

DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
SPