my wife. We hand-built a
14 log home with a chainsaw and raised a couple of
15 kids and pursued our careers here, and we have
16 enjoyed every second. We're retired now, and not
17 moving don't to the Lower Mainland or Arizona or
18 someone else. We really enjoy the country, and
19 that's partly why I'm here.

20 My background includes being a teacher, a
21 school district principal, a faculty associate for
22 Simon Fraser University, and for the University of
23 Victoria. References for this are found in my
24 written print out, and I can't give them to you
25 today; they're going to be too cumbersome to

1 present.

2 The value of our food production over the
3 long term will be more important than adding
4 another 8 percent hydro electric power to the BC
5 grid from Site C.

6 Where will our children's food come from?
7 Food is critically important. Three days without
8 it, it changes the way people think, the way they
9 act, the way they live. Food needs to be available
10 continuous in our future. It won't appear
11 miraculously in supermarkets. In 2050 or 2100, we
12 may not be able to access the food that we take for
13 granted today.

14 I feel that our food security will be
15 impacted here by three things: climate change, our
16 ability to transport in our food, and the
17 understanding of science.

18 Climate change, expensive transport and
19 scientific literacy are really important, and they
20 are going to challenge our ability to stay here.

21 When I put this slide up first, I was
22 thinking in terms of BC Hydro and the small number
23 of people around here that are trying to work
24 against some of what's going on. However, I
25 thought I would stay with climate change, expensive

1 transport and scientific literacy.

2 Evidence-based science and sound critical
3 thinking skills are essential for maintaining our
4 long-term food in this area.

5 When recently asked about climate change,
6 BC's agriculture minister appears to have responded
7 that climate change is an opinion and that everyone
8 has an opinion, and he said he would just leave it
9 at that. Opinion like that is not good for making
10 decisions. The science of climate and climate
11 change theory develops from peer-reviewed research,
12 empirical evidence and facts. It's the best
13 understanding that we have.

14 Which one of the above will be more important
15 in 2030, in 2050 and 2100? Which one will our
16 children appreciate and thank us for? Which market
17 garden food production in the Peace will be a
18 staple for life? Will it be a staple for life or a
19 luxury? Something that we can simply and always
20 transport from somewhere else.

21 Here's a picture of our food capabilities in
22 BC: Arable land, 5 percent. The amount that we
23 import 56 percent. The population in British
24 Columbia rising another million in the next decade
25 or two, and that 56 percent will turn into 60 or 70

1 percent imported food to this province.

2 We have very limited ability to produce our
3 food in the province. If we expect to import food
4 into BC and the Peace, we will have to be very
5 confident in our supply from foreign markets.

6 A more principled strategy would be to
7 maximize and sustain our ability to grow our own
8 food here.

9 According to comments in the BC Agricultural
10 Climate Change Action Plan published in 2013,
11 quote:

12
13 "BC must seek to expand its
14 capacity for food production,
15 rebuild lost production and
16 processing infrastructure and
17 develop expertise to serve local
18 markets. The Peace Valley is
19 potentially able to supply market
20 garden produce and fruit because of
21 its east-west orientation,
22 south-facing aspect, top-grade
23 soil, access to water, long light
24 and tempered growing."

25

1 Building Site C to create jobs is a red
2 herring. Jobs are about money for the select few
3 who come here for a few weeks or months or years to
4 make their personal nest egg and leave our
5 community. It is our farmers and ranchers who will
6 pay. After seven years of dam construction, we
7 will be left with 25 permanent jobs, which will
8 have displaced thousands of agricultural jobs,
9 potentially over the next ten decades and even
10 beyond. When I listen to BC Hydro today, most of
11 the mitigation they talked about centered on the
12 left-hand picture.

13 2030, electricity or food? Proponents of
14 Site C dam are looking for personal or corporate
15 monetary benefits. This dam is really about making
16 money. We all need market garden food. They are
17 only grown in our soil. With loss of topsoil, our
18 market gardens are gone. So we have to import our
19 food. There's a high probability that we cannot do
20 that in the future.

21 Would you bet your farm on having the
22 supermarket loaded with food all the time?

23 After Hurricane Haiyan, there was no food to
24 eat, and yet people had plenty of money. What if
25 food could not be imported because nations were

1 keeping their food and refusing to sell it?

2 BC Hydro has investigated the broader climate
3 elsewhere -- or has BC Hydro investigated the
4 broader climate elsewhere that will effect our food
5 here in the Peace River country? According to a
6 number of studies, 97 percent of climate scientists
7 from the world's academy of science agree that
8 climate change is anthropogenic, manmade, is now
9 here and is accelerating, and it will affect our
10 ability to produce our own food.

11 The amount of carbon we put into the
12 atmosphere has a direct bearing on terrestrial,
13 oceanic and atmospheric heat absorption and
14 retention, which directs long-term climate. In the
15 past 250 years, humanity has emitted half a
16 trillion tons of carbon. Carbon dioxide levels in
17 fact have risen by 40 percent. The world has used
18 half of its carbon budget, and will have used all
19 of it by 2050 if it doesn't slow down. That will
20 leave us with a two-plus degree rise in
21 temperature.

22 Our North American read baskets need stable
23 temperatures and abundant water to grow food.
24 Around 20 percent of the snow cover in North
25 America's greatest mountain ranges have been lost

1 because of warmer springs in the last three
2 decades. The rate of decline in June snow cover
3 alone in the northern hemisphere: 11 percent. This
4 century, the earth has an unbroken hot streak of 29
5 consecutive years above the 20th century average.

6 The last time the globe had a cooler than
7 average temperature was February of 1985.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Can you slow down, please,
9 Mr. Forest?

10 MR. FOREST: Sorry.

11 The last time the globe had a cooler average
12 temperature was February 1985. Most of the heat is
13 going into the oceans right now. The heat on the
14 terrestrial part of the planet and in our
15 atmosphere has actually slowed down in terms of its
16 acceleration rate. Soon possibly the next El Nino
17 which has stored oceanic heat can be released
18 causing large humid air masses to produce over
19 parts of the Pacific. That would result in some
20 places with extreme drought, and other places with
21 extreme flooding. In either case, it inhibits our
22 food production as I'm going to show you for this
23 local area coming up.

24 A recent study has that shown that by 2050 of
25 147 regions on earth, more than half of those will

1 have shifted to a hotter temperature. No return to
2 normal. By 2070, the coldest area of the planet
3 will be hotter than the hottest year in its past.

4 All weather events are affected by climate
5 because of the environment in which they occur,
6 which is now warmer and moister. For every 1
7 degree in increase in temperature, there's a
8 7-degree increase in atmospheric humidity, and this
9 is what the earth is expected to look like in 2100
10 from now.

11 A temperature for the midwest plains of the
12 United States where we get a lot of our food could
13 cut down on wheat production particularly in Kansas
14 and extension to the greater plains by 20 percent.
15 Even under optimistic scenarios, the region is
16 probably headed for three times that amount of
17 warming.

18 According to Oxfam 2013 barring a drought in
19 North America, corn prices will spike by 500
20 percent by 2030. Overall food prices may jump by
21 as much as 180 percent. What happens if we live in
22 the Peace River country and we're paying for it?

23 A July 2013 Simon Fraser University report,
24 climate change adaptation and Canada's crops and
25 food supply stated:

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"There is unprecedented,
unpredictable and damaging extreme
events ahead.

In North America and in
Canada, drought, especially over
extended periods during the growing
season and in some cases for years
at a time can lead to damaged crops
and businesses."

This photo shows what happened this year in
the year 2013 to a fish population in one of the
tributaries of the Amazon that experienced only a
two-degree rise in temperature. What does this
portend for BC salmon once our sources of food
start to disappear? Having market garden food in
the Peace in 2050 and 2100 would certainly be
prudent.

The biggest impact on our food production is
drought. It's inevitable if the planet's current
reservoir of carbon continues to burn, and we're on
track to do exactly that. The droughts in Russia
in 2010 ended in a collapsed grain export --

Oh, a little slower? Okay.

1 The droughts in Russia in 2010 ended in a
2 collapsed grain export. They stopped shipping
3 grain. Russia stopping shipping one of their major
4 agricultural products to the rest of the world
5 because they didn't have it to ship. Can that
6 happen in North America? Absolutely.

7 The 2011 Texas drought saw half of their
8 cattle lost. The 2012 Midwest drought last year
9 saw grain export and grain production and corn
10 production halved. If producing states run low or
11 they run out, they are not going to ship their food
12 to British Columbia.

13 The second worst impact on food production is
14 flooding. This is an ARkStorm. This is a picture
15 of a small ARkStorm that hit the coast of North
16 America last year. It hit Seattle, and you can see
17 the upper blue corner there's a small line, and
18 that shows the line of North America, and the
19 ARkStorm comes off the Pacific.

20 An ARkStorm results when huge amounts of
21 water vapour come into a long stream and hit North
22 America. In nobody's living memory today an
23 ARkStorm hit the central valley of California 1861.
24 It killed 1,000 people, 80,000 cattle. It was 40
25 kilometres across and 700 miles long, and it

1 appeared in the space of five weeks.

2 It's more catastrophic than 9 magnitude
3 earthquakes. Nobody alive today has seen one.
4 There are records showing another one hit three
5 times that size in the central valley in the 1600s.
6 These are now on track to become more commonplace.
7 We can expect to see one of these into North
8 America in the next 50 years. Our atmospheric
9 humidity is climbing 7 percent for every one degree
10 in temperature. We can expect to see them, and
11 they are going to have an impact on our food. The
12 central valley of California produces 40 percent of
13 the market garden produce for North American, and
14 that market garden produce will not be coming here
15 if we have an ARkStorm.

16 A question I would ask Hydro at one time
17 later on would be have you ever talked about
18 ARkStorms and what they would do to a dam. 15
19 times the volume of the Mississippi in a few weeks.

20 In our future there will not be just one
21 drought or one ARkStorm and then nothing, because
22 our oceans and atmosphere are continuously being
23 loaded with energy, impacts our the food production
24 will be more severe, more frequent and more
25 concurrent.

1 Dam it; it's gone forever.

2 The Peace Valley contains thousands of acres
3 of class 1 and 2 land, nearly 20 percent of BC's
4 best topsoil. With Site C, virtually 99 percent of
5 the best soil in the Peace Valley will be
6 permanently flooded, and it never be replaced.
7 Neither can the food that it would be produced.

8 In the world, 25 percent of the amount of
9 world agricultural land is highly degrading. One
10 third is the amount of the world's crop land losing
11 topsoil faster than new soil a forming. 600 years
12 is the time it takes to produce two centimetres of
13 new soil. Money simply cannot buy or create new
14 soil. Neither can it be manufactured, and neither
15 can it be mitigated.

16 To mitigate, is to do something rather than
17 nothing, to create less damage even if little
18 change results. It does not mean to correct or
19 eliminate all the damage, and I see the word
20 "mitigate" every time I turn around.

21 Market garden soil 2050. In 2050 and 2100,
22 our soil in this valley will be more important and
23 more valuable than gold. North American food
24 travels 2,4000 kilometres from farm to plate.
25 Peace food travels 4,000 kilometres, if you go to

1 Safeways. I ate some grapes yesterday and a
2 cantaloupe. They didn't come from here. They
3 didn't come from British Columbia. They didn't
4 come from Arizona. They came from Mexico and South
5 America, and the oranges that I had came from South
6 Africa. Our food transport will go up. Why?

7 In 1940 to 1980, a single barrel of Texas
8 crude could be used to extract 16 more barrels for
9 other use. Today one barrel of oil is used to
10 produce 2.5 barrels for other use. Oil is becoming
11 expensive, and it's going to get more expensive,
12 and our transport costs will become more expensive.

13 Why little local food produced in the Peace
14 area valley? Think the flood reserve. Think that
15 there has been a reserve on this valley on the
16 agricultural land for years. 9 million people will
17 want to eat in 2050.

18 Power for 450,000 homes, who loses? If we so
19 desperately need power to keep our lights on, does
20 it have to come from our fields, our families and
21 our farmers? This is a farm family from the Peace
22 River area, and the picture was taken some years
23 ago.

24 Here's a picture of the prickly pear cactus
25 and a map that shows where it grows. You can see

1 the Okanagan has a lot of cactus, two spots on
2 Vancouver Island, and then nothing in the rest of
3 the province until we get to be here. This is
4 partly why this valley is so precious.

5 Market gardens and orchards: This valley can
6 grow tomatoes, cabbage, broccoli, apples, cherries,
7 cantaloupe, carrots and peppers. We shouldn't be
8 putting hay in it, and we can't grow those on the
9 top benches.

10 So I'm almost finished.

11 Flooding our Peace Valley is a moral and
12 ethical decision. No one cheered on the bulldoze
13 drivers in the film Avatar. Who here will
14 volunteer to drive dozers over our farms and
15 ranches while the families stand on the banks of
16 the Peace watching? Who will cheer them on? Who
17 will decide? How many more extreme weather events
18 will it take? How much does our food supply have
19 to be in peril to stop putting reservoirs on our
20 very most precious resource before we were all
21 damned? We all enjoy the benefits of electricity.
22 We should not go without electricity, but we should
23 apply stewardship, sustainability and precautionary
24 principles in deciding how and where to produce it.

25 Our future food supply here is more important

1 than generating Site C electricity. Global climate
2 will determine what or whether we eat. We need to
3 be proactive here now on these decisions, soil is
4 our paramount product for producing all food. It
5 cannot be mitigated or bought. The Peace Valley is
6 unique in its local climate, high quality topsoil
7 and location. Without a flood reserve or a
8 reservoir, the valley could supply the northern
9 half of BC with long-term food for hundreds of
10 years.

11 If we as BC citizens are to prosper or even
12 survive over the next 100 years, growing our food
13 will not be one of many options; it will be our
14 only option.

15 And with that I would like to thank the
16 Panel, and I would like to thank the opportunity to
17 be able to present, and my apologies for speaking
18 quickly. It comes from practice.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
20 Mr. Dalton. Are there any questions that anybody
21 would like to raise with Mr. Dalton?

22 I have one. The flood reserve in the area
23 between Site C and site E was removed some years
24 ago, was it not?

25 MR. FOREST: I believe it was, yes.

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Has there been any
2 development of agricultural market gardening in
3 that area since the removal of the flood reserve?

4 MR. BARTON: Not that I'm aware of. I
5 mean, John Curtis has had gardens below where
6 Site C would be, and that would be in the area that
7 your talking about. He's in his 80s now, and he's
8 still continuing on that kind of a venture, but I
9 don't know how long that will last. A lot of the
10 -- and that's a good question. I appreciate that
11 question, because a question comes as, well, why
12 isn't it that there right now? Why don't we use it
13 right now? And my answer to that would be because
14 we can go to the supermarket at Safeway that's five
15 blocks from here and pick it up off the store. Why
16 would we? The presentation that I'm showing here
17 is not now. The presentation that I'm showing here
18 is for 2050 and 2100 when we're not around.

19 MR. CHAIRMAN: Are there further questions
20 for Mr. Dalton.

21 MR. FOREST: Mr. Forest.

22 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Forest, excuse me. I've
23 got your middle name. Mr. Forest.

24 Are there further questions?

25 In that case, thank you, sir.

1 MR. FOREST: Okay. Am I allowed to ask a
2 question? Or can I do it somewhere else?

3 MR. CHAIRMAN: You should do it somewhere
4 else, but what's your question?

5 MR. FOREST: Well, in my presentation I
6 was talking about ARkStorms. An ARkStorm is an
7 atmospheric river storm, and I would expect we're
8 going to see them, and my question through you
9 would be has BC Hydro taken a look at ARkStorms,
10 the effects of the general incapacity on our food
11 supply in the future, and in particular ARkStorms
12 of what would happen to dams here.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a session on air
14 resources and another one on climatology or
15 greenhouse gasses coming up. I'm just trying to
16 find out when it is.

17 I guess we don't have it in front of us.

18 Is it tomorrow afternoon?

19 MR. MURPHY: The atmospheric one.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, so there is a topical
21 session on atmospheric resources tomorrow
22 afternoon. If anybody at Hydro can offer an answer
23 to that off the cuff, fine. If not, we'll pick it
24 up tomorrow.

25 MR. STRANG: Mr. Chair, the effects of

1 climate change were looked at in two periods in our
2 EIS, the 2050s and 2080s, and the effect on
3 flooding in a maximum flooding was taken into
4 account in those two periods in the section 37,
5 effects to the environment on the project.

6 MR. CHAIRMAN: Including the possible impact
7 of very large storm events; is that correct?

8 MR. STRANG: The ARkStorm in particular
9 was not taken in account, but the effects of
10 climate change in general and the increase in
11 precipitation was taken into account.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thanks for that.
13 We'll pick up that again tomorrow afternoon.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. FOREST: Thank you very much.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry. Did you have a
17 question that you wanted to ask Mr. Forest?

18 MS. CULLING: Or to -- relevant to this
19 presentation.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you asking a question of
21 Mr. Forest?

22 MS. CULLING: To his presentation and to --
23 yeah.

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Carry on then.

25 MS. CULLING: So to follow up on your

1 question, Mr. Chairman, about market gardens
2 further downstream, so now my question is addressed
3 to the BC Hydro Panel. Could you speak to the
4 availability of the topography and available of
5 benches suitable for market gardens downstream of
6 Taylor as opposed to the available within the
7 proposed flood zone?

8 MS. JACKSON: Thank you.

9 I will note that there are two days of topic
10 sessions on agriculture where we will have our
11 agricultural specialists present for more details,
12 but in our EIS section 20 we do have some
13 information on the classification of land within
14 the entire valley, and as well with the context of
15 what would be taken up by the Site C project.
16 There are many numbers in that, but table 20.17 in
17 particular provides some summary information.

18 The entire Peace River Valley is identified
19 as having approximately 20,000 hectares of class
20 one to five lands all within the valley itself.
21 The project would remove about 3,800 hectares of
22 that total area, so that's referencing lands that
23 would be remaining both above the flooded area of
24 the project on the benches as well as the
25 downstream land within British Columbia.

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for that. Are
2 there further questions that anyone would like to
3 raise of Mr. Forest?

4 In that case, let us proceed.

5 Dr. Faisal Moola of the David Suzuki
6 Foundation.

7

8 **Presentation by Dr. Faisal Moola, David Suzuki Foundation**

9 DR. FAISAL MOOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
10 the opportunity to speak to you today. I would
11 also like to --

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you let a little close to
13 your mic? Thank you.

14 DR. FAISAL MOOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for
15 the opportunity to speak to you today. I'd also
16 like to thank and acknowledge the traditional
17 territories of the Dane Zaa people where we are
18 gathered here today.

19 My name is Faisal Moola. I'm the director
20 general for Ontario and Northern Canada with the
21 David Suzuki Foundation. I'm also an adjunct
22 professor in the faculty of forestry at the
23 University of Toronto, and an adjunct professor at
24 the faculty of environmental studies at York
25 University.

