

### Attachment C – Public Hearing Registration Form

This attachment outlines the process for registering to participate in the public hearing. When registering, please include the following information:

<b>Full name</b>	Karen Goodings, Chair
<b>Organization</b>	Peace River Regional District
<b>Email address</b>	<contact information removed>
<b>Mailing address</b>	<contact information removed>
<b>Telephone</b>	<contact information removed>
<b>I intend to participate</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In a general session – Location: Fort St. John or Dawson Creek <input type="checkbox"/> In a community session – Location: <input type="checkbox"/> In a topic-specific session – Location and Topic: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> In writing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Orally (I request <u>15</u> minutes to present)
<b>If you require translation, specify language</b>	None
<b>Please submit a synopsis of the information to be presented</b>  <i>(attach a separate sheet if necessary)</i>	Please see attachment - Peace River Regional District oral presentation to BC Hydro Site C Energy Project - Environmental Assessment Joint Review Panel.



BC Hydro Site C Energy Project  
Peace River Regional District - Public Hearing  
Presentation to  
Environmental Assessment Joint Review Panel

Speaking Notes

Good afternoon, my name is Karen Goodings and I am the Board Chair of the Peace River Regional District. The Peace River Regional District is a federation of seven member municipalities and an extremely large unincorporated region that is 120,000 sq. km in size with a population of 60,082. The Peace River Regional District was incorporated by the Province of BC in 1967 and is the local government authority that will host the proposed Site C Energy project. The residents and taxpayers of the Peace River Regional District will be directly impacted both positively and negatively by this mega project. As a result we acknowledge the important task and responsibility delegated to the Joint Review Panel in looking at this proposed hydroelectric project in an objective and critical manner in making its recommendations to the respective federal and provincial ministers responsible for a final decision.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) includes in its boundaries the W.A.C. Bennett Dam hydroelectric power facility, the Peace Canyon Dam hydroelectric power facility and better than two-thirds of the Williston Reservoir storage facility. The entire proposed Site C Dam facility and associated reservoir storage will be fully located within the PRRD boundaries.

Based upon direct historical experience with the Bennett Dam and the Peace Canyon Dam we feel that we can speak to the proposed Site C project as a voice with experience.

We recognize that during the construction time frame for the proposed Site C project it will bring economic prosperity to the region. We are concerned that a comparatively short construction window (7 years), will have an

everlasting impact on the land by eliminating the sustainable productivity to the region that the land can provide as opposed to the regional prosperity proposed over the life expectancy of the project (70+ years). Case in point, the 1,773 sq. km Williston Reservoir provides zero economic value to the Peace River region and has a significant negative cost effect to sustainable economy of community, forestry, agriculture and tourism.

The Regional District questions the capacity of the federal or the provincial government to monitor construction and environmental or social impacts of the project. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) identifies numerous localized and regional impacts that the project will have on the twenty-two (22) valued components listed in the 5 volumes of reports. The EIS also proposes mitigation strategies, Volume 5 – Section 39, and actions to be taken by BC Hydro to address specific impacts during construction and after the dam is operational.

However, the EIS does not consider or address the capacity of the federal, provincial or local governments to inspect work through the various stages of the project and to ensure that the projected impacts as well as unanticipated impacts are properly addressed in compliance with any approvals given and all applicable federal, provincial and local government statutes, regulations or bylaws.

This major project exceeds the capacity of existing government resources to inspect or monitor, especially in light of other major projects already approved or planned for this region including mines, wind farms, and of course natural gas development associated with LNG. Before this project is permitted to proceed, the Peace River Regional District has requested that both the federal and provincial governments plan to increase the number of government ministry inspectors who will be located in the Peace region to ensure that work is in compliance and that all proposed mitigation measures are implemented and effective. We would request that the Joint Review Panel clearly identify to government their responsibility to ensure inspection and monitoring resources and personnel are in place to oversee any development.

The Regional District strongly recommends that a joint committee of stakeholders be established to monitor the project. The PRRD believes that this project will require close coordination and cooperation of all regional local governments and stakeholders if the project is to proceed and be successful. We propose that BC Hydro be required to establish and work with a Joint Committee of stakeholders that will be responsible to oversee project activities and to provide ongoing comment and dialogue with respect to project activities. The role of this committee should include reviewing of the EIS and proposed mitigation strategies to ensure that BC Hydro's project is implemented as committed in the application.