1 My comments today are on behalf of the David
2 Suzuki Foundation. The David Suzuki Foundation
3 works with Canadians from all walks of life
4 including government and business to conserve our
5 environment and find solutions that will create a
6 sustainable Canada through science-based research,
7 education and policy work.

8 Our mission is to protect the diversity of
9 life and nature, our quality of life now and into
10 the future. Our vision is that within a
11 generation, Canadians act on the understanding that
12 we are all interconnected and interdependent with
13 nature.

14 BC Hydro is proceeding with the environmental
15 assessments of the proposed Site C hydro electric
16 project, suggesting it will be a clean and
17 renewable source of energy with significant
18 economic benefit. The David Suzuki Foundation has
19 a number of concerns about the Site C project that
20 I would like to discuss with you.

21 Firstly, the proposed Site C dam will be
22 built within an area known as the Peace break to
23 scientists. This is an area that has been
24 recognized by conservation scientists as an
25 irreplaceable pinch point within the Yellowstone to

1 Yukon corridor in western North America. It is a
2 continental scale conservation priority for the
3 protection of core wildlife habitat and animal
4 movement corridors for large migratory mammals such
5 as wolves, grizzlies and endangered populations of
6 woodland caribou. And there is considerable
7 concern that because it is located at the narrowest
8 point of the Yellowstone to Yukon corridor, the
9 cumulative impacts of human land use in the Peace
10 region such as earlier and proposed new hydro
11 electric developments like Site C, as well as other
12 industrial activities, may sever ecological
13 connectivity for some of these wide ranging
14 wildlife species such as grizzly bears.

15 Secondly, the Site C valley and surrounding
16 area is also the traditional home of the Dane Zaa
17 First Nations and contains prime crop and range
18 lands that have sustained working farm families for
19 generations. We heard about that this afternoon.

20 If built, the Site C dam and reservoir and
21 associated infrastructure would impact over 100
22 kilometres of the Peace River Valley bottom lands
23 and would flood some 3400 hectares of prime
24 farmland. This would be the biggest loss of
25 farmland from BC's agricultural land reserve in its

1 history. But what I'd like to stress is that the
2 well being of these local communities is intimately
3 tied to the health of the river and its surrounding
4 ecosystems. These natural and managed ecosystems
5 such as prime farmland are critical elements of
6 what scientists refer to as natural capital.

7 Natural capital is a technical term to
8 describe natural and managed ecosystems, fields,
9 farms, forests and other ecosystems that provide
10 important ecological benefits to local communities
11 such as flood control, pollination services,
12 hunting and fish opportunities, nutrient cycling
13 and other so-called ecosystem services.

14 The United Nations Environmental Program, the
15 World Bank and other agencies have urged the policy
16 makers to carefully manage our natural capital
17 resources given the fact that some two thirds of
18 critical ecosystem services around the planet
19 including here in Canada are already degraded or
20 being used unsustainably.

21 The David Suzuki Foundation in my lab at the
22 University of Toronto is completing a natural
23 capital valuation study of the Peace River Valley
24 and the surrounding regions which will be submitted
25 to the Panel in the coming weeks. However, I would

1 like to note that earlier studies completed in
2 similar boreal and sub boreal ecosystems in Canada
3 have found that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
4 communities are literally sitting on a Fort Knox of
5 ecological.

6 For example, ecological economist Martin
7 Elsky at the University of Alberta conservatively
8 that Canada's boreal forest provides a staggering
9 570 billion dollars a year in ecological services,
10 an average of about \$3,400 per hectare in benefits
11 such as climate regulations, flood protection,
12 water regulation, waste treatment, and pollination.

13 Ecosystem types with the highest values
14 include wet lands, bogs and repairing ecosystems
15 such as we see in the Peace Valley, largely due to
16 the enormous amount of carbon stored in vegetation
17 peat and soil. Most notably, boreal and sub boreal
18 regions like the Peace Valley have been estimated
19 to contribute some 14 times more societal economic
20 value in these ecosystem services than the GDP
21 generated by natural capital extraction industries
22 such as mineral, oil and gas, and forestry. Which
23 in the case of the boreal forest, was estimated to
24 equal about \$41.9 billion a year or an average of
25 \$245 per hectares.

1 Finally I'd like to draw attention to new
2 peer reviewed science that was commissioned and
3 published by the David Suzuki Foundation this week.
4 A copy of this report has been filed with the
5 Panel, and I have copies of a publicly accessible
6 executive summary with me, which I'd be happy to
7 share with the Panel and with any members of the
8 public.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the report available in
10 electronic form?

11 DR. FAISAL MOOLA: It is available in electronic
12 form as well.

13 MR. CHAIRMAN: And it is being put up on the
14 website?

15 DR. FAISAL MOOLA: It's on the David Suzuki
16 Foundation website right now.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: I require it to be on the
18 website for this project, for this study.

19 DR. FAISAL MOOLA: Okay.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: Can the Secretariat arrange
21 for that, please.

22 DR. FAISAL MOOLA: I'll do that right after I
23 speak. Thank you.

24 This new research which will be published
25 this week, which was peer reviewed reveals that the

1 Peace Valley and surrounding watersheds have
2 already been significantly impacted by human land
3 use to date.

4 This region has experienced widespread
5 changes due to a convergence of industrial
6 activities on the same land base and now is
7 dominated by growing patchwork of clear cuts,
8 petroleum and natural gas sites and facilities,
9 mineral developments, roads, transmission lines,
10 pipelines, seismic lines as well as earlier hydro
11 electric development. Forestry energy and mineral
12 ten-year concessions to industry are widespread and
13 are often multi-layered in the same geographic
14 area.

15 As our report shows, much of the mature
16 forests, rivers, wet lands and other elements of
17 natural capital in the Peace region have already
18 been severely impacted to date by the growing pace
19 and scale of human land use within northeastern
20 British Columbia.

21 Local First Nations, community groups in the
22 Peace and environmental groups like the David
23 Suzuki Foundation are concerned that further
24 expansion and intensification of the industrial
25 footprint in the region with Site C will cause

1 irrevocable ecological harm as well as impact
2 community wellbeing by degrading these critical
3 ecosystem services such as the provision of local
4 food, which we just heard about.

5 As a result of these concerns, the David
6 Suzuki Foundation commissioned Global Force Watch
7 Canada to conduct the first ever spatial analysis
8 of industrial land use pressures and industrial
9 land use changes in the Peace Valley and
10 surrounding water sheds over the last 40 years, a
11 time period from 1974 to 2010, and over a
12 56,000-square-kilometre area of northeastern BC,
13 which includes portions of five sub basins that
14 drain into the Peace system. The Beaton, the Upper
15 Peace Halfway, the Eastern Williston Lake, the
16 Upper Peace, Kiskatinaw, and the Pine Water Sheds.

17 While Hydro has commented on cumulative
18 effects at a finer scale in their proposed project
19 at the regional assessment scale, we believe that
20 it is important to look at this bigger picture and
21 recognize that the proposed Site C dam will be
22 built in a region of Canada which is being exposed
23 to unprecedented intensity of human land use.

24 In addition to climate change, cumulative
25 effects of land use are the primary driver of the

1 degradation and loss and natural capital and other
2 areas of nature. Indeed according to a study that
3 was published recently in the Academic Journal of
4 Science, few places on our planet have been
5 untouched by modern humans. From arctic tundra to
6 prime evil rain forest to arid desert, our natural
7 world have been fragmented by ever expanding towns
8 and cities, criss-crossed with roads, transmission
9 lines and pipelines, and impacted by pump jacks,
10 flare stacks and other infrastructure used to
11 drill, frack and strip mine fossil fuels from the
12 ground.

13 The pace and scale of land use in the Peace
14 region is massive. From the air, the Peace appears
15 as a fractured landscape of clear cuts, seismic
16 lines, petroleum and natural gas well sites and
17 facilities, mineral developments, roads,
18 transmission lines and fragmented fields. This is
19 a Google image taken showing the Williston
20 Reservoir and the associated land use around it.

21 If future developments proceed as proposed
22 including the flooding of the Peace River for the
23 Site C dam project, the result will be even greater
24 cumulative changes in a region of Canada that is
25 already under significant pressure and where little

1 protected habitat has been set aside for wildlife
2 and other ecological values.

3 I'm just going to go now briefly to the major
4 findings of our peer-reviewed study. I'd like you
5 to focus on the yellow star that orients us to
6 where the proposed project and reservoir would be
7 built.

8 Overall our analysis of spacial impacts going
9 back over 40 years has shown that 20 percent of the
10 Peace region has been directly impacted by
11 industrial activity to date. However, when
12 buffered by 500 metres to establish an ecological
13 footprint, a well known threshold in the
14 peer-reviewed literature, an astonishing 70 percent
15 of the Peace region has now be disturbed by human
16 land use.

17 I'd like to stress that our analyses in our
18 study are considered very conservative in relation
19 to the actual amounts of land use pressures that
20 are happening in this region. For example, our
21 cumulative change calculations of the loss of
22 natural capital to industrial land use do not
23 include the impacts of seismic exploration as we do
24 not have confidence in the available spacial data
25 sets.

1 They are 16,267 oil and gas well sites, 8,517
2 petroleum and natural gas facilities in the region.
3 Again the yellow star here will orient to where the
4 proposed Site C development would go ahead.

5 15 percent of these developments are within
6 500 metres of a significant-sized body of water.
7 There have been over 2,000 water crossings by the
8 oil and gas industry and 477 points of water
9 withdrawal by the oil and gas industry.

10 There are over 45,000 kilometres of roads,
11 1,163 kilometres of transmission line, 28,587
12 kilometres of oil and gas pipelines. Three
13 quarters of these pipelines are currently in
14 operation.

15 There are 29,000 kilometres of pipeline. In
16 fact, more than half of all the pipelines in
17 British Columbia are found in the Peace region
18 alone. If you placed all the pipelines, roads and
19 seismic lines in this region end to end, they would
20 extend almost four-and-a-half times around the
21 circumference of the earth.

22 The pace and scale of industrial-like
23 development is leaving little intact habitat for
24 sensitive endangered species such as caribou to
25 feed, breed or roam. Indeed according to the

1 federal government's caribou science and species at
2 risk act recovery strategy, all the remaining
3 caribou herds in the Peace region are no longer
4 self sustaining, and thought by my colleagues to be
5 spiralling towards extinction.

6 For example, three of ten caribou herd ranges
7 that occur within the Peace region have been
8 diminished by over 50 percent through a combination
9 of roads, mines, settlements, hydro electric
10 developments and other forms of land use. This
11 region also has among the lowest levels of
12 protection for wildlife. Only 4.2 percent of the
13 region is currently protected in parks and
14 protected areas.

15 I'm just going to conclude with some comments
16 about policy.

17 The pace and scale of land use in the Peace
18 region, which I've described to you today and which
19 are in our report, didn't happen by accident or
20 because of a laissez-faire approach to resource and
21 land management.

22 The industries that are operating in this
23 area are operating legally and according to rules
24 and regulations set by government. But legal
25 experts believe a root cause of this problem is

1 unbelievable intensity and scale of land use lies
2 in the very laws about laws -- land resource and
3 water management. Laws and policies in Canada and
4 British Columbia that are hard wired to fail
5 communities and the local environment.

6 The narrow focus of our laws enables
7 industries and agencies like BC Hydro to operate in
8 isolation from one another. Though the science
9 tells us that we need to adopt a precautionary
10 approach to avoid slipping past critical
11 thresholds, such as keeping a certain amount of
12 intact habitat to ensure that there is wildlife and
13 hunting opportunities on the land base.

14 In BC, we have numerous individual laws that
15 regulate the industries. Like the Forest and Range
16 Practices Act, the Oil and Gas Activities Act, the
17 Mines Act, alongside the regulated industries that
18 these acts enable. But both BC and Canada lacks a
19 legal framework to proactively and comprehensively
20 manage cumulative impacts of multiple resource
21 industries operating within the same area, and this
22 includes large scale hydro, such as proposed for
23 Site C.

24 In 2010, First Nations from across the north
25 including the Treaty 8 First Nations traveled to

1 Victoria to deliver a joint declaration to the BC
2 Government asking that the cumulative effects of
3 industrial develop in the Peace region be looked at
4 before Site C was ever considered.

5 This never was done. Our peer reviewed
6 research confirm that the cumulative effects of
7 development in the Peace region at the regional
8 scale, both the Peace valley and the immediate
9 watersheds that drain into it, where the Site C dam
10 is being considered are significant. They're
11 unprecedented in Canada, and that going ahead with
12 this project will result in even greater cumulative
13 changes in the region. I have to say as a
14 scientists that my findings corroborate what we he
15 heard today very emotionally by folks like Ken and
16 Arlene Boon or the First Nations who are literally
17 seeing their lands be fragmented by the pace and
18 scale of industrial development And who fear
19 greatly that this damage to the land be furthered
20 if the Site C dam is allowed to go ahead. I'm also
21 particularly concerned as a scientist that this
22 project is being considered at a time when both BC
23 and Canada clearly lack any policy direction for
24 the management of cumulative effects. As this
25 slide shows, the Peace region is heavily tenured

1 already with all the industrial tenures operating
2 here are up on this slide. Again, please orient
3 yourselves to the yellow star where the proposed
4 project would be built.

5 The Peace region is heavily tenured already
6 and has been identified by policy makers including
7 the Premier for further development such as
8 expanded shale and gas development to feed LNG
9 production. It is for this reason that the David
10 Suzuki Foundation believes that remaining
11 ecological and farmland resources in the Peace
12 River Valley must be protected and the Site C Hydro
13 project should be rejected.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. Moola. Please
16 refrain from demonstrations.

17 Are there questions for Dr. Moola?

18 Jocelyne, did you have one?

19 Jocelyne and then you.

20 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
21 received a copy, an electronic copy of this
22 document sent by T8TA in September, and I'd like to
23 find out from Mr. Hendriks if it's the same version
24 because -- and maybe, that's why BC wants to --
25 BC Hydro's rebuttal is going to be sent on this

1 document, with respect to the submission of
2 Treaty 8 First Nations. And I'd like us to work on
3 the same version, all of us.

4 DR. MOOLA: Can I clarify.

5 MS. BEAUDET: Yes, please.

6 DR. MOOLA: I'm sorry, if I was
7 confusing.

8 The document was released. What I
9 released this week was the executive summary which
10 includes interviews with local community members
11 including Ken and Arlene Boon, the Treaty 8 First
12 Nations responding to the data that was presented
13 in the regional technical report. So there's a
14 technical report which has already been filed by
15 Treaty 8 Tribal Association as well as by the David
16 Suzuki Foundation in my written submissions.

17 In addition, I have a popular summary which
18 is much more easily understood, which has also been
19 submitted.

20 MS. BEAUDET: Mr. Hendriks, so what you
21 sent us was the atlas? Okay.

22 MR. HENDRIKS: Yes, Rick Hendriks with
23 Treaty 8 Tribal Association.

24 It would be worthwhile, Madam Beaudet,
25 perhaps to just confirm that I did get the right

1 version. Also I did notice that the Saulneau First
2 Nations as part of their submissions --

3 MS. BEAUDET: Yes.

4 MR. HENDRIKS: -- also submitted a version,
5 so I agree, it would be worthwhile to make sure
6 that the correct version -- that they're all the
7 same.

8 MS. BEAUDET: That was my next question,
9 yes, because we did get also from the Saulneau
10 Nation, so I'd like all of us, including BC Hydro,
11 if we could work all on the same version.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: We have a new undertaking
13 number 14 that --

14 MR. HENDRIKS: Mr. Chairman, can I suggest
15 that perhaps a new -- I say a new version, but the
16 correct, most up-to-date version be posted, and
17 perhaps the others be taken down. I don't know if
18 that can done on the registry.

19 MS. BEAUDET: We have three versions now.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: So long as the version that
21 we're all going to use is available on the website
22 very quickly and is available to all participants,
23 all right? And can I ask the two of you to
24 undertake to make sure that that happens?

25 Thank you.

1 MR. HENDRIKS: Will do.

2

3 **UNDERTAKING 14: Confirm if the copy of**
4 **Dr. Moola's report submitted by T8TA and Saulteau**
5 **First Nation are the same as his**

6

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: I believe Hydro had a
8 comment.

9 MR. HADLAND: Mr. Chairman, I do have a
10 number of questions. But I do want to touch on
11 this question of the version. And I wondered if
12 Dr. Moola could confirm that the version attached
13 to his submission is the most current and up to
14 date version.

15 DR. MOOLA: Yeah. Yeah, there's one
16 version of the technical document which is being
17 submitted by both myself, Treaty 8 and Saulteau
18 First Nations. What I'm also submitting is a
19 popular public summary. This is the only new
20 document. It presents the exact same maps.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's fine.

22 DR. MOOLA: But in an easier to --

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: So the answer is yes.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. HADLAND: And, Mr. Chairman, I think

1 Dr. Moola just confirmed the answer to my next
2 question, but I'll ask it anyway, the versions of
3 the report -- and I think the authors are Lee and
4 Hattiman; correct?

5 The summary that Dr. Moola is suggesting he
6 will submit has additional information; is that
7 correct?

8 DR. MOOLA: It has additional information
9 which are interviews with people who have lived
10 with and observed the changes that are present --
11 the ecological change that are present in the
12 technical report.

13 MR. HADLAND: Mr. Chair, I believe I also
14 heard Dr. Moola refer to what be yet another
15 document. Yet another document, a natural capital
16 evaluation I think he referred to it. And I'd ask
17 him to confirm that that is indeed yet another
18 document.

19 DR. MOOLA: Yeah. There is a third study
20 which is an economic analysis of the non-market
21 benefits of natural capital which will be submitted
22 in January.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm having some difficulty
24 with that. Any documents that are brought forward
25 have to be brought forward in time for

1 consideration by all other parties. I would very
2 much prefer -- and I have made this condition to
3 other people that any late documents come in by
4 Christmas Eve. Can you do that?

5 DR. MOOLA: I will try, it's my
6 commitment to peer review and due diligence, and
7 unfortunately some of the peer reviewers have been
8 late with their comments. I will try really hard.

9 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

10 MR. HADLAND: I have one question that
11 would touch on this concept of natural capital
12 evaluation. I would ask Dr. Moola whether the
13 types of natural capital that may exist are
14 reflected in the descriptions of land use natural
15 and otherwise in the Lee and Hattiman report?

16 DR. MOOLA: Yes, they are.

17 MR. HADLAND: Dr. Moola --

18 Mr. Chair, I'm looking at the public hearing
19 registration form that Dr. Moola submitted. It's
20 CEAA document 1996. In it Dr. Moola refers to what
21 I believe is the Lee and Hattiman report which is
22 also attached to his submission. And Dr. Moola
23 describe it as new peer reviewed research.

24 And again, just to confirm that it is the Lee
25 and Hattiman report that he refer to in his

1 submission.

2 DR. MOOLA: Yes.

3 MR. HADLAND: He's nodding. The
4 description "peer reviewed," I take it to mean the
5 review that's described in appendix C of that same
6 report; is that correct?

7 DR. MOOLA: Yes.

8 MR. HADLAND: Okay. Dr. Moola concluded
9 with a discussion about the absence of a legal
10 framework and that's too reflected in his
11 submission form, Mr. Chairman. And I just want to
12 confirm that -- as I read it and heard it, it
13 raises two questions or two parts: one, that such
14 a framework ought to be prepared by government,
15 generally.

16 DR. MOOLA: Yes.

17 MR. HADLAND: And that it hasn't been done
18 yet government.

19 DR. MOOLA: It has not been done ... No.

20 MR. CHAIRMAN: I would say that that's an
21 interesting observation if true but not relevant to
22 our proceedings. Well beyond our terms of
23 reference, thank you.

24 MR. HADLAND: I would ask Dr. Moola turn
25 next to page 8 of the Lee and Hattiman report.

1 Mr. Chair and Dr. Moola, I do want to ask Dr. Moola
2 about some of the content of the report. I know
3 he's not the author, and I trust that he's able to
4 answer some questions.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: Since he's only here for this
6 afternoon, you'd better ask now.

7 MR. HADLAND: I am.

8 Now, Dr. Moola, at page 8 at the bottom
9 there's a description of the purposes of this
10 study.

11 DR. MOOLA: Yeah.

12 MR. HADLAND: And as you mentioned in your
13 oral presentation, the purpose -- the threefold
14 purpose is a question of -- was to describe
15 spatially or spatially describe depending on which
16 of the three you're reading. You're on page 8.

17 The third one reads in the report:

18
19 "To spatially describe the change
20 in natural capital over the last
21 decades as a result of recent
22 industrial development."

23
24 And my question, Dr. Moola, is the change in
25 natural capital done by making certain assumptions

1 about the impact of that development?

2 DR. MOOLA: I will not be able to
3 describe to you the full methodology that we used.
4 It's the two scientists that I hired have that
5 knowledge. What we did was we looked at historical
6 GIS and other types of remote sensing images of
7 what the Peace region looked like in the early
8 1970s, identified the stocks of natural capital
9 from those images, different types of farmland,
10 different types of forests, different types of
11 other ecosystem. We then compiled an inventory, a
12 spatial inventory of land use that has happened
13 over the next 40 years to our most recent data set
14 which is 2010 and looked at the change or loss or
15 degradation of those natural capital stocks between
16 those two time periods.

17 MR. HADLAND: Mr. Chairman, there is at
18 page 68, there's some discussion of this cumulative
19 change and a few words including a footnote that
20 might add some detail to this, to the assumptions
21 underlying the characterization of change, and it
22 may help if I ask Dr. Moola to turn there.

23 MR. CHAIRMAN: Could you repeat the page
24 number, please.

25 MR. HADLAND: 68.

1 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 MR. HADLAND: Dr. Moola, the first
3 paragraph under the heading "Cumulative Changes"
4 states:

5
6 "Cumulative changes were mapped and
7 analyzed using a number of data
8 sets."

9
10 And then a number of types of data are listed
11 in the that sentence. Do you see that?

12 DR. MOOLA: Yes.

13 MR. HADLAND: And there's a footnote on the
14 word "changes."

15 And, Mr. Chair, if we go to the bottom of the
16 page, there's a definition of change. And if I
17 may, I'll reads it out:

18
19 "We find change as all those
20 industrial and infrastructure
21 activities on the land that may
22 degrade the natural ecological
23 conditions."

24

25 And, Dr. Moola, is it your understanding that

1 the assumption about the impact of development was
2 made by some consideration of the nature of the
3 development but not a measure of the actual impact
4 on the ground?

5 DR. MOOLA: Yes, that's true.

6 MR. HADLAND: And then it becomes clear in
7 the third paragraph on that page that that
8 assumption was then expanded spatially by adding
9 the 500 metres buffer that you just described.

10 DR. MOOLA: Yeah. We presented the land
11 impacts two ways: conservatively based on the
12 actual amount of natural capital directly under
13 human land use and then based on the amount of
14 natural capital that is impacted within 500 metres
15 of land use. So the use of a 500-metre buffer is a
16 well known published threshold in the literature
17 about the ecological impacts of land use that go
18 beyond the direct footprint of development. For
19 example, impacts on the behaviour of wildlife.

20 MR. HADLAND: And that point is made in the
21 appendix to the report in a discussion of mapping;
22 correct.

23 DR. MOOLA: Yes.

24 MR. HADLAND: Okay. Thank you.

25 At page -- on the next page, Mr. Chairman,

1 under the heading of what starts on the previous
2 page, summary of findings. There's some near the
3 bottom two, the bullets, if I can call it that, the
4 thirteenth last one and the second last one.

5 DR. MOOLA: Yes.

6 MR. HADLAND: And in those two bullets we
7 see the effect of buffering; Is that correct?

8 DR. MOOLA: Yes.

9 MR. HADLAND: Okay. And some of them --
10 the two examples there, are they the two extreme
11 examples that were found in this report?

12 DR. MOOLA: Yes, based on the five
13 different watershed units. It identifies one
14 watershed unit, the beaten watershed unit, which
15 has the highest percentage of its area that has
16 been disturbed by human land use.

17 MR. HADLAND: And was there any in that one
18 changed from the beaten -- I'm just trying to read
19 the two bullets at the same time, but I think what
20 it says is that the unbuffered change is 22 and
21 half percent and the buffered change 90 or
22 91 percent?

23 DR. MOOLA: No.

24 Oh, yes, you're right, yeah.

25 MR. HADLAND: I just wanted to make sure I

1 understood that.

2 DR. MOOLA: Yeah. And that is a
3 consequence of linear impacts. So it's a
4 reflection of the amount of fragmentation that is
5 occurring within the beaten watershed. Imagine a
6 spider web of roads, of pipelines and other types
7 of linear disturbances, which if we buffer with a
8 buffer of 500 metres is going to have a far larger
9 extrapolation of influence over the land.

10 MR. HADLAND: And Dr. Moola has anticipated
11 my next question which is whether there was an
12 explanation or any attempt to analyze the relative
13 differences and what they may be attributable to.
14 And I know that Dr. Moola that there's a discussion
15 on page 88, beginning on page 88 on the question of
16 change, verification.

17 And, Mr. Chair, I'd ask Dr. Moola to confirm
18 whether beyond that discussion there's any other
19 discussion or any other analysis of the
20 reliability, the sensitively or the uncertainty of
21 the analysis in this report beyond what is set out
22 there.

23 DR. MOOLA: I'm sorry, I'm not a GIS
24 expert and can't answer that question.

25 MR. CHAIRMAN: I think it would be fair to

1 accept what's written as what they were saying.

2 MR. HADLAND: Fair enough, Mr. Chairman,
3 and those are my questions.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.
5 Madam Beaudet.

6 MS. BEAUDET: This presentation brings
7 forward the topic on cumulative effect assessment.
8 I think before we go deep into it, we'll wait for
9 your rebuttal on this document. But I'd like to
10 bring a few points, and maybe you should keep them
11 in mind when you do your response. The first one
12 is from the letter you sent December 3rd, 2013,
13 where you say that you're going to respond to
14 several of the presentations that were submitted.
15 And on page 6, you talk about this atlas. And the
16 next paragraph, just before the fourth section, you
17 say:

18
19 "In BC Hydro's submission and
20 understanding of the two types of
21 cumulative effect assessment,
22 regional and project specific, will
23 assist the Panel to complete its
24 mandate as each type has its own
25 purpose objectives, approach and

1 information requirements."

2

3 Now, I've been involved with cumulative
4 effect assessments since 1993 which was even before
5 the guidelines with the Federal government was
6 written. And the spirit of that guideline and
7 whatever work we did before or after was always in
8 the context of a region, a watershed, a valley.
9 And this is the first time I see a project specific
10 cumulative effect assessment. And I'd like you to
11 explain that to me, how you saw it. If we look,
12 for instance, at the LAA part of it is in the flood
13 reserve zone. And the response to the IR 91 says
14 that only 30 percent of that area is not flooded.

15 So if 70 percent is flooded, how many
16 projects can you add to your project? I'd like
17 that to be answered.

18

19 **UNDERTAKING 15: Respond to Mme. Beaudet's four**
20 **questions regarding cumulative effects**

21

22 MS. BEAUDET: The second thing is you have
23 a list of projects and you always say there's no
24 cumulative effect assessment in the LAA. It's
25 evaluated in the IA only from a qualitative point

1 of view because you say sometimes there are not
2 projects like for heritage. So I'd like you to
3 make the distinction on the list that you presented
4 us, the projects that you assumed were in the LAA.
5 I don't think that is clearly defined. There's a
6 figure where you indicate the projects in the IA in
7 terms of forestry, oil and gas, et cetera. But I'd
8 like to see clearly, if you're going to talk about
9 cumulative effect assessment as a project specific,
10 what's happening in the LAA.

11 Now, my last point or so is, there were
12 several questions we asked in terms of number of
13 hectors, percentage. What we were looking at is we
14 were trying to see like the map we saw just now.
15 And if you look at Site C, it is an addition. But
16 we were trying to have from you specific percentage
17 or number of hectors or whatever, that will
18 indicate compared to all this region, what is your
19 impact?

20 I mean, it could be 2 percent. And even in
21 the update you've given us after this -- from the
22 questions we ask in this efficiency letter, we
23 still can't use any of what you told us. You even
24 say that you can't add the figure, you know, the
25 data you've given us.

1 The last point is -- and maybe I'm wrong, and
2 that's why I'm asking you because I never make any
3 assumption unless I ask the proponent to explain to
4 me clearly how he saw things because it's possible
5 we see things differently.

6 Usually in an environmental impact statement
7 the cumulative effect assessment will be done on a
8 few topics. And I know you have a technical memo
9 on that clarifying why you didn't do on certain
10 topics and you did on some topics. I just want to
11 know if I'm wrong in thinking that the cumulative
12 effect assessment was done by different teams. I
13 find that there's a different interpretation of the
14 guidelines from the Federal Government. And I'd
15 like you to correct me to say yes or no. Depending
16 on what topic of obviously you're evaluating.

17 Yeah, thank you.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Hydro?

19 MS. YURKOVICH: Just to confirm,
20 Madam Beaudet, I think your request of us is to
21 make that clear in our submission back to you?

22 MS. BEAUDET: In the documents in the
23 response, yes, what has been presented to us.

24 MS. YURKOVICH: Thank you.

25 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you.

1 MS. YURKOVICH: We will do what -- we will
2 try to do a better job, thank you.

3 DR. MOOLA: Mr. Chair, will it be
4 possible for me to make a comment that was inspired
5 by Ms. Beaudet's comments?

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, could you speak into
7 the mic?

8 DR. MOOLA: Mr. Chair, would it be
9 possible for me to make a comment that was inspired
10 by Ms. Beaudet's comments. Okay. Thank you very
11 much.

12 One of the things I'd like to stress is how
13 conservative our analysis is. I had mentioned
14 for example that there were certain forms of land
15 use that -- like, seismic that is not presented in
16 our atlas or the public friendly document because
17 we don't feel confident with the sources of data.
18 But another major element of our conservative
19 analysis is that we only focussed on the stocks of
20 natural capital, the amount of forest, the amount
21 of farmland, the amount of wetland and how those
22 stocks of natural capital have changed over a time
23 as a consequences of cumulative effects. You could
24 also look at the flows in terms of the ecosystem
25 services that come from the natural capital. And

1 I'll give you an example, I understand that Parks
2 Canada recently filed a document with you with some
3 concern that if the Site C dam was built, it might
4 influence downstream environmental conditions.
5 That if it is true would be a consequence of the
6 change in the flows of those ecosystem services.
7 So I'd just like to conclude that this analysis
8 that we've done which provides some, I would say,
9 very alarming results around the nature of the
10 current human footprint in the Peace region and
11 raises some concerns that the human footprint will
12 be exacerbated if the Site C dam and reservoir goes
13 forward, does not address the quality of those
14 ecosystem services as a consequence of historical
15 development or proposed new development.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you. We are now
17 running a little behind time. I will allow two
18 more questions, and they will be factual questions,
19 please rather than editorials.

20 MR. FOREST: Thank you.

21 Madam Beaudet, you raised a question to Hydro
22 about the percentage of cumulative impacts, and you
23 were asking a question about that. And I wonder --

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Sorry, could you identify
25 yourself.

1 MR. FOREST: Ken Forest, I'm sorry.

2 My question that I came up with when you
3 asked that question of Hydro was the actual --
4 rather than a percentage of the cumulative impact
5 which is something that you suggested could be one
6 of the answers, but there's probably others, my
7 question would be -- and I'm going to walk away
8 from here after I ask the question -- how important
9 is a particular area? In a car, the fender may not
10 be as important as the carburetor if they're both
11 damaged. And in the area of the Peace, if the
12 River Valley is damaged, but an area on some ridge
13 is not, then maybe that.

14 So my question would be in terms of
15 cumulative impacts, is it just a percentage, or is
16 there something more than just the percentage?

17 Thank you.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Chief Willson.

19 CHIEF WILLSON: Thank you, Chair.

20 Chief Willson, West Moberly First Nations.

21 My question is to the extent of the
22 cumulative impacts assessment, in what context is
23 it being applied?

24 The context of treaty rights is an ongoing
25 context. So the date of 2012 does not take into

1 the context of ongoing Treaty rights. So the West
2 Moberly versus BC First Coal court case, the judge
3 stated in there that they have an obligation to
4 look at impacts prior to the ongoing impacts and
5 future impacts of what is happening.

6 So a cumulative impact assessment in the
7 context of Treaty rights is not met by the 2012
8 line that they drew. And in light of what we saw
9 with Dr. Faisal's presentation, it falls far short
10 of meeting constitutional obligations of the
11 province and Canada.

12 MR. CHAIRMAN: Maybe I can summarize that in
13 the form of a question. In the cumulative impact
14 assessment that Hydro undertook, did you look at
15 the cumulative impact of developments on Treaty
16 rights?

17 MR. PROVERBS: Yes, Mr. Chair, we did.

18 MR. CHAIRMAN: Perhaps you could reference
19 the section where it's described.

20 MR. PROVERBS: Yes. It was set out in
21 section 34 of the EIS. We also looked at, in
22 section 19, current use of lands and resources for
23 traditional purposes, past use, current use, and
24 recently-anticipated future use.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: All right. I think that will

1 do us for now. Mr. Moola, thank you very much for
2 making your --

3 MR. MOOLA: Thank you very much for the
4 opportunity.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like now to turn to
6 Clara London.

7 Ms. London, we have nominally 15 minutes left
8 in this session and two presenters, so could I ask
9 you to be as swift as possible, consistent with our
10 transcribers being able to keep up with you. Thank
11 you.

12

13 **Presentation by Clara London:**

14 MS. LONDON: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

15 Thank you, Panel, and Mr. Chair, for hearing
16 me today.

17 My name is Clara London. I am a third
18 generation land owner of land in the Bear Flat
19 area.

20 My husband, Dale London, and I own a third
21 generation land that will be affected by the
22 proposed project. Our son, Brad, will soon be a
23 fourth generation landowner. We will lose land to
24 flooding, highway realignment, and we'll have
25 statutory right of way placed on several parcels.

1 My grandfather, Lloyd Bentley Senior, bought
2 land along the Peace River at Bear Flat in the late
3 1940s. I was raised on my father, Ira Bentley's
4 hereford cattle ranch, which bordered my
5 grandfather's ranch.

6 Combined, the two ranches encompassed,
7 approximately, 3,840 acres of privately-owned
8 property.

9 I had some of my grandfather's land left to
10 me. And Dale and I purchased some land that was
11 part of my father's ranch.

12 And along with our son, Brad, we now live at
13 the top of the Bear Flat hills.

14 Dale and I owned cows for 16 years. Four
15 generations of us have had the great opportunity to
16 work, live, and enjoy the Bear Flat area.

17 Because my family have lived and worked for
18 generations at Bear Flat, we have extensive
19 knowledge and understanding of this area. I have
20 covered the 3,840 acres, plus other lease land and
21 outlying land on horseback, Jeep, Suburban,
22 motorcycle, three-wheeler, four-wheeler, Ranger,
23 and many four-by-four trucks.

24 I've cut firewood, fixed endless miles of
25 fence -- sorry -- bailed hay, fed cows, helped with

1 calving, chased cows, operated a swather, ran
2 tractors, picked rocks, and, et cetera.

3 I have been to all four corners of this
4 expansive area over 40 years. Through all of this,
5 I have observed the natural working of the Bear
6 Flat area.

7 I will be speaking today of the Bear Flat
8 area because that is my expertise. I hope that you
9 will give weight to what I have to say here today.

10 I have 12 topics of concern that I will
11 cover.

12 Number one is agriculture.

13 I want to have quality food at a reasonable
14 price for the rest of my life and for generations
15 to come. You cannot recreate the rich, black soil
16 and growing conditions that exist in the valley.
17 The valley acts as a natural greenhouse, and there
18 are others who will speak on this topic, so I will
19 leave this to them.

20 Number two is landowners.

21 The people most affected by the proposed
22 project have been ignored. The topic of the
23 displacement of my family and neighbours is not
24 getting any recognition. I value my family --
25 sorry -- my sister and brother-in-law live in my

1 grandfather's house. And my mother lives in the
2 restored 1921 Bear Flat Schoolhouse that you saw
3 the picture of earlier. And they live on what was
4 my grandfather's ranch. And they will be displaced
5 -- sorry -- and forced from their homes and the
6 valley by the proposed project.

7 They and other people that face the same fate
8 deserve to be acknowledged and respected. And this
9 has not taken place so far.

10 My father started the Bear Flat campgrounds.
11 My sister, mother, and brother-in-law now run the
12 campgrounds, and we spend a lot of time there
13 visiting the family and friends. I will not go
14 into the effects on this campground as that has
15 been previously covered by my sister, so I will
16 just skip down from there. Thank you.

17 Scenery, number three.

18 The landscapes and the views in the Peace
19 valley are exceptional. Anyone living or
20 travelling in the valley know to always have a
21 camera ready because the landscapes and wildlife
22 will always offer great photographic opportunities.

23 I spend time taking photos mainly of scenery
24 and wildlife at Bear Flat. My husband has a motion
25 detector camera out to capture great wildlife

1 photos.

2 The scenery is one of the things that Dale
3 and Bradley and I take great pride in showing off
4 to others. Any time that we have visitors, we take
5 them to one of several locations on our property so
6 they can be in awe at the scenery and take photos.

7 We take photos of our visitors during the
8 spring, summer, and fall, as the location is not
9 accessible by vehicle.

10 The Peace River and Bear Flat valley is the
11 backdrop. The visitors always love the view and
12 always want to return to the location on return
13 trips. If the river is turned into a reservoir, no
14 one will enjoy the view of destruction, and they
15 will not want their photo taken here.