It is our view that this Joint Committee, funded by BC Hydro, should be established in concert with any approval or decision to proceed and that the Committee continue in some form for the planned life of the project, until the dam is decommissioned. Agencies and organizations currently represented on the EIS Working Group should be considered for appointment to this Joint Committee.

There are several references in the EIS to private and local government critical infrastructures that have not been thoroughly studied or considered by BC Hydro as of yet. These include: the Hudson's Hope sewer lagoons; the PRRD Charlie Lake sewer outfall; the Fort St. John, Taylor and Hudson's Hope water sources; the North Peace Airport; and, approximately 40 private wells and septic fields located within the inundation zone of the reservoir. These impacts are proposed to be addressed, but there needs to be an oversight body with authority to ensure they are addressed satisfactorily.

In addition, the PRRD believes that if this project proceeds there will be numerous additional impacts during construction, reservoir filling and post-construction that have not been fully anticipated. These will require an immediate or emergency response on the part of the proponent or local governments in order to ensure protection of critical infrastructure, health and safety.

We request that the proponent be required to establish a contingency fund that could be accessed on an emergency basis by local governments or by the Joint Committee, as previously proposed, to provide an emergency response capability to address emergent issues.

Cumulative effects and impacts: the PRRD understands that it is outside the Joint Review Panel's scope of authority, but we feel cumulative effects of major projects need to be identified and considered, to reinforce to government that many industrial activities are occurring in the greater Peace region that are all in addition to any Site C project. The overall impacts of projects on the regional economy, cost of goods, demand for labour, equipment for hire, highway traffic, wild life, quality of life, tourism and other valued components is significant. The cumulative impacts have not been sufficiently addressed in the reports or technical studies. This is a direct result of the defined Environmental Assessment (EA) processes only dealing with the project at hand and not considering all surrounding activity that significantly compounds any Site C project effects on the region.

The scope and scale of projects in our region is beyond the ability of existing government ministries or local governments to effectively monitor and inspect. In addition, existing community services like police, fire, health and social agencies are already stressed to provide assistance to area residents and transient workers. The approval and implementation of the proposed Site C Project will exacerbate existing problems and further stress limited community services and resources. It is imperative that BC Hydro recognize their shared role in the cumulative effects with mitigation support.

The PRRD supports the call by Dr. Mark Jaccard et al. for an independent review of the environmental, social and economic impacts, and cumulative impacts of the proposed Site C Project and comparable alternative clean energy options:

*“While the environmental assessment of Site C will be valuable for reducing uncertainty about the project’s impacts and identifying opportunities to mitigate some of these, it is nonetheless inevitable that as a hydropower mega project, Site C will have significant*

*environmental effects. For effective trade-off decision-making, however, the provincial cabinet needs to hear from impartial experts in environmental assessment and electricity system planning on the implications of not developing Site C. In other words, how much more quickly and with how much more environmental, social and economic impacts, would BC have to scale-up other renewables (including RoR) were Site C to be postponed or cancelled? And how do these projects and their cumulative impacts compare to Site C and its impacts? Only through the integration of electricity system planning and broad-based strategic environmental assessment can British Columbians and their elected officials be adequately informed of the trade-offs inherent in one development path versus the other. At this time, it appears that BC needs at least greater integration of these two institutions and their functions related to planning and approval of electricity generation projects of all sizes.”*

(Dr. Mark Jaccard, Dr. John Nyober and Noel Melton, “Scaling-up **Renewable Electricity** in BC: Tackling the Institutional and Political Challenges”, School of Resource and Environmental Management, Simon Fraser University. March 2012, Page 9.)

BC Hydro is a crown corporation of the Province. If at some time in the future, the BC Hydro Corporation assets are sold to private ownership, what assurances can the Joint Review Panel put in place now, to ensure that project commitments made under the current EIS application are upheld through the life expectancy of the proposed Site C project?

The PRRD’s final concern is around public safety in the event of a failure of this man made structure. Current legislation requires a dam owner to notify the local authority in the event of a dam failure or potential failure. The PRRD as the local authority would receive that notice for Site C in the event of a problem and is responsible for notification and management of people affected. While we need to be notified, we feel that notification and education also needs to be the responsibility of BC Hydro by having emergency response plans in place to notify and educate affected residents of any potential concern. This should not be the sole responsibility of local government.