16 Number four is hunting.

17 Bear Flat has bountiful wildlife. Once being
18 referred to by Alexander Mackenzie as a stall
19 yard (phonetic). Hunting is an important industry
20 in the Peace River. Others are covering the
21 industry, part of it, so I will leave that to them.
22 I am going to cover the importance of hunting to my
23 family.

24 Hunting is of great importance to Dale, Brad,
25 and I. The fall is a great social time for us, as

1 we invite friends to come and visit and spend hours
2 viewing wildlife on our property at Bear Flat.

3 The deer, the elk, and the moose supply us
4 and our family and friends with fresh, organic
5 healthy food. The Bear Flat area supports large
6 numbers of mule deer and elk. And if the proposed
7 project is built, the great number of all the
8 species of wildlife will drown trying to cross the
9 newly-formed reservoir in late fall and early
10 winter.

11 For the past 26 years, Dale and Brad and I
12 have had our meat supplied only from our property
13 at Bear Flat. Twenty-four of these years has been
14 supplied by wild meat. The other two years were by
15 our own cows.

16 The proposed project will also result in the
17 displacement of wildlife as they will lose the food
18 supply in the valley, and will lose the safety of
19 the valley and, therefore, their numbers will
20 decline.

21 The valley needs to exist as it is today to
22 protect the population and variety that are there
23 today. The wildlife cannot just go elsewhere
24 because the valley is their food supply, especially
25 in the hard winters. They feed on the south-facing

1 hillsides and eat in the farmers' fields. If the
2 proposed project were to be built, the farmers
3 would be forced from the valley and one of their
4 important food sources would not be there.

5 Dale has hunted all of his life at his
6 brother's ranch, at his uncle's ranch, at a
7 cousin's ranch. And then when he met me, on my
8 father's ranch. Dale is now a disabled hunter in a
9 wheelchair. And if the proposed project were to be
10 built, he would be losing an important portion of
11 his hunting area.

12 Dale had a friend build him a hunting hut for
13 him ten years ago. Dale and Brad and other friends
14 spend a lot of time in the fall hunting from this
15 hut. This hut will not be able to be used if the
16 proposed project proceeds as the highway
17 realignment will bring the highway to within
18 80 yards of the hut, and the minimum is 440 yards
19 to legally discharge a firearm.

20 This will greatly impact Dale's recreation
21 that he and Brad and friends enjoy. Dale cannot
22 just go elsewhere to hunt as he is unable to walk
23 to access land elsewhere and this is why he sits in
24 the hunting hut.

25 The importance of hunting to our family is

1 great; we look forward to hunting season. And
2 friends plan trips to be able to join us, and we
3 plan all events to not disturb this important
4 social season. We spend weeks with our friends
5 socializing and sharing our past year with them.

6 We have seen how industry can greatly impact
7 wildlife movements and decrease their populations.

8 Number five is gravel.

9 The proposed project will inundate and make
10 inaccessible a couple hundred years of supply of
11 gravel. The deposits in the affected area are huge
12 and valuable to us and future generations.

13 Number six is fresh water.

14 Fresh water is vital to all life. The
15 proposed project will inundate thousands of natural
16 springs. We need to preserve the natural
17 watersheds.

18 Number seven is undiscovered treasures.

19 There are rare finds yet to be discovered in
20 the valley that should not be flooded as they will
21 then be lost forever. An example of this, as
22 mentioned earlier, is this 24,000-year-old mammoth
23 tusk. I found it along the Cache Creek after a
24 spring flood.

25 Number eight is flora.

1 The wide ranging and huge variety of grasses,
2 plants, trees and flowers all need protection. I
3 have here a picture of a rare flower that I have
4 seen at the top of the Bear Flats hills only three
5 times in my entire life.

6 Number nine is river otter.

7 The river otter live in the Peace and
8 tributaries and have been ignored by the proponent.
9 BC Hydro did not do the studies on river otter.

10 I have submitted three submissions to the
11 environmental assessment office regarding the fact
12 that the river otter should be included. And to
13 date, they have not been.

14 The river otter was put on a watch list, but,
15 to date, I do not believe that any of the watch
16 list information has made it onto the site.

17 Number ten is the oil and gas industry.

18 Regarding the cumulative effects of the
19 multiple industries here in the north, they're
20 huge. And what I have here in our area within two
21 kilometres radius of my house is ten oil and gas
22 wells. And what I have here is a ten-year diary of
23 oil and gas problems. And this is only within a
24 two-kilometre radius of my house.

25 And the only reason I bring this up is to

1 express how impacted the north is already, and,
2 especially with oil and gas, and that the risks are
3 real. And if the project were to go through, the
4 highways would be in a greater danger than they are
5 at present.

6 Number 11 is grizzly bear.

7 And I have requested for a document,
8 number 274, to be pulled up. And if we could go
9 to, within it, I believe submission number four is
10 a picture of a grizzly bear. And, in fact, I have
11 four pictures on the submission of -- with the
12 grizzly bear. Two of these pictures are a grizzly
13 bear at Bear Flats.

14 Sorry, that particular one is the black bear.
15 I will refer to that one in my next talking point.

16 The grizzly bear, there is two of them there.
17 And it was taken by my husband's motion detector
18 camera at Bear Flat at the hunting hut that I
19 referred to earlier.

20 Number 12 is the black bear.

21 And as you have seen the previous picture, I
22 have submitted five presentations to the
23 environmental assessment agency regarding the black
24 bear. And so the reason I have such a concern with
25 the black bear, and I've spent a lot of time on it

1 with the proponent, BC Hydro, is because I live in
2 Bear Flats, and it is named Bear Flats for a
3 reason.

4 The origin of the name Bear Flat comes from
5 the year 1793 when Alexander Mackenzie and his men
6 travelled through the area and was taken from his
7 note:

8
9 "We, this day, saw two
10 grizzly and hideous bears."

11
12 Okay. And the Bear Flat area, the way it
13 exists today, is critical for the black bear. The
14 black bear exists there in great numbers. As you
15 can see referenced, I submitted one picture that
16 had a total of five black bear in the photo. And
17 then I submitted another one that had a black bear
18 mother with the three cubs.

19 So the black bear rely on the valley for the
20 food source. The valley provides them with meat,
21 berries, plants, roots, and farmers' crops. And
22 the proposed project would greatly reduce all of
23 these. The black bear dens will be run over during
24 the planned winter clearing along the Peace and the
25 tributaries.

1 And I have used a quote taken from BC
2 high-tech -- BC Hydro Tack, wildlife draft summary
3 notes, tack workshop number one, October 22nd/23rd,
4 2008:

5
6 "Black bears are known to den
7 in the valley. Care should be
8 taken during cleaning activities
9 with respect to bear dens."

10
11 The proponent has totally disregarded this
12 statement and have refused to do studies on the
13 black bear; although, it was pointed out repeatedly
14 at meetings and open houses that the black bear
15 were of great concern to area residents and needed
16 to be studied.

17 And from there, I would like to go to the
18 submission that I handed in at the door. And what
19 it is is I attended -- yes, sorry -- I attended
20 meetings throughout all of this process that were
21 put on BC Hydro -- by BC Hydro. It -- the fact
22 that the black bears were not being studied was
23 brought up a lot at the meetings.

24 I was not accepting of BC Hydro's reason for
25 not studying the black bear. I started doing

1 correspondence with BC Hydro, trying to get to the
2 bottom of why they were not studying the black
3 bear. Through the correspondence, and later on
4 through a Freedom of Information request with
5 BC Hydro, I tried to get to the reason for their
6 conclusion for not studying the black bear. And I
7 have spent -- I spent six months doing the
8 correspondence with BC Hydro and doing the Freedom
9 of Information request.

10 And so what the FOI request and that
11 submission shows is that BC Hydro's statement to me
12 and -- that we had heard at meetings for their
13 reasoning for not studying black bear -- I'm just
14 going to read the quote that was put on the
15 submission to me from BC Hydro. And, like I said,
16 we've heard at the meetings. And the quote is:

17
18 "The Ministry of Environment
19 identified black bears as present
20 in the area, but not necessarily of
21 priority interest in the context of
22 the Site C project."

23
24 So when I was hearing this quote, and when I
25 read it in the correspondence from BC Hydro, I was

1 not accepting that somebody from the Ministry of
2 Environment would actually state this regarding the
3 black bear. And that is why I went to the extent
4 of doing the Freedom of Information request.

5 And so what I have discovered from my Freedom
6 of Information request and correspondence, I will
7 read, which is the conclusion of my submission.
8 And, oh, sorry, I just have to back up one second
9 here.

10 So what the FOI request shows it that
11 BC Hydro's statement, the one that I just read to
12 you for not studying the black bear, was actually a
13 statement made by the Ministry of Environment
14 regarding the grizzly bear, not regarding the black
15 bear.

16 So in conclusion of my six months of trying
17 to track down why someone from the Ministry of
18 Environment would state this regarding the black
19 bear; in conclusion, I believe that BC Hydro's
20 decision to not include study or include the black
21 bear as a VC, valued component, was in error.
22 BC Hydro manufactured their own conclusion by
23 manipulating the Ministry Environment's grizzly
24 bear statement to stand in place for black bear.

25 And from that, I am -- I just have a short

1 little bit and then a conclusion and I will
2 conclude. Thanks.

3 An example of a black bear den, because I'm
4 trying to point out the fact that the black bear
5 will definitely be impacted, and so an example that
6 I'm going to use is I know of a location of a black
7 bear den in Bear Flat. It was occupied in the
8 winter and spring of 2009. It is within the
9 proposed inundation area and would, therefore, be
10 underwater within the new proposed reservoir. The
11 den is surrounded by timber that would be cleared
12 during the planned winter clearing along the river
13 and tributaries.

14 Had the clearing happened in 2009, the bear
15 den would be disturbed, run over, and this bear
16 would have died. If there had of been cubs in the
17 black bear den, nobody knows for sure because
18 nobody probed quite that deep to discovery this,
19 the cubs would also have perished. And so this is
20 just an example of the fact that the black bear
21 dens do exist in the valley and are in the impacted
22 areas.

23 Okay. And just one last point on the black
24 bear and then I'll just do a conclusion.

25 In document number 275, which I have

1 requested to be played, there is a picture of -- I
2 call it a Kermode bear, but perhaps it is only to
3 be referred to as a white bear, at Bear Flat. So
4 hopefully that video will play.

5 There should be a total of five bear. And
6 this is at Bear Flat. And we pan over and we get
7 video footage of a white bear.

8 Yeah, so there's the white bear. And I
9 believe there -- there was either four or five
10 bears, and they were playing on the hillside.

11 And I also have submitted a photo of the
12 white bear possibly the same one as a cub. And a
13 local photographer had taken the cub picture. And
14 this is possibly the same white bear as an adult on
15 the hills at Bear Flat. And I just wanted to point
16 that out because a white bear, especially up here,
17 is extremely rare, and it needs to be protected.
18 And BC Hydro is not acknowledging such things that
19 this unique valley holds, such as the white bear.
20 Okay.

21 And I would just like to do my conclusion,
22 thanks.

23 Our roots run deep at Bear Flats. We have a
24 great connection to the land and the wildlife. And
25 the reality is that the impacts will be great.

1 The valley is paradise for all that live
2 there and travel there and needs to be preserved.
3 If properly managed, the valley will provide for
4 generations to come. We hope that our son,
5 Bradley, and our future generations will be able to
6 live in and enjoy the valley as the past three
7 generations have.

8 There is a saying:

9 When we know better, we do better.

10 Let's say no to a third dam on the Peace
11 River because the devastating results are in front
12 of us and we now know better. There will be
13 significant adverse environmental effects at Bear
14 Flats and the proposed Site C dam needs to be
15 permanently cancelled.

16 Thank you.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. London.

18 Madam Beaudet, did you have a question?

19 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 I was wondering if -- you have some fieldwork
21 notes and we did ask a question about the stone
22 sheep and you did provide us an answer. And I was
23 wondering if you have equivalent data with the
24 otter, the river otters?

25 MS. YURKOVICH: I would have to check. And

1 perhaps after the break, we could confirm whether
2 we have that or not.

3 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you.

4 MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mattison.

5 MR. MATTISON: Ms. London, do you know the
6 name of that plant that you've shown us a picture
7 of?

8 MS. LONDON: No, I don't, sir.

9 MR. MATTISON: Okay. Thank you.

10 MS. LONDON: Like I say, I've only seen it
11 three times in my entire life. And it is up close
12 to where my house is at the top of the Bear Flat
13 hills.

14 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
15 Ms. London.

16 MS. LONDON: Thank you.

17 MR. CHAIRMAN: Given the time, I wonder if
18 Mr. Hochstein is here? Would you come forward,
19 please.

20

21 **Presentation by Philip Hochstein, Independent Contractors**
22 **and Business Association**

23 MR. HOCHSTEIN: Thank you. Given that I am
24 standing between you and food, I will be as brief
25 as I can. Thank you.

1 My name is Philip Hochstein,
2 H-o-c-h-s-t-e-i-n. I'm the president of the
3 Independent Contractors and Businesses Association,
4 the voice of the construction industry in British
5 Columbia.

6 Our 1100 member companies work in every
7 sector of the construction industry: commercial,
8 industrial, institutional, and both single family
9 and multiple family residential.

10 Over the past 15 years, our members have been
11 part of every major construction project in British
12 Columbia; The Sea to Sky Highway, the Canada Line
13 Rapid Transit project, Mount Milligan, Gibraltar
14 Mines, Vancouver Convention Centre, just to name a
15 few.

16 MR. CHAIRMAN: Remember, you are being
17 transcribed, so watch your speed. Thank you.

18 MR. HOCHSTEIN: Right. Okay. I'm sorry
19 about that.

20 I'm here today in support of the Site C
21 project. Renewable electrical powers British
22 Columbia's economy by creating wealth. Only a few
23 industries accomplish this: fisheries, agriculture,
24 forestry, oil and gas, and mining are the leaders
25 in this field. And I wish I could say that about

1 my industry, the construction industry, but I
2 cannot. My industry relies on those industries
3 that create wealth.

4 When others create wealth, that allows the
5 construction industry to do its thing; build
6 operations, put up the new homes for the workers,
7 and construct the commercial and industrial space
8 used by companies supplying both the owners and the
9 workers.

10 And then the flow continues from our
11 companies to our suppliers, from construction
12 workers to restaurants and retailers, from pay
13 cheques to government revenues and government
14 services.

15 Wealth creation industries rely on hydro
16 power to be successful. That makes projects like
17 Site C the starting point to wealth creation in our
18 province for years to come.

19 And Site C is itself an economic engine.
20 What is the horsepower of the Site C engine?

21 Site C will contribute 3.2 billion dollars in
22 GDP to the economy. This will, in turn, generate a
23 ripple effect through the economy; new consumer
24 spending, new residential investments, new
25 industrial and commercial construction as well as

1 investments in machinery and equipment.

2 Site C will create 10,000 direct jobs during
3 construction. 10,000 is a significant number of
4 jobs, to be sure, but what we are talking about is
5 more than just jobs; it's 10,000 families
6 collecting pay cheques; it's 10,000 people paying
7 taxes, locally, provincially and federally. It's
8 10,000 families building better futures.

9 It means busy times in all kinds of
10 businesses here in the Peace because the project
11 will create another 23,000 indirect jobs. And who
12 stands to benefit? Local retailers, local
13 hoteliers, local realtors, local restaurants, local
14 car dealers, just to name a few.

15 Site C will also provide benefits to
16 taxpayers in the form of additional revenues to the
17 federal, provincial, and local levels of
18 government. Construction of Site C means nearly
19 500 million in new revenue for all three levels of
20 government.

21 Once operational, Site C will contribute
22 43 million dollars annually to the provincial and
23 local governments through grants in lieu of taxes,
24 school taxes, and water rentals. This will pay for
25 community centres, hospitals, and schools that all

1 BC residents expect and enjoy. But the benefits of
2 this project extend well beyond the project itself.

3 Access to clean green power is a competitive
4 advantage for our economy. The major project
5 inventory of the BC Ministry of Jobs indicates that
6 there are some 195 billion dollars worth of capital
7 projects on the books over the next decade. These
8 projects will need power in that 195 billion
9 dollars will spin off even more construction
10 activity and jobs in local communities.

11 Beyond these economic benefits of this
12 project, it's important that this project also be
13 constructed and operated in an environmentally
14 sensible manner.

15 Rest assured, my industry, the construction
16 industry, will help ensure the project is
17 responsible and sustainable. Our sector has become
18 global leaders of lightening the impact our
19 activities have on the environment from the
20 sourcing of materials, to the recycling of
21 construction waste, to using state-of-the-art
22 technology that reduces impacts over the long term;
23 the construction companies who built Site C will
24 help Hydro protect the environment.

25 In terms of creating jobs and new

1 opportunities, Hydro has made substantial
2 commitments to helping generate economic benefits
3 for First Nations. It is worth noting that members
4 of ICBA welcome the opportunity to partner with
5 First Nations to foster new employment and skills
6 training opportunities.

7 For example, Gisborne Group, a 60-year-old
8 company in British Columbia and ICBA member, who
9 has worked on numerous industrial projects around
10 the world, have made -- I will slow down.

11 Gisborne, a member of ICBA, has worked on
12 numerous industrial projects around the world and
13 have made partnering with First Nations a key part
14 of their approach.

15 On the Copper Mountain Mine project, Gisborne
16 partnered with the upper Similkameen Band to host a
17 general information session and then follow up with
18 workers the Band pre-screened and recommended.

19 At Gibraltar Mine, the company worked with
20 First Nation labour brokers to help staff the
21 project. This is the kind of commitment and the
22 kind of partnerships we will see when Site C moves
23 ahead.

24 There are also worries about skill shortages
25 in construction over the coming year. Aside from

1 the skills training initiatives Hydro is prepared
2 to fund as part of Site C, the project itself will
3 help get people trained.

4 Projects like Site C are the key to getting
5 people trained because companies take on new
6 workers and new apprentices and connect them with
7 skills under one major condition; the knowledge
8 that the company will have work tomorrow and the
9 day after tomorrow to keep these young people
10 employed. Site C brings with it that confidence.

11 In the big picture, BCGDP can expect a boast
12 of 3.2 billion, an economic engine level of
13 activity that drives many benefits. It is very
14 clear that Hydro has done its homework.

15 The environmental impact statement is
16 testimony that BC Hydro has been working very hard
17 to ensure that the negative impacts of the project
18 are either mitigated or eliminated. That means
19 working with First Nations, working with
20 communities, and working with landowners to ensure
21 people are treated fairly. That means taking extra
22 care to ensure the environment is protected and the
23 dam footprint is minimized.

24 I was going through some of the submissions
25 to this Panel, and I came across one written by a

1 fellow who is arguably British Columbia's
2 preeminent engineers: Henry Wakabiachi.
3 Mr. Wakabiachi is a member of the Order of BC and
4 the Order of Canada and was an engineer on the
5 original W.A.C. Bennett dam as well as the Peace
6 Canyon dam.

7 Over the years, he displayed his expertise to
8 some of the province's major economic developments
9 and infrastructure projects.

10 MR. CHAIRMAN: Watch your speed, please.

11 MR. HOCHSTEIN: Okay.

12 Now retired, but still with a keen eye on the
13 future of the province, Mr. Wakabiachi believes
14 that Site C, like the hydroelectric projects before
15 it, will be truly transformative.

16
17 "When we look at the economic
18 opportunity and quality of life
19 that our province enjoys today --",
20 he write, "-- we would be remiss if
21 we did not give proper credit to
22 the vitally important role that
23 these heritage hydro assets have
24 played in the building of our
25 province."

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He points out that communities throughout British Columbia owe their very existence to our heritage hydro assets. And it's not just people in Metro Vancouver who have been the beneficiaries, as some would have us think, but our mining and forestry communities thrive because of the foresight and vision of previous generations who saw the benefits of clean, renewable power.

Mr. Wakabiachi reminds us that there were those back in the day who opposed the Bennett dam. Just like there were people who opposed virtually every other major project along the way. But as he notes, each of those projects have stood the test of time.

He concludes by calling upon all of us to be bold, be visionary and, most of all, to be guided by the foresight that will help us leave a positive legacy for generations to come.

With those thoughts in mind, I urge the Panel to give Site C its most enthusiastic endorsement.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hochstein.

Are there any questions that anybody wished to raise to Mr. Hochstein?

1 We have one.

2 MR. LITTLE: Tim Little.

3 My question to the Chair, through the Chair,
4 is that we've had several presentations to date,
5 and, in the alternate, energy folks, they said that
6 their version would spread this great construction
7 boom across the province.

8 Yesterday, we heard on the news that the
9 Prosperity Mine was needed for the Williams Lake
10 area, the Caribou area, because there was no work
11 there.

12 If this project is to be given to the Peace,
13 which is at a 3.4 percent unemployment rate right
14 now, and since I did work on the Bennett dam and
15 oversaw some of the stuff on site; one, a good
16 percentage of the workers on both those projects
17 came from outside the province.

18 And, sure, some of the companies in BC
19 benefitted from what was a significant portion of
20 the work that went to Alberta and elsewhere as is
21 with the natural gas industry here. So we got to
22 be careful if we're going to -- if we're looking at
23 economic deal for the province, these other things,
24 like the alternate energy deals, gives your members
25 significant work right now when they're being done

1 -- like some projects were done by a lot of
2 people --

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Do you have a question, sir?

4 MR. LITTLE: My question is: Will that
5 not -- those alternates give you folks the same
6 work?

7 MR. CHAIRMAN: For the record, could you
8 state your name again.

9 MR. LITTLE: Jim Little, L-i-t-t-l-e.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

11 MR. HOCHSTEIN: The unemployment rate in
12 construction is well above 3.4 percent. I don't
13 know, this region may be blessed with work, but
14 it's not shared throughout the province.

15 And the work that BC Hydro -- this -- the
16 project itself will generate 10,000 jobs. But
17 because of what it produces, it will generate work
18 well beyond its place.

19 And the run of river projects are good and
20 they do supply work for my members, but they're not
21 going to be sufficient to fund the 195 billion
22 dollars worth of projects that are on the books for
23 the next --

24 MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one question of fact.

25 You mentioned 10,000 jobs and 23,000 indirect jobs.

1 I take it that was person-years or something? That
2 wasn't jobs?

3 MR. HOCHSTEIN: Person-years, yes. Thank
4 you.

5 MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Thank you.

6 I think we are going to have to break for
7 dinner now. We're running about 20 minutes late.

8 I would suggest that we reconvene at 7:15.

9 Thank you very much.

10

11 (Proceedings adjourned at 5:22 p.m.)

12 (Proceedings reconvened at 7:12 p.m.)

13

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Good evening. It's 10 past
15 7:00, or 12 past 7:00, and not the advertised 15,
16 but since everybody is here, I thought we might as
17 well start because BC Hydro says they're ready to
18 respond to a couple of undertakings.

19 Over to you.

20 MR. HADLAND: Mr. Chair, if we may, there
21 are two matters if we could address. One is,
22 before the break, there was a question about river
23 otters, and Ms. Jackson is in a position to provide
24 that response.

25 After she does that, I can provide the Panel

1 with an update on the posting of the IRP and three
2 undertakings.

3 MS. JACKSON: Good evening.

4 Before the break, I believe we were asked to
5 provide an update -- or any information that we had
6 on the observations made with respect to river
7 otter during the field programs.

8 They were, as was noted earlier, they were
9 placed on what was called a watch list, which meant
10 that while our field crews were out when river
11 otters were observed, their location was recorded.

12 There were a total off six observations of
13 13 individuals recorded during 2008 and 2011. They
14 were noted along the Peace River between Hudson's
15 Hope and the Moberly River.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

17 MR. FELDBERG: And, Mr. Chair, firstly,
18 there was a discussion on the first day about the
19 posting of the IRP; strictly speaking, I understood
20 that it was the Secretariat that was going to do
21 that. I can confirm that BC Hydro has provided the
22 Secretariat with the electronic version of the IRP
23 for that purpose.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

25 MR. FELDBERG: I can also confirm that

1 responses to undertaking number 3, which is with
2 respect to the 2013 poll, number 7 and number 8 are
3 ready to be provided electronically to the
4 Secretariat.

5 With respect to undertaking number 7, that
6 was a request to provide a figure with the
7 Peace-Moberly Tract and the area of critical
8 interest superimposed on it, and also showing in
9 relation to the project activity zone.

10 The undertaking was given with respect to a
11 particular figure that was being shown on the
12 screen at the time. What BC Hydro is able to do --
13 has been able to do in the last day is produce the
14 same thing, just not on the precise figure that was
15 on the screen at the moment. It does show the
16 project activity zone and the area of critical
17 interest in the Peace-Moberly Tract. With the
18 consent of the Chair, I would submit that in
19 compliance with the undertaking.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sure that will do. Thank
21 you.

22 Thank you very much for those.

23 MR. FELDBERG: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

24 THE CHAIRPERSON: Responses?

25 Our first speaker of the evening Karen

1 Goodings from the Peace River Regional District
2 Electoral Area B.

3

4 **Presentation by Karen Goodings, Peace River Regional**
5 **District Electoral Area B**

6 MS. GOODINGS: Thank you very much.

7 First of all, I want to thank you for the
8 opportunity to come before you, the Panel, on this
9 area B concern regarding Site C. Allow me to
10 introduce myself.

11 My name is Karen Goodings. I was elected in
12 November of 1988 to represent electoral Area B of
13 the Peace River Regional District.

14 I have been in this position continuously
15 since that time, and I am proud to say that during
16 those years, or these years, I was also an active
17 member of our family farm where we produce food.
18 The production of food is critical to life, and
19 that is what farmers and ranchers do.

20 Many residents believe that their food comes
21 from grocery stores. Those of us who have spent
22 the greater part of our lives actually producing
23 food know better.

24 The disasters that we are seeing worldwide
25 should wake people up to the fact that we, too, in

1 this more remote region are susceptible to having
2 disaster strike us. To have the ability to grow
3 food locally to sustain life and the residents is
4 of critical importance. We must never become
5 totally dependent on other countries to provide the
6 essentials of life.

7 On Monday, December the 9th, I looked up in
8 the current world population clock. It was
9 www.worldometers.info/world-population, and it was
10 mind-boggling to watch the numbers change.

11 They change continually with 2.42 times the
12 number of births to the number of deaths. Almost
13 2.5 births for every death. Those numbers are now
14 adding up to well over 7 billion in population
15 worldwide.

16 The population reference bureau at
17 www.prb.org has a wealth of information relative to
18 those world population growths. Their estimates
19 are for phenomenal growth in many of the poorer
20 countries as well as worldwide. What difference
21 does that make to us? It makes lots of difference.
22 We are a worldwide economy. We trade and deal
23 worldwide. We have people that immigrate to all
24 parts of Canada, including the BC Peace.

25 Our life expectancy has increased and will

1 continue to increase as we learn to live healthier,
2 more socially sustainable lives. We are also
3 working harder in helping those less fortunate
4 countries to better sustain themselves and their
5 families. This is having a positive result for
6 those country life expectancies and will also, no
7 doubt, increase the population even more.

8 Regardless of where we live, food is
9 essential. Flooding land is unacceptable in this
10 day and age. We are not making much more land,
11 and, in fact, with the rising ocean water from
12 climate change, we are in grave danger of losing
13 land. To actually plan to lose between 13,000 and
14 16,000 acres of food-producing land is unacceptable
15 to the majority of food producers in this province.

16 This loss, due either to flooding or by
17 erosion, and in order to establish safe lines in
18 the area that will be lost for future food
19 production. The BC Peace Valley contains the only
20 class 1 land in the northeast; in fact, probably
21 the only class 1 land with a micro climate in the
22 northern two-thirds of British Columbia.

23 Cheeseman & Davis in 1982 pointed out that
24 the area of climate class 1 in the Peace River
25 valley is unique in BC, north of the 53rd latitude.

1 This report also pointed out that the longer day
2 length during the growing season at the northern
3 latitude of the region -- and by the way, hours of
4 sunshine are not included in climate capability
5 analysis -- enhances the capacity to grow crops.

6 The report went on to say they concluded that
7 consideration of the day-length factor equates some
8 elements of the valley's agricultural potential;
9 for example, vegetable crops to many locations in
10 the lower Fraser Valley and southeastern Vancouver
11 Island. These quotes I took from the PVEA website.

12 If the Panel members are at all familiar with
13 southern BC, the land that will be flooded if
14 Site C is approved will be the same as the flooding
15 as the whole of the Delta lands in southern BC.
16 According to the Ministry of Agriculture, there are
17 13,864 acres in the Delta.

18 It is just not appropriate to lose this
19 food-growing land when you consider how quickly the
20 population of the world is growing.

21 Now, we have our river. The Peace River is
22 an important heritage river and has been the water
23 highway in this region for many years. It was the
24 trading river for First Nations, early settlers,
25 trappers, and of course was the river where many

1 historic forts were established.

2 I know you will hear from many speakers on
3 the historic importance of this river and the
4 burial sites and the building sites that will be
5 flooded and lost forever if Site C is approved.

6 It is equally as important to recognize the
7 impact to two smaller rivers. The Halfway River
8 and the Moberly River are impacted through back
9 flooding for up to 28 kilometers. The Halfway
10 River valley has been an important to ranching,
11 food-producing valley, and there will be impacts,
12 not only in raising the water level, thereby
13 impacting the residents, but by the erosion of the
14 banks that will occur. Evidence of water as a
15 power of erosion can clearly be seen in the
16 Williston reservoir.

17 Let's think a bit about the recreational
18 impacts if Site C should be approved. It will be
19 7- to 10-plus years in the building. And before it
20 will be open to public use. And that is projected
21 by BC Hydro. During that time, the river will not
22 be acceptable to the residents in the traditional
23 manner.

24 Ten years from now, I will be too old to
25 enjoy the river boat. And I know I am not the only

1 senior that feels this way, and that it will no
2 longer be a river, but it will be a recreational
3 lake, complete with sloughing banks, changing water
4 levels, unstable ground, no place to moor your
5 boat, to have that afternoon picnic. More
6 deadheads due to the inability to remove all of the
7 vegetation are almost a guarantee.

8 No more powell (phonetic) for the Peace. No
9 more river. Fishing? How much of an increase in
10 methylmercury? I guess we could catch the fish but
11 not eat them. Did they predict the increase in
12 mercury in the Williston? Were their predictions
13 accurate? You will have the multi-million dollar
14 studies completed by BC Hydro that will try to
15 mitigate all the problems that will occur if we
16 mess with Mother Nature.

17 The Peace River is where it is by the natural
18 regimes that have been in the place through the
19 force of nature. The impacts of the two previous
20 dams were not to be considered through the
21 examination of this proposal. Those dams had huge
22 impacts on fish, wildlife, flora and fauna.

23 Do I have proof? No. Only the knowledge
24 that comes from living in this area most of my
25 life. The ability to see the difference in our

1 fish stocks, to watch the impact on young,
2 newly-hatched fish, to know that the islands will
3 be lost; thereby, losing important cabin grounds.
4 Once again, the impact on nature is not acceptable.

5 For those residents of the valley, there are
6 just some things that cannot be mitigated. There
7 are residents that have lived their entire lives in
8 that valley. One resident, or more, is on her
9 third generation as a farmer, and for all of their
10 adult life has had the threat of losing that land
11 looming over the head. To lose the land that her
12 grandfather held precious is not acceptable.

13 The statement from BC Hydro's spokesperson in
14 the Canadian Press January 28th, 2013 states that
15 that there will be 30 families affected: ten that
16 will be forced to move from; ten that will have to
17 move to other areas of their property, and ten
18 homes that will not have to be moved.

19 BC Hydro will offer compensation to the
20 landowners. They also stated that "we feel the
21 effects of the project can largely be mitigated
22 through careful project planning and ongoing
23 monitoring of operations." They also stated, "on
24 the balance of it all, we believe that even looking
25 at the things that can't be mitigated, the project

1 should move forward because it's in the best
2 interest, we believe, for the province of British
3 Columbia."

4 Personally, I believe there are many other
5 ways to produce power, and we are always striving
6 to be more energy efficient. So let's look at
7 Site C natural gas and the need.

8 The Province has amended the **Energy Act** to
9 allow the companies to use gas to produce power for
10 LNG. Are we going to spend billions to produce
11 hydropower when the same amount of power can be
12 produced using natural gas at a fraction of the
13 dollar cost of Site C, and on a much, much smaller
14 footprint, instead of destroying thousands of acres
15 off food-producing land?

16 For example, the Shepard Power Plant,
17 Calgary, Alberta, they've just broken ground, will
18 cost about \$1.3 billion. Site C estimate is
19 7.9 billion. And the Shepard Power Plant will be
20 situated on about 60 acres of land. Site C impact
21 will be 83 kilometers in length and flood over
22 13,000 acres of prime, food-producing land.

23 The Shepard Power Plant will be open in 2015.
24 Site C estimated opening 2024. A line loss would
25 be vastly reduced in the Shepard Power Plant model

1 because the power plant could be built where the
2 power is needed.

3 I've attended many discussions with the
4 people of the valley. I have heard from residents
5 who are aware of the unique topography of the
6 valley, and we all appreciate the beauty and the
7 unique tourism opportunities of the valley.

8 Yes, there are those who put perceived
9 financial benefit ahead of the need to respect
10 those who will be most impacted. And to them, I
11 say this will be short-term pain -- short-term gain
12 for long-term pain.

13 To those who suggest this is a long-term
14 project will provide power for a century, I say
15 this: I am almost three-quarters of a century old,
16 and it doesn't take that long.

17 Thank you.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

19 Are there questions for Ms. Goodings?

20 MS. GOODINGS: Thank you.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: In that case, we thank you
22 very much.

23 And I would now call Mr. John Locher.

24

25 **Presentation by John Locher, Ethix Consulting Inc.**

1 MR. LOCHER: Thank you very much for the
2 opportunity for a short brief.

3 Should Site C be approved, it will have a
4 significant impact on communities in the Peace
5 region of British Columbia, and the benefits of the
6 project will accrue mainly to the large population
7 centres in the south of the province.

8 The impacts will be construction, period,
9 impacts and permanent impacts once the facility is
10 operational. The construction impacts will occur
11 over an eight-year period and, as such, must be
12 considered as major.

13 Living in a construction zone for eight years
14 is not something that many people would look
15 forward to regardless of any potential benefits.

16 During that construction period, the greatest
17 majority of the impacts will be negative:
18 increased traffic, noise, dust, transient workers,
19 and over-taxed local services. The one potential
20 positive impact may be jobs for local residents, or
21 contracts for local businesses.

22 As the project will be publically tendered,
23 there are no guarantees of local employment or of
24 local contractors being successful on tenders. The
25 positive benefit may not be realized.

1 Negotiations are underway to mitigate the
2 impacts to local communities during the
3 construction period. It is imperative that those
4 negotiations be successfully concluded before any
5 operating certificate is approved.

6 Three local communities will be permanently
7 impacted if and when the project is constructed.
8 Those communities are the district of Hudson's Hope
9 and electoral areas B and C in the Peace regional
10 direct.

11 I haven't made any comments on the First
12 Nations communities, as I don't profess to speak
13 with any degree of authority for them. These
14 communities will see a portion of their valley
15 flooded and lose a river to a reservoir.

16 For any other major industrial project, those
17 communities would have the ability to obtain
18 benefits for their residents through property
19 taxes. BC Hydro's generating facilities pay a
20 grant in lieu of taxes. The magnitude of the grant
21 is established by the Province without
22 negotiations, with a jurisdiction that the
23 facilities are located in. It is there for the
24 Province that arbitrarily determines the benefit
25 that permanently-impacted communities and the

1 residents will receive.

2 Should the proposed Site C dam and its
3 reservoir not be subject to taxation by the local
4 authority, the grant in lieu of taxes should be
5 negotiated in advance of the start of construction
6 to ensure that local residents are adequately
7 compensated for the permanent impacts that the
8 facility would have.

9 Comments to the effect that I believe those
10 conditions should be in place before approval is
11 granted is not based on any mistrust of the
12 parties; it is on the basis that if there is a
13 deadline, the more opportunity there is for those
14 negotiations to be successful.

15 I thank you for the opportunity to provide
16 these brief comments.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your comments,
18 sir.

19 Are there questions for Mr. Locher?

20 No, somebody was putting his coat on.

21 MR. LOCHER: Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

23 The next scheduled presentation is from
24 Arthur Hadland and Laurel-Anne Hadland. Welcome.

25

1 **Presentation by Arthur Hadland and Laurel-Anne Hadland:**

2 MR. HADLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
3 Panelists, and the gallery and proponent. My name
4 is Arthur Hadland. This is my wife, Laurel
5 Hadland.

6 We are owner/operators of Gramen Seed Farm.
7 And I just wanted to clarify that I do have the
8 role as electoral director for area C, and my
9 intention is to present at Hudson's Hope under the
10 community session. This is a general session, and
11 somehow we could got confused, but my intention is
12 to present as ratepayers of BC Hydro, citizens of
13 the Peace, and farmers.

14 Our farm is called Gramen Seed Farm, and that
15 means "grass" in Latin. That's what we produce is
16 grass seeds, Laurel and I.

17 I, first off, have got to say I'm pretty
18 humbled by the previous presentations, and I hope
19 that I can come up to scratch on this one.

20 So what I'm going to do is just a bit of a
21 preamble and I'll cover off some of the issues that
22 I think are important to our community, our region.

23 First off, to start off, I was just going to
24 say that I was concerned about what was happening
25 with BC Hydro back in 2005. There was a proposal

1 to sell it, at least as far as I understand, it hit
2 the press very briefly, and was quickly scrapped
3 because it fell on the tails of BCR sale, and the
4 backlash on that is still being felt today.

5 So I am concerned about some agendas that
6 maybe are not in front of us. And that was further
7 compounded. I attended the FCM in Victoria, 2010,
8 that's the Federation of Canadian Municipalities,
9 and the opening presentation was by -- I think it
10 was Murray Coell. He was then the Minister of
11 Environment. And if you had been sitting in the
12 audience, you'd have thought that construction was
13 already started. I do have a problem with that.
14 This thing has been -- I don't know what the word
15 is. It's seems like it's a fact of completion.
16 And I don't think it is. I have every confidence
17 in the Panel.

18 And I just go on to say that the -- most of
19 the items I'm going to bring up here are not
20 mitigatable; I don't see how you can mitigate them,
21 and I'll try and go through them.

22 I will try and speak slow.

23 And it's been mentioned by previous speakers,
24 but we have the failed attempts to flood the valley
25 in 1982 and 1992, and the Panel, the BCUC,

1 BC Utilities Commission at the time, were very
2 clear that it was a no-go. And the information
3 that had been provided by the proponent didn't
4 sustain examination.

5 Since then, we've had the **Clean Energy Act**,
6 and I really think that is an act of hypocrisy.
7 And of course that was brought to the fore when all
8 off a sudden natural gas for the LNG plants was
9 considered green and clean.

10 I have always considered natural gas a clean
11 source of fuel, so -- being raised in this area,
12 and that's how we heat our homes. It heats the
13 rest of the province, by the way. I think that we
14 should celebrate natural gas and as other people
15 today have presented that.

16 We have done our fair share in the Peace
17 region for this province. We have two dams:
18 W.A.C. Bennett and the Peace Canyon. I think that
19 we have done more than our fair share, actually.
20 And we have had little left behind.

21 Hudson's Hope continues to wither on the
22 vine. We have the cloud of expropriation has hung
23 over the valley for the last 55 years. And I just
24 want to maybe just address that before I get into
25 the main part of my presentation.

1 We have a farm, Laurel and I, and we have
2 been faced with the power of expropriation
3 12 times. That sort of bugs me. It bugs me a lot,
4 actually. We've had the Alaska Highway -- excuse
5 me, I got to have a drink. Excuse me.

6 Anyhow, the -- so our family, the family
7 farm, which goes back to 1928, has had the power of
8 expropriation forced on us 12 times. It was the
9 Alaska Highway, there's the BCR, there was twelve
10 pipe, there was six pipe lines. There was BCR,
11 BC hydro line. And then there was actually two --
12 my father was very straight about this; he didn't
13 like being bossed around. And he has two Board
14 orders that go back to 1957 on two well sites.

15 So we know what expropriation is. And I'm
16 just going to -- I put together this little
17 statement. I'm just going to talk about
18 expropriation.

19 This is an ugly vehicle of convenience used
20 by government authorities over people who, through
21 no fault of their own, are very negatively impacted
22 by this power. It is all of the people of the
23 valley who have lived this threat for the past
24 55 years with no recognition or compensation for
25 the silent, but omnipresent cloud over their lives.

1 I do not see how this can be mitigated in any form.

2 And, of course, that's what's happened is
3 we've had a depopulation of the valley, and of
4 course that's used now by the proponents because we
5 hardly have any families left because everybody
6 quit and gave up, and now they just grow grasses
7 mainly to -- a very low level of agriculture
8 because there's no hope, no long-term commitment to
9 producing food. And I think that's -- I'll try and
10 demonstrate as I go through.

11 Anyhow, I'll get into the main part of the
12 presentation here. If I'm getting too long, please
13 signal and I'll close it out.

14 I think the river is unable to speak for
15 itself, and we are asking you, the Panel, to
16 undertake this role. I've included in that
17 package, I sent a PowerPoint titled "Voice for the
18 Peace", which describes many of the characteristics
19 of our Peace River valley, and that is -- I think
20 covers a lot of the things that I'll -- I won't
21 cover them today, they've been covered by previous
22 speakers.

23 I think in the larger picture, a river in its
24 valley have always been the genesis of
25 civilizations around the world. When rivers are

1 destroyed or neglected, the civilization eventually
2 disappears.

3 The Euphrates River comes to mind. There's
4 many other civilizations. If anybody is curious,
5 you can read Jarred Diamond's book "Collapse". He
6 covers it off quite well.

7 In a word, there is a need for stewardship of
8 our very precious resource. And it's all of ours.
9 It's the province's, it's our region's, the Peace
10 River valley.

11 I think the project purpose, I think we
12 really have to question what's going on here. When
13 proposed C was announced in April 2010, the
14 intended purpose was very clearly stated; it was
15 export energy to California. If that were the
16 case -- and I presume it would be a long-term
17 commitment. Fortunately, the citizens of
18 California would not recognize that the flooding of
19 the river valley is green or clean.

20 Since that time, this purpose has changed --
21 I'm sort of losing count actually -- has changed at
22 least four times, maybe five times. It went to
23 410,000 homes. It went to the Horn River. I'm not
24 sure there wasn't a bit of tar sands thoughts going
25 in there. Then that was decided it wasn't good.

1 Then we went to a 450,000 homes because there
2 was more energy found in the valley, somehow.
3 After 30 years, it was 900 megawatts. And it
4 became 1,100 here last year.

5 And then the last one I heard from our
6 Minister of Agriculture that it's now for industry.

7 I think this suggests there's no purpose,
8 there's no plans, and I don't think there's a need.
9 These are old ideas. They're 1960 ideas.

10 We have to look ahead.

11 We've heard all of the presentations about
12 the benefits of natural gas. And I do really think
13 it's a hypocrisy for the Burrard thermal to being
14 shut down. All the people in the Lower Mainland,
15 they heat their houses with natural gas, and I
16 don't think there was any purpose in shutting it
17 down because it wasn't clean or green.

18 There is another source of energy, I think
19 down the road we are going to be using it, and
20 maybe natural gas will last another 100 to
21 200 years, but Thorium, if anybody's had a chance
22 to investigate that, I think that is going to be
23 the fuel of the future. Well, the sun is the -- I
24 mean, if we don't have a sun, that is our future,
25 but I think that one of the ones that we can be

1 looking at is Thorium.

2 So flooding in the river valley is neither
3 green nor clean. This is the Attache slide. And
4 when that happened, that wasn't predicted, and
5 nobody knew that that could happened. It was an
6 unusually wet spring in 1973 and blocked the river
7 valley for about ten years -- or for -- no, for ten
8 hours. That wasn't the important thing. It was
9 that it slid.

10 This one here, this is a quote from page 9 of
11 the September 2009 Klohn Crippen Berger and SNC11
12 report produced for BC Hydro. And I'm just going
13 to iterate this because I think it really does say
14 it. The uncertainties in predicting both the
15 extent and rate of shoreline impacts leads to the
16 proposal to adopt an observational approach for
17 periodically reviewing and updating the reservoir
18 impact lines after, after, the reservoir has been
19 filled.

20 I think, Mr. Chairman, that is a
21 show-stopper; yet, things have carried on since
22 then, and we are here today. That statement is
23 complemented by a report I just accidentally found,
24 and I make reference to it. It is in the package I
25 submitted, commissioned by -- in 1991 by the

1 Honourable Jack Weisgerber. It's called Quaternary
2 Geology and Land Forms of the Eastern Peace Region
3 of British Columbia by N.R. Catto. And there were
4 six very strong cautionary comments in there, and
5 I'll just highlight the one. They're all in this
6 document called "Public Safety" that I included.

7 Number 5:

8
9 "Thus, all of the major
10 terrain slopes present in the
11 eastern Peace River region are
12 subject to slope failure. Extreme
13 caution should, therefore, be
14 observed in any effort to exploit
15 or utilize river valley slopes."

16
17 And the Thurber report, I went through that,
18 and they showed that there was at least 60 of these
19 events that they can right now observe along the
20 river. Very important.

21 The most recent stuff is right on the axis of
22 the dam, and I can be corrected if I'm wrong, but I
23 have here a photograph that shows that there was a
24 slump of the shales.

25 Now, before I go into the shales, I'll just

1 talk about the capping that overlies those shales.
2 It's called montmorillonite clays. And I'm quite
3 interested in that because I'm a farmer. There's
4 some very interesting characteristics of
5 montmorillonite clay; is when it gets wet, it gets
6 very slippery, it expands. That's why basements
7 sometimes collapse in this area. And when you get
8 stuck, you really get stuck, and it sticks to
9 everything. And there's a whole bunch of reasons
10 for it, but this is named after a region in France,
11 and it's a very unique clay, and that's what we
12 have here within that sedimentary basin along the
13 Peace River valley.

14 And I think we really should be concerned
15 about that. I have not found anything in the
16 report by Thurber, and I didn't -- maybe there's
17 some now with BC Hydro's current efforts, but when
18 I did go through the notes on the Attache slide and
19 the Peace River Bridge collapse, there was no
20 reference. They have -- they described the soils
21 and the substrate in very technical terms, but they
22 never used that word. It's a very, very unusual
23 word, but it is I think paramount to what's going
24 on in the valley, and I don't think that it's been
25 recognized by the proponent to the degree that it

1 should be.

2 Anyhow, the other is right underneath this.
3 This is a sedimentary basin. And they -- 'oops --
4 it overlays these Shaftesbury shales. And right on
5 the main axis of the dam site, there is a slump
6 right on the axis. It covers the added tunnel that
7 Hydro has been using to investigate it. I think
8 that, coupled with the report by the professional
9 engineers and geoscientists of the province of
10 British Columbia, they examine the 1957 Peace River
11 Bridge collapse. And I'll just quote this one
12 section.

13
14 "Later, investigations found
15 the bridge failed due to a
16 landslide in the shale bedrock
17 beneath the bridge."

18
19 '57 was a very high rainfall. And we can
20 probably expect a few more of those coming down the
21 road.

22 Anyhow, this -- I'll just quickly get through
23 this. This is a Wintergrin (phonetic) -- this is
24 when the clouds started over the valley. That went
25 -- Wintergrin, the Swedish industrialist, went all

1 the way to back to Prince George with his charter
2 that he received to log and mine and build roads
3 and build -- dam rivers and build river roads.

4 It was Bennett who actually showed a lot of
5 foresight, I think, in 1961, or courage. And so we
6 have ended up with W.A.C. Bennett and the Peace
7 Canyon, which you know rightly or wrongly, that's
8 what we're faced with today. And it works for
9 British Columbia. But I think those things are 55
10 years old. So how are we going to equate a project
11 100 years for Site C when the life-span of the
12 W.A.C. Bennett -- the generator is -- well, I don't
13 know. I presume it'll be extinguished within
14 another 55 years or so.

15 Anyhow, the Peace Canyon dam '76, I think
16 this is interesting to note that Hydro cautioned
17 the citizens in the Mackenzie Inn here in town that
18 brownouts and blackouts will occur if Site C were
19 not built. We're 33 years later; it hasn't
20 happened.

21 Then we went through '82 and '92 with BCUC,
22 they were both turned down, and I think it was
23 really interesting to note in 1992, after
24 revisiting Site C, work was suspended and as
25 opportunities for demand-side management and

1 gas-fired generation were identified as potentially
2 better ways to meet demand. I think that really
3 complements some of the speakers of today.

4 This was a W.A.C Bennett dam. Remember, that
5 is built into bedrock. And that's very important.

6 This is a recreation opportunity on Williston
7 Lake. A friend of mine built that for a German
8 client, and when he built it, it was one-third of a
9 mile away from the shoreline. And had he asked the
10 client -- he said, "You're sure this is okay?" And
11 he said, "Sure." So this is a 2008 photo. I think
12 it demonstrates that anybody who talks about
13 recreational capabilities in a reservoir is very,
14 very shortsighted.

15 This is the genesis of our community here.
16 This is what the original lake looked like, Lake
17 Peace. It was some -- I think it's about
18 10,000 years ago. This lake finally was
19 diminished. Anyhow, those lines, the central line
20 is the Peace River valley with the very fine
21 food-producing lands we have, as Karen Goodings
22 already mentioned.

23 That curiously actually outlines -- is the
24 outline of the Agricultural Land Reserve for this
25 area. And those other lines show the outline of

1 the Beringia Corridor. We are right in the centre
2 where the two ice sheets came together. There was
3 Laurentide, one from --

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I get you to slow down a
5 little bit. I think the transcription may be a
6 little bit --

7 MR. HADLAND: I apologize. I will slow
8 down.

9 Yeah. So there was two ice sheets. One came
10 in from the east, the Laurentide, and the other one
11 came from the Rocky Mountains called the
12 Cordilleran. This is a current conjecture of our
13 leading scientists.

14 And so the centre there is a Beringia
15 Corridor. And they thought that Early Man, the
16 Clovis culture, travelled up and down that corridor
17 at that time. I'm not sure that that is absolutely
18 true, but that's the best guess at the time.
19 That's why we have the Charlie Lake Cave. And this
20 is some of the stone tools.

21 By the way, I find those in my fields. I
22 have quite a collection of that. I just delivered
23 1,000 of them down to SFU for a friend of mine.

24 This captured quite a bit of the colonial
25 history of the area. And I think it's very worthy

1 to note that this was a gateway to British
2 Columbia. The gateway to British Columbia. And it
3 began with the Rocky Mountain Fort, 1794, and that
4 was built by Stewart at the time. And that was
5 followed in 1805 by Simon Fraser who built what was
6 now Hudson's Hope. It was across the river, the
7 Peace River, and neither one of these two sites are
8 even recognized in any mapping that I have found.

9 I looked at the Rocky Mountain Fort in 1986,
10 it was -- well, you could find the lines where the
11 palisade boundaries were. Everything was there. I
12 went back last year and I really had to look for
13 it. It isn't recognized or -- I don't know if it
14 was -- it'd never been visited, not documented.

15 And I think the very, very neat thing about
16 this is I went back to Thurber report, and this is
17 a statement here:

18
19 "We found the remains of the
20 Rocky Mountain Fort, one of the
21 most important historical sites in
22 the province. It contains the
23 remains of the oldest European
24 settlement on the mainland of
25 British Columbia."

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Very big deal. It should be a national historic site. And it's ignored. And I think the proponent really has not highlighted this in any extent at all. And I think it's not mitigable. I just don't see how you can cover that fort. And the other one, the Rocky Mountain portage fort.

"The Prophecy of the Swan" covers it off fairly well. Excellent read. I did provide you with a couple of copies. Probably haven't had the chance to get near it.

And just to note that this was a gateway. Mackenzie came through here. John Finlay. David Thompson, he was a stature of Lewis and Clark in the States. I think they came through in 1806. He came through here in 1804. George Simpson, the factor for Hudson Bay. John Stewart. And James Murray Yale isn't even recognized. He was the factor for Fort Langley for most of his working life. He was here in 1820 to 1821. And then after that, of course, there was the massacre at Fort Dieppe and that and the fur trade left the area.

Why are these not being recognized? I just think that we are missing something.

At Simon Fraser, the curator of the museum

1 showed me -- she has a fireplace from Rocky
2 Mountain Fort, languishing on the shelves there,
3 and she said, "I would just love to rebuild this
4 because it's all catalogued, I can do that."

5 I'll quickly go through. I'm sure I'm
6 running out of time.

7 In 1996, the Peace River was recognized as a
8 heritage river. Why is this being dismissed?

9 And then the other one that I'll just --
10 here's the palisade boundaries for Rocky Mountain
11 Fort.

12 The *D.A. Thomas*, it's been said that the
13 paddlewheel era on the Peace River could be equated
14 to what happened on the Mississippi. I don't know
15 if that's true or not, but there were a lot of
16 paddle wheelers; it was from 1903 to 1953.

17 We are the stopping spots and provisioning
18 sites. I don't think that one's been touched at
19 all. So that, again, I don't see how that's
20 mitigable.

21 A quick thing about agriculture. And in
22 front of us here, right in front of Laurel is
23 probably the largest potato I've ever seen. And
24 that was one of many. This was grown organically
25 in the Peace River valley near Bear Flats. It

1 weighs 4 pounds. That, you cannot duplicate. You
2 cannot take that soil and haul it up on top and try
3 and grow them up there because it's all to do --
4 it's a -- capability is a combination of the
5 climate and the soil.

6 We will lose a lot of prime agricultural
7 land. That's been covered all off.

8 There was a 2010 UBC-endorsed resolution
9 talking about preserving farmland for future
10 generations. And I think that's what I hear the
11 people here saying today.

12 It was Cyril Shellford (phonetic), he said --
13 well, before I get to that -- I like this quote.
14 This is from Daniel Webster:

15
16 "Never forget that
17 cultivation of the earth is the
18 most important labour of man. When
19 tillage begins, other arts follow.
20 The farmers, therefore, are the
21 founders of civilization."

22
23 And of course today, in the era of
24 supermarkets and the fast food stuff, we lose that.
25 And agriculture is a harsh business. It's hard to

1 produce that food for the people. And when it's in
2 the form of the supermarket, they wouldn't even
3 recognize where it came from.

4 So, anyway, I think that's a wonderful quote.
5 This is -- in 1976, my friend was producing
6 potatoes. That's a lower flat on the Peace River
7 valley in that --

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I encourage you to wrap
9 up shortly.

10 MR. LOCHER: Oh, yes, sir. Thank you,
11 sir, I'll do that.

12 Anyhow, today, I'm just going to -- one thing
13 from Cyril Shellford, he was a former Minister of
14 Agriculture, and he said:

15
16 "Very few people, and no
17 lawyers, recognize that when you
18 force a farmer to relocate, you
19 take into account you're buying a
20 piece of a man's life. It's not
21 like the city where no one has real
22 roots to the soil."

23
24 This next slide shows the market gardening,
25 organic, again, right from cantaloupe, cucumbers,

1 corn, the whole bit, anything can grow on there.
2 Beautiful soil. Pliable soil.

3 This shows the land we're going to lose,
4 high-capability agricultural land. It's,
5 approximately -- I think the whole amount is a
6 little over 11,000 acres according to -- I think we
7 got those numbers from Thurber.

8 And let's see. Oh, one last thing, if I just
9 may, Mr. Chairman. The economics. I think this is
10 a real problem here. Now, right now, if I
11 understand it correctly -- and I got this
12 information from Charles Reid. He made a
13 presentation to the Chamber of Commerce,
14 Fort St. John, in June of this year. And I quizzed
15 him. And he let us know that we have \$50 billion,
16 we, as ratepayers, owing to the independent power
17 producers. I'd sure like to know how much energy
18 that they are producing for our province.

19 The normal debt was 15.5, and then you got
20 that crazy 4.5 deferred debt under that crazy
21 little Act that was put in place, that's
22 \$70 billion. We, collectively, as the people of
23 British Columbia owe 70 billion -- not million --
24 billion. And then to top it all off, he admitted
25 -- and there was a large group there, so they heard

1 it -- he admitted that the amount that they
2 contribute to the provincial budget, which is about
3 a half a billion, is borrowed money. We cannot run
4 our province like that. I don't think we can run
5 our households like that. It won't work. It
6 doesn't work.

7 Anyhow, Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your
8 patience. I know I did run a little bit longer. I
9 think this last slide, "There is nothing as
10 powerful as truth", really, is where we are at
11 today. And I have full confidence in your
12 deliberations.

13 In summary, it needs to be recognized that
14 the Site C proposal represents potentially the
15 economic, environmental disaster of BC's 21st
16 century.

17 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and panels.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hadland.

19 You noted at one point, as have several
20 others, that various political figures have made
21 comments about the inevitability of Site C and so
22 on, and I just want to assure you that if these
23 three Panel members believe that, we wouldn't be
24 here.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. HADLAND: I believe that, too.

2 Thank you.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any questions that
4 people wish to raise of Mr. Hadland?

5 In that case -- I see a person. Could you
6 identify yourself, please.

7 MR. DIRKS: Yes. I'm Tobin Dirks,
8 D-i-r-k-s, and I'm a farmer and a local -- involved
9 in the local agriculture industry. And my question
10 is more for BC Hydro, but it's to do with
11 agriculture and some of the points that Mr. Hadland
12 brought up.

13 And my questions is, being that this is the
14 only area on -- with class 1 land in this region,
15 and it's isolated from all the other areas of
16 class 1 land, has there been any thought or any
17 value put on the fact that if there is diseases
18 that are found in all the other class 1 producing
19 land in British Columbia, or in other parts of the
20 world, this land is isolated and would not be
21 affected -- yeah, affected, at first, or it can be
22 kept isolated, and, therefore, can produce crops
23 even when there is no potential in other parts.
24 And I'm just wondering what the long-term
25 significance of that might be.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Is part of your question the
2 value of isolation for agriculture?

3 MR. DIRKS: Yeah.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: And that is for weed control
5 and that sort of thing; is that what you're after?

6 MR. DIRKS: Yeah, weed and diseases and
7 insects more so, yeah.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Does Hydro care to respond to
9 that?

10 I note that we are going to have a topical
11 session on agricultural issues and we may get into
12 some of this more deeply, but if Hydro has a
13 response to that right now, it would be nice.

14 MS. JACKSON: Yes, I would direct the
15 member of the -- sorry, I would direct you to
16 table 20.17 of our EIS where the agricultural land
17 lost to the project is put into the context of the
18 land remaining within both the valley and the
19 region, as well as within the province, so that
20 would give some indication of the relevant area of
21 land within this area in context with areas that
22 are removed from either the valley, the region, or
23 the province.

24 MR. HADLAND: Mr. Chairman, may I add a
25 comment to that? A very good point brought up by

1 Tobin, I hadn't addressed it, but the Pemberton
2 river valley was an area where they produced
3 pedigreed potatoes for many, many years, because it
4 was isolated, did not have any disease vectors or
5 anything happening that would cause contamination
6 of the potatoes.

7 They somehow got a golden nematode introduced
8 there and they lost the ability to grow the -- they
9 weren't called "pedigree", they had another word
10 for it, but they were the high-end potatoes for
11 seed right across Canada. Our valley does have
12 that potential still today.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: I recall that one of the
14 virtues of the Peace that I heard of back in the
15 '60s was that it was a great place to grow grass
16 seed because there were relatively few weeds
17 around; is that correct?

18 MR. HADLAND: Well, that's true, that's one
19 of my specialties, is growing grass seeds. And we
20 do have a -- I wouldn't call it pristine anymore,
21 but it is a very good place to grow grass seed.
22 It's the second largest producer of grass seed in
23 North America, the Peace River region. The Peace
24 River region is a wonderful place to be.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

1 MR. HADLAND: You bet.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Hadland.

3 Our next speaker is Monsieur Guy Lahaye, or
4 is it Mr. Guy Lahaye, from the North Peace Rod and
5 Gun Club.

6

7 **Presentation by Guy Lahaye, North Peace Road and Gun**

8 **Club:**

9 MR. LAHAYE: Good evening, and thank you
10 for allowing me to present on behalf of the North
11 Peace Rod and Gun Club.

12 My name is Guy Lahaye. I am the president of
13 the club. And, essentially, I'd like to present
14 the positioning of the club in regards to Site C.

15 The North Peace Rod and Gun Club is located
16 in Charity Lake on the outskirts of Fort St. John.
17 The North Peace Rod and Gun Club represents over
18 800 local members, (indiscernible) and urban, and
19 as an interested party that has participated in the
20 pre-hearing phase of the review.

21 The club was founded in 1945 and, as such,
22 has been a dynamic influence in the teaching,
23 preservation, and promotion of shooting, hunting,
24 fishing, as well as the proper management of fish
25 and wildlife for the purposes of maintaining

1 quality recreational activities and opportunities
2 in the North Peace.

3 The club has throughout its history has
4 regionally dedicated itself to participating in all
5 kind of projects such as burns, wildlife
6 transplants, and studies leading to the enhancement
7 of wildlife populations, and enhancement of
8 habitat.

9 In regards to Site C, the North Peace Rod and
10 Gun Club is not taking a position for or against
11 the building of the dam. We don't want to get
12 involved in that discussion necessarily.

13 However, should the project proceed, then
14 this Panel needs to recognize the impact Site C
15 will have on recreational opportunities in the
16 North Peace, and, specifically, in the
17 Fort St. John area.

18 While the club is concerned about species at
19 risk, its primary focus is on the supply of
20 wildlife to maintain quality, recreational
21 activities, and access to recreational sites.

22 The North Peace Rod and Gun Club believes the
23 following:

24 That the unique climate of the Peace River
25 valley is critical to the abundance and survival of

1 moose, deer, and elk and other species.

2 That, periodically, severe winter weather
3 restricts these species to the areas modified by
4 valley climate. In other words, these are -- this
5 area, the valley, is an important wintering ground.

6 The club believes that the micro climate
7 changes since the building of the W.A.C. Bennett
8 dam have been detrimental to wildlife populations.
9 Hunting activity depends on the surplus of animals
10 produced over the basic populations, and a number
11 of human activities impair the production of that
12 surplus.

13 Activities that can have an impact on surplus
14 animals and hunting activity are: access
15 development, traffic levels, vehicle mortality,
16 logging activity, and general high levels of human
17 activity.

18 Specifically, the construction phase of
19 Site C will bring a significantly higher level of
20 activity and a higher demand for recreational
21 activities.

22 During this phase, access to the North Peace
23 Rod and Gun Club, itself, via Road 271 will also be
24 impacted due to club proximity to the Wuthrich
25 Quarry. Should the project go ahead, this road

1 needs to be upgraded to allow for significant
2 increase in truck traffic.

3 The club believes that management unit 732,
4 which contains the Del Rio block and the south bank
5 of the Peace River from Hudson's Hope to Taylor is
6 the most critical area for maintaining wildlife
7 populations and hunting activity in the
8 Fort St. John area.

9 Fishing activity depends on a surplus of fish
10 produced over basic populations and these are also
11 affected by access and numbers of fisher-persons.

12 We believe that fishing opportunities
13 upstream of Hudson's Hope have been dramatically
14 impaired by the unstable conditions on the
15 Williston reservoir and poor species choice and
16 production in the Williston and dinosaur
17 impoundments.

18 Hunting opportunities have been dramatically
19 lost in the Williston area from the huge loss of
20 habitat and populations, persistent sloughing of
21 banks, dust effects on animal life expectancy from
22 tooth wear and palatability.

23 The club believes that mitigation and
24 compensation programs for values lost due to the
25 W.A.C Bennett and Peace Canyon projects have been

1 too late, too little, and mostly ineffective in
2 compensating for loss of recreational activity.
3 The North Peace Rod and Gun Club exists to protect
4 fish and wildlife resources, to maintain and
5 enhance recreational activities from healthy
6 populations.

7 We are disappointed in the mitigation and
8 compensation actions taken for the impacts of
9 previous BC Hydro developments in the Peace.

10 Furthermore, we see little in the Site C
11 environmental assessment and undertakings by
12 BC Hydro that convince us that the impact of the
13 Site C proposal will not significantly impact
14 wildlife and fish and the recreational
15 opportunities based on them.

16 Indeed, it has been suggested that it will be
17 at least six years after the completion of the dam
18 before access to the reservoir and surrounding
19 areas is available, if safe at all. That puts us
20 to the year 2030.

21 Of particular concern is the lack of regional
22 perspective and assessment in the environmental
23 impact statement for all species that are hunted in
24 British Columbia. We can only conclude that the
25 proponent deliberately downplayed the potential

1 impact assessment by a very narrow and biologically
2 unsupportable study and assessment area.

3 Based on the knowledge and understanding of
4 our members, and without evidence to the contrary,
5 the Site C proposal will have significant impact on
6 fish and wildlife, our recreation and our quality
7 of life.

8 We suggest that the Panel might find that
9 BC Hydro has provided insufficient information and
10 undertakings to reach any other conclusion.

11 Should the project be approved, the North
12 Peace Rod and Gun Club feel strongly that BC Hydro
13 must revisit and provide a much more comprehensive
14 impact assessment related to wildlife.

15 BC Hydro must also be held responsible and
16 accountable for mitigating the negative impact of
17 Site C on fish and wildlife as well as regional
18 hunting, fishing, and other recreational
19 opportunities.

20 BC Hydro must provide the necessary ongoing
21 compensation for comprehensive sign space, fish and
22 wildlife management in order to protect fish and
23 wildlife resources, and to ensure the quality of
24 life and sustainability of recreational
25 opportunities in the North Peace, which the members

1 and supporters of the North Peace Rod and Gun Club
2 have so passionately worked to preserve and enhance
3 over the many years.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

5 I'm sure there are questions on this. I'd
6 like to start with Madam Beaudet.

7 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 I'd like to refer to your written submission.
9 On page 5, you talk about viable long-term
10 cost-effective options to mitigate the loss of
11 important winter habitats that are required. And I
12 was wondering if you have any suggestion for the
13 Panel in terms of mitigation that you would like to
14 see implemented?

15 MR. LAHAYE: You're referring to the
16 technical paper that we have submitted?

17 MS. BEAUDET: Yes.

18 MR. LAHAYE: Okay. I was not going to
19 speak to the technical paper at this time because
20 we have a presentation on the 14th or 15th and
21 would be presenting and answering any questions at
22 that time.

23 MS. BEAUDET: Okay.

24 MR. LAHAYE: And then we can get into it
25 in detail then. Are there any other questions that

1 you might have?

2 MS. BEAUDET: No, I think -- I wasn't under
3 the impression that this was going to be prepared
4 later, but it would be good, and in terms of your
5 preparation, instead of mentioning that you would
6 like to see certain options for mitigation, that
7 you give further thought and maybe come with some
8 concrete suggestions when you do that presentation,
9 please.

10 MR. LAHAYE: So you would like to see
11 something concrete on an if-the-project-is-approved
12 basis; is that correct?

13 MS. BEAUDET: Yes.

14 MR. LAHAYE: I think we can manage that.

15 MS. BEAUDET: The other point I'd also like
16 to make is with the BC Hydro referring to the
17 letter of December 3rd, when you are talking about
18 response to this technical report of Dr. Naji
19 (phonetic). I just want to check with you. You
20 said that you have now the population density of
21 harvested species, and it would be good if we get
22 them also before that presentation so that we can
23 be able to compare. Please.

24 SPEAKER: I think the reference is to
25 the data with respect to population estimates of

1 wildlife that we told you that we had now in that
2 letter. We were intending to provide that with the
3 package on December 20th. There's probably no
4 reason we couldn't post that sooner, if that was
5 helpful to the Panel. We would do that.

6 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: I had one question.

8 We have heard from Treaty 8 and Saualteau that
9 they're much concerned about the disappearance of
10 game and the effect of the project on game
11 populations and so on.

12 It seems to me you're probably both after the
13 same animals. Is there a conflict between the
14 North Peace Rod and Gun Club and Treaty rights?

15 MR. LAHAYE: Not necessarily. I don't see
16 a conflict. Our focus is on recreational
17 opportunities. Their focus may be on more
18 viability of populations in terms of that -- and
19 who has controls and has access over those
20 populations.

21 Ours is looking at it in terms of hunting,
22 fishing, recreational opportunities that are
23 available in the valley in this particular case,
24 and the loss of those. And if it should -- if the
25 project should be approved, then what is BC Hydro

1 going to do in order to compensate the people of
2 this area for basically putting up with this
3 disruption in the lives of the people of the area,
4 and in the equality of life.

5 MR. THE CHAIRMAN: No, I understand that point,
6 but what I'm after is -- there seems to me to be a
7 conflict between Treaty rights to hunt and fish as
8 formerly, as the Treaty says, and the desire of
9 your members to also participate in the mortality
10 of ungulates and fish. Is this a problem?

11 MR. LAHAYE: Not the way I see it. If we
12 look at it strictly in hunting and fishing, one
13 aspect of it, it has to do with subsistence. The
14 other aspect of it has to do with basically
15 recreation. Historically, hunting and fishing are
16 recreational activities.

17 Now, should populations decline to a point --
18 and this is where we get into the grey area --
19 should wildlife populations decline to a point
20 where hunting is no longer feasible because the
21 population is reduced -- remember that hunting,
22 basically, according to our definition and the
23 wildlife ranch, is the harvesting of surplus
24 populations. Right? And hunting is also used --
25 hunting and fishing are used as a means of

1 basically balancing populations.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: I note that on the coast with
3 respect to salmon, for example, there is a
4 hierarchy of use. And the subsistence uses and
5 ceremonial uses of First Nations take precedence
6 over the harvest by recreational users. Is that a
7 pattern for the Peace?

8 MR. LAHAYE: Not up here. Not the way it
9 is down there, that's for sure.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Finally, are there
11 opportunities for sportsmen recreational users to
12 work to go with First Nations to enhance wildlife
13 populations? Do you do such things?

14 MR. LAHAYE: I think part of the mandate
15 of our club is to do just what you'd mentioned
16 here, is to -- and the history of the club itself
17 since 1945 is filled with all kinds of wildlife
18 enhancement and habitat projects.

19 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm thinking particularly of
20 working with your neighbours in the First Nations.

21 MR. LAHAYE: Well, right now, the way it
22 stands, a lot of these projects have to be approved
23 by First Nations according to the agreements that
24 were signed recently in the last few years.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

1 Are there other comments or questions?

2 That is a question? Yes, please.

3 MR. HENDRIKS: Thank you, Mr. Lahaye. It's
4 Rick Hendriks from Treaty 8 Tribal Association. I
5 very much enjoyed your presentation.

6 I wondered if you could elaborate -- I'm not
7 a fisherman, and I don't know how many people here
8 are, but how is the experience, the preparation,
9 the access, the equipment, how is that different
10 between when you decide to go out and fish on the
11 river versus when you might decide to go fish on
12 one of the reservoirs?

13 MR. LAHAYE: I have limited experience on
14 fishing with the reservoirs. I think I've fished
15 on the reservoirs maybe a half a dozen times since
16 1980s since I moved to the Peace country.

17 There's a major difference, however, in how
18 you fish on a reservoir as opposed to fishing on a
19 river. Access on a river is a lot easier in many
20 cases. Access on a reservoir, basically finding a
21 spot to park your boat, so to speak, and finding
22 the right depth of water, et cetera, et cetera, are
23 all major factors.

24 Hunting on the river is a lot more enjoyable
25 as opposed to hunting on the reservoir. I'm not a

1 fishing-on-the-reservoir fan at all.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 MR. HENDRIKS: Thank you, Mr. Lahaye.

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any other questions
5 of Mr. Lahaye?

6 In which case, thank you very much, sir.

7 MR. LAHAYE: Thank you, sir.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: The next presentation is from
9 Renata King from the Northern Development
10 Initiative Trust.

11

12 **Presentation by Renata King, Northern Development**

13 **Initiative Trust**

14 MS. KING: Good evening. My name is
15 Renata King and I'm the director of business
16 development with Northern Development Initiative
17 Trust. Thank you for the opportunity to introduce
18 you to Northern Development.

19 Some of the programs and the type of
20 community and business programs that we offer, the
21 work that we are doing with major industry,
22 including BC Hydro, and in anticipation of the
23 major industrial projects that are happening across
24 the region, including Site C.

25 Northern Development is an economic

1 development corporation. We serve a large region,
2 70 percent of the footprint of British Columbia.
3 We work with businesses and local governments. We
4 work with 40 communities, 8 regional districts, one
5 regional municipality, and 88 First Nations. It's
6 a large territory to serve.

7 Our effort focuses on building a stronger
8 northern economy and also a stronger North Peace
9 economy.

10 There's got to be an easier way to do this.

11 Northern Developments support over the last
12 eight years has resulted in over 1,200 projects,
13 \$115 million of funding, and the important piece is
14 that 75 percent of our projects are in communities
15 under 5,000 people. Most of our communities in
16 north and central BC are under 5,000.

17 We work to build communities with a number of
18 programs. All the programs are community-led
19 projects that really do help build community. We
20 work with municipal governments, non-profits,
21 projects that help renovate community halls,
22 recreational facilities, regional airports,
23 including the Fort St. John Airport.

24 Our business programs help local
25 entrepreneurs benefit from major developments, help

1 them build capacity, help them become stronger
2 businesses so that they can contribute to the local
3 economy.

4 Our understanding of the Site C project is
5 that it is a 7.9 billion-dollar project. There's
6 been six years of planning and assessment and
7 design contracts that some have been contracted
8 locally in the area.

9 If the project gets approved, our
10 understanding is that it's 3.2 billion to the
11 provincial gross domestic product, \$130 million
12 contribution to the regional GDP, 10,000
13 person-years of employment, approximately, 33,000
14 total jobs through all stages of development and
15 construction. But what it also does is it provides
16 an opportunity to build a local supply chain.
17 Building local business helps to build communities,
18 and this project, along with many other projects,
19 can help do that.

20 What Northern Development is hoping to do is
21 to seek every opportunity to create opportunities
22 for the local businesses in the area.

23 Some of the regional contracting
24 opportunities are listed here. There's a wide
25 variety of them. But it's important that

1 procurement is designed appropriately for the size
2 of the local community as well, both in scope and
3 in size.

4 BC Hydro has indicated that they are
5 interested in right-sizing the opportunities for
6 small, medium, and large businesses and to be able
7 to procure supplies and services locally wherever
8 possible.

9 Northern Development is committed to making
10 sure that the businesses are ready for these
11 procurement opportunities and how to help develop
12 those businesses.

13 Starting in 2012, we met with quite a number
14 of industry players to find out what exactly needed
15 to be done to build out a supply chain and make
16 sure that, with these industrial projects, more
17 money stayed in the local economy.

18 One of the things that we were asked to do
19 was to help educate local businesses. So our
20 contractor supplier boot camp was designed with
21 industry participation. The curriculum was created
22 with industry.

23 We have delivered 19 boot camps since 2012:
24 two in Fort St. John, one with Treaty 8, one with
25 Energy Services BC, and the Economic Development

1 Commission, locally.

2 What we're trying to do is help businesses
3 understand what the economic activity is in the
4 region and what the opportunity is for them.

5 The other piece is to help businesses
6 understand what the procurement process is. How do
7 major businesses procure? This is not doing
8 business on a handshake; this is doing business
9 with large national organizations that have
10 different processes.

11 And those businesses that are ready to take
12 on the challenge and grow their business and be
13 ready for these procurement opportunities, it's
14 important for them to understand what steps they
15 have to take to be ready.

16 One of the programs that we help businesses
17 who have expressed an interest in moving forward
18 and being ready for the supply chain work is our
19 competitiveness consulting program. This program
20 helps businesses build their systems, their
21 certifications, their capabilities around
22 operational efficiency. We help to offset
23 50 percent of the cost of third party consultants
24 that they may need to use to improve their
25 processes and systems up to a maximum of \$30,000

1 per company. This program is \$500,000 annually and
2 is fully subscribed by businesses across the north.

3 We designed the program so that northern
4 businesses were not disadvantaged by being in the
5 north. They have invested in their businesses, and
6 when they need help, we wanted to make sure that
7 they had the opportunity to get the resources that
8 they needed; the right consultant on the right
9 project.

10 Businesses that have taken advantage of this
11 are all across the region. I'm actually going to
12 see three tomorrow morning in Fort St. John who are
13 prepared to move forward with some of their work.
14 The consulting program helps with all kinds of
15 capacity building for those businesses.

16 One of the local companies who has taken
17 advantage of the consulting program is Twin
18 Sister's Native Plant Nursery. It's a business
19 that sees the opportunity to be involved in the
20 industrial supply chain. They're a nursery that
21 does native plants and working on reclamation for
22 the industrial projects that are planned and
23 underway in the region. It's a partnership of
24 Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations, and they
25 are looking at the opportunity and building out

1 those systems, that they need to be a very
2 effective business, just one local example. This
3 project is intended to create seven or eight new
4 jobs as a result of the nursery.

5 One of the other programs that businesses
6 have taken advantage of is the industrial industry
7 expansion program. Financial institutions
8 typically provide a certain amount of funding and
9 then they get to the edge of risk and there's not
10 always the full financing available to local
11 businesses; particularly, when they're in a growth
12 mode.

13 The industry expansion program allows
14 businesses to access and leverage a loan guarantee
15 from Northern Developments so that the financial
16 institution will lend them the full project amount.
17 And this is an example: Central Mountain Air is a
18 business, flies in and out of Fort St. John
19 regularly. They took advantage of the loan
20 guarantee program to purchase some additional fleet
21 so that they could expand their service to the
22 north. They've got new routes, and that also
23 brings in labour market into the region, brings
24 workers in, and it continues to expand. So that's
25 just one example of the program.

1 There's also a -- the same program involves
2 supply chain financing. Where a business starts to
3 grow, they need to purchase materials or equipment
4 inventory to respond to a large contract, which
5 they may not be accustomed to. We also provide
6 loan guarantees with the financial institutions to
7 provide purchase order financing, and also
8 receivables financing.

9 It's all about growing these businesses and
10 helping them with their cash flow, and that's
11 always the part that they'll stumble over, if they
12 do not have enough cash to manage the project from
13 beginning to end. And it's important that the
14 industry make sure that they're paying on time to
15 offer those contracts to smaller businesses.

16 The other request from industry was to help
17 identify local companies in the region, local
18 industrial businesses. This supply chain connector
19 was designed again in partnership and input from
20 industry to help identify the resources that are
21 available in north and central British Columbia.

22 This database was launched just over 90 days
23 ago, and we launched it with 1,100 businesses that
24 are all in central and northern British Columbia,
25 all with an industrial focus.

1 The database is in development; as I said,
2 90 days old. Our intent is to build it out to
3 represent 80 to 90 percent of the industrial
4 businesses in the regions. That represents about
5 3,200 businesses across northern BC.

6 The database has been very well received by
7 industry. Many of them are already putting it on
8 their desktops, making sure that they have access
9 to it, that their prime contractors have it readily
10 available, because there is a need to make sure
11 that they're procuring locally wherever possible.

12 The database is searchable; it's searchable
13 by community, it's searchable by sector, it's
14 searchable by distance from a community. So if you
15 were looking for an electrical contractor within
16 100 kilometers of Fort St. John, it would give you
17 that radius search. Very user-friendly. And free
18 to businesses to register. We built it with the
19 intent of bringing industry and local contractors
20 closer together.

21 This is an example of a profile for an
22 individual business. What it really helps with
23 smaller companies is that they have a professional
24 web presence. They may be very capable of doing
25 good work, but it's very difficult to find them if

1 they are not even visible on the internet. So this
2 platform allows them to look very professional,
3 have a profile that acts as a webpage for them if
4 they don't have their own website, so it's
5 tremendously valuable to the smaller companies.

6 Companies in Taylor, companies in Chetwynd,
7 many companies even in Dawson Creek, all the
8 industrial businesses are able to register on the
9 database.

10 What we are really hoping to do is to ensure
11 that industry is as close to the local economy as
12 possible. Northern Development's entire focus is
13 about building that stronger north, and our intent
14 is to work with suppliers across all industries.
15 This isn't just a Site C initiative, this is a
16 program and an offering, and the support that we
17 are providing to businesses is to help build out
18 the regional economies. It's about creating
19 opportunities for a really robust supply chain.
20 And when businesses are successful locally and when
21 they're strong, it also helps to build communities,
22 and that's what our entire focus is about.

23 Thank you very much.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

25 Mr. Mattison, you had a question.

1 MR. MATTISON: Thank you, Ms. King, for this
2 update. I kind of lost track of the Northern
3 Development Trust.

4 I think one of your first slides, you
5 mentioned \$115 million over eight years. Is that
6 money that's been flowed through these programs
7 over that period of time?

8 MS. KING: Yes.

9 MR. MATTISON: And can you just tell us what
10 the source of that funding is?

11 MS. KING: The Trust was created with a
12 one-time endowment from the Province of British
13 Columbia: \$185 million. The Trust is sustainable
14 in that we only work from the income stream from
15 the capital base.

16 Our capital is still intact over eight years,
17 we have the same capital that we began with, and we
18 manage all of our projects from the income stream
19 that our capital generates.

20 MR. MATTISON: There is some -- I'm just
21 trying to recall here, there is some authorizing
22 statute that created the Trust; is that right? Or
23 is it --

24 MS. KING: Yes, it was. It was created
25 by the province of BC.

1 MR. MATTISON: Northern Development?

2 MS. KING: ***Northern Development Trust***

3 ***Act.***

4 MR. MATTISON: Act?

5 MS. KING: Yes.

6 MR. MATTISON: Thank you. I need to refresh
7 my memory.

8 Was it created at the same time as the
9 Columbian Basin Trust?

10 MS. KING: No, the Columbia Basin Trust
11 is entirely different. We are not a Crown
12 corporation. We're arm's length from the
13 government. Columbia basin is a Crown corporation,
14 a Provincial Crown corp.

15 MR. MATTISON: With different enabling
16 legislation?

17 MS. KING: Absolutely.

18 MR. MATTISON: Okay. Thank you.

19 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

20 I'd like to know if you have any statistics
21 on the projects in terms of tourism or outdoor
22 recreation in this area. Is it a market that is
23 emerging or is it expanding compared to other
24 region than the Peace region?

25 MS. KING: Tourism isn't an area that I

1 specialize in; I'm on the business development
2 side. Our programs do support tourism initiatives
3 on the community capacity-building, recreation
4 facilities that we will help fund. But in terms of
5 answering that question, I really can't answer it.
6 I'm sorry.

7 MS. BEAUDET: Thank you.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Are there any more questions
9 for Ms. King?

10 In which case, we thank you very much.

11 MS. KING: Thank you very much for the
12 opportunity.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

14 MS. GOODINGS: Thank you.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: The microphone will actually
16 come down a little by the...

17 MS. GOODINGS: It's okay. This won't take
18 long.

19 So it's Karen Goodings, G-o-o-d-i-n-g-s. And
20 my questions is relative to the Trust that was used
21 to set up the NDI. And I believe that Trust was
22 set up when BC Rail was leased to CN, and I believe
23 that's how we got the start with the -- it came
24 from the province to kind of make us feel better
25 about the loss of BC Rail.

1 I just wanted to clarify that because that's
2 were the money came from.

3 THE CHAIRMAN: Questions?

4 MR. HENDRIKS: Thank you, Ms. King, that was
5 very informative. Rick Hendriks from Treaty 8
6 Tribal Association.

7 I just wanted to ask you, you obviously have
8 a lot of contact with local businesses. In which
9 ways do you think, in your opinion, that they are
10 ready for Site C change, which is a large project,
11 and in which ways do you think there's still more
12 work to be done?

13 MS. KING: Well, I think there's always
14 work to be done. There are mid-sized businesses,
15 there are large businesses that are certainly ready
16 to take on some of the procurement opportunities.
17 The smaller businesses do need help, which is the
18 reason why we created some of the programs, because
19 we wanted to make sure that even smaller
20 businesses, who could be subcontracted to mid-size
21 and larger companies, were prepared and had the
22 knowledge as to how to prepare for those
23 opportunities.

24 You don't have to be a big company to be
25 involved in these projects, because someone could

1 even get a contract outside the region, but they
2 need the local resources to actually make the
3 project happen. So those local businesses, if
4 they're prepared, there's no knowing where that
5 opportunity might come from to actually engage in a
6 contract.

7 MR. HENDRIKS: And you don't have to answer
8 this questions, or, Chair, you don't have to accept
9 it, but could you use more time? Could the
10 region's businesses use more time to prepare?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: We can always use more time.
12 These hearings could use more time. We could talk
13 from now until probably June without exhausting the
14 patience or interest of this community.

15 MS. KING: I think there were -- yes,
16 I'm sorry.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Go ahead.

18 MS. KING: I think the reality is is
19 that there is so much industrial development
20 planned for the next, you know, 20 years that it
21 will constantly be a work-in-progress.

22 There are businesses that are just starting
23 up now, and they need the help. So, again, there's
24 a wide variety of capabilities across the north,
25 and I think there will always be work to be done.

1 I think I have some job security.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hendriks. You
3 didn't ask the questions I thought you were going
4 to ask; which is, what is the participation of
5 First Nations-owned firms, or Métis-owned firms in
6 your database or in your clientele?

7 MS. KING: The database does actually
8 identify -- businesses can self-identify as First
9 Nations because industry has said that they would
10 like to know that if they are First Nation owned.
11 So that is a criteria that they can self-identify.

12 We are working on bringing more businesses
13 on. There's a representation of First Nations
14 businesses. We have been asked to do boot camps
15 specifically with First Nations communities. For
16 example, I was -- last year, I was in New Aiyansh,
17 in the Nass valley, doing specifically for that
18 community, doing a contractor/supplier boot camp.
19 The issues aren't very different. It's the
20 readiness that they need to have.

21 MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

22 MS. KING: Thank you.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Hendriks.

24 Seeing no further questions, I would now turn
25 to Hydro for their response to everything they've

1 heard today.

2

3 **Response by BC Hydro:**

4 MS. YURKOVICH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

5 We've heard a lot today. I will do my best
6 to provide a brief summary and to reflect some of
7 the things that we have heard.

8 Obviously, some of the questions and subject
9 matters that have been raised will also be explored
10 in depth at the topic-specific sessions, and we
11 look forward to those discussions.

12 To begin, I want to just say and reiterate
13 that we do understand and have recognized that this
14 project has effects, and these effects will be most
15 profound for those who live in this place, and
16 we've heard from many of them today.

17 There is no question that Mr. and Mrs. Boon
18 will be directly and significantly impacted. I
19 recognize this. And I can imagine how difficult it
20 was for you to come and share with the Panel today,
21 and I would just like to thank you for doing so.

22 To Chiefs Logan, Willson, Lilly, Tsacoza, and
23 Davis, we appreciated their presentations, and I
24 look forward to meetings in their communities; in
25 particular, to hearing from the Elders, as Chief

1 Willson has suggested.

2 Mr. Forest provided us with comments
3 regarding the future of locally-produced food and
4 his concerns about the impact of climate change.
5 We note that the regional food self-reliance is
6 addressed in section 20 of the EIS and, as the
7 Chair noted, we will have a session tomorrow on
8 atmospheric and we'll be covering off climate
9 change then.

10 As we advised during our afternoon session,
11 we will be responding to the report submitted by
12 the David Suzuki Foundation by September 20th, and
13 we have heard and appreciate Madam Beaudet's
14 comments with respect to our response on cumulative
15 effects and we will work hard to ensure that we
16 address her questions in our response.

17 Mrs. London provided us -- we heard 12
18 concerns that she raised today and has shared with
19 us previously. We do acknowledge her concerns and
20 respect that this project will have impact on her
21 family's land and her ability to enjoy her family
22 property.

23 I would like to comment briefly on the
24 reference to bears and the 2008 and 2009 technical
25 advisory committee process. The purpose of that

1 process was to identify the need for baseline field
2 studies; for example, when habitat use information
3 was needed. In section 14.3 of the EIS, bears are
4 included in the assessment of the large carnivore
5 key indicator species group. Several wildlife
6 management measures proposed are also relevant to
7 bears, and these include measures to avoid known
8 wildlife features during construction such as dens,
9 and measures to reduce human-bear conflicts.

10 We'll be providing additional information --
11 oh, I would also note that there's -- additional
12 information about bears was provided to the Joint
13 Review Panel during your questions that you pose to
14 us.

15 We do anticipate that a detailed discussion
16 on wildlife, when we have our wildlife experts,
17 will be held on January 15th and 16th.

18 Mr. Hochstein, representing the Independent
19 Contractors and Business Association, we heard him
20 speak about the significant economic benefits of
21 the project. He noted that his members can make an
22 important contribution to ensuring that
23 construction is undertaken in an
24 environmentally-responsible way. He also
25 identified that his members are partnering with

1 First Nations around the province to create
2 economic activity.

3 Ms. Goodings spoke to the importance of
4 growing food locally and the role of the Peace
5 region in doing so. She also talked about the
6 value of fishing and recreational opportunities
7 that may be impacted.

8 And Mr. Locher made comments about the
9 impacts to areas B and C and the district of
10 Hudson's Hope. I think we heard his request was
11 that if the project is advanced, that agreements
12 with communities be completed before the project
13 proceeds. We would certainly support that.

14 Mr. and Mrs. Hadland, we heard a presentation
15 that covered a variety of issues, including, again,
16 the importance of the river alternatives, including
17 natural gas and other future alternatives. I would
18 note that -- I did want to comment just on the
19 presentation. He noted the comment from the Klohn
20 Crippen report on reservoir impacts. We did
21 recognize that there is some uncertainty with how
22 rock performs, and that's why we undertook a
23 complete geotechnical investigation of the entire
24 reservoir area. That work was undertaken by BGC
25 Engineering and will be discussed at the

1 topic-session on January 14th. But he is right.
2 We also proposed ongoing monitoring to be sure that
3 those predictions are accurate once the reservoir
4 has been filled. So we will do both prior, and
5 would anticipate doing it during, to look at those
6 geotechnical considerations again following
7 reservoir filling.

8 Mr. Lahaye, president of North Peace Rod and
9 Gun Club spoke about the importance, in particular,
10 of the abundance of wildlife and having access to
11 good recreations opportunities. He made some notes
12 about the impacts during construction in addition
13 to having access to wildlife, also having access to
14 their club. I do note that we have proposed to
15 provide upgrades to the 271 road.

16 As well, there was a comment about use of the
17 reservoir following filling. I just would like to
18 clarify that our EIS indicates that the boat
19 launches that we have proposed would be opened
20 within one year, and the reservoir would be fully
21 available at the end of the second -- it would be a
22 staged approach subject to ensuring public safety.

23 Finally, I think we take from Ms. King's
24 presentation from the Northern Development
25 Initiatives Trust, it was good for us to understand

1 more fully their role in facilitating the economic
2 development in their very large service area, which
3 is covering 70 percent of the province. And I
4 think it was helpful to hear about those programs
5 that are in place that will help ensure that
6 northern contractors and businesses are able to
7 participate fully in the Site C project.

8 I recognize, Mr. Chair, that that's a very
9 high-level summary; we have taken extensive notes,
10 but I think that will conclude my comments, and I
11 appreciate the opportunity to provide a summary.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much,
13 Ms. Yurkovich.

14 And that concludes our session for the day
15 unless -- a gentleman has a final comment.

16 MR. MURRAY: Can I make one comment about
17 -- Mike Murray -- one you didn't address --

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, could you say your
19 name again into the mic.

20 MR. MURRAY: Mike Murray, M-u-r-r-a-y.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

22 MR. MURRAY: One that you didn't address
23 in Arthur Hadland's comments, and I see this all
24 over the press, that this is a 100-year project.
25 We get 100 years of energy out of this.

1 We sit there and we look at the W.A.C.
2 Bennett dam that's 55 years old. Does that mean
3 that dam is going to last 155 years? Because
4 without that dam, none of these are any good. It's
5 like it's all reliant on that big puddle upstream.
6 Can you answer that one for me, please?

7 Like, one of two things; it's either are we
8 building Site C insufficiently that it's only going
9 to last 100 years, or did we not --

10 THE CHAIRMAN: I think we have the
11 questions. Do we have an answer?

12 Mr. Nunn, how long is it going to last?

13 MR. NUNN: Thank you.

14 We've been saying that the project will be in
15 operation for more than 100 years. And interesting
16 to note that there are about 250 dams in the world
17 over 100 years old. And in Britain, the average
18 age of dams is greater than 100 years.

19 MR. MURRAY: Are they of the same size and
20 scope as this dam and in the same kind of
21 condition? Because you will also remember not all
22 that distantly back with the sink holes that
23 happened in W.A.C. Bennett, that it almost failed,
24 or they thought it was going to, so then we
25 wouldn't be here now.

1 MR. NUNN: In the technical memo on dam
2 safety, we addressed the conditions at Bennett dam,
3 the work that's been done to remediate the things
4 that happened in '96 and the independent reviews
5 which have been done since then, which assure that
6 the dam is in good condition.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, sir.

8 There will be a special -- a top-specific
9 session on hydrology and downstream effects and so
10 on during which the question of dam safety will
11 arise, but I encourage you to read the technical
12 memorandum on that perhaps before you come to that
13 session.

14 Thank you, sir.

15 MR. MURRAY: Thank you.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: That's it, ladies and
17 gentlemen. Thank you very much for your patience.
18 We will reconvene at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

19

20 (Proceedings adjourned at 9:00 p.m.)

21 (Proceedings to reconvene on Thursday, December 12, 2013
22 at 9:00 a.m.)

23

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25

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

1
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3 I, Leanne Kowalyk, OCR, Official Court
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7 That the proceedings were taken down by me in
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10 correct and complete transcript of said proceedings to
11 the best of my skill and ability.
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13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
14 my name this 13th day of December, 2013.
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20 **Official Court Reporter**

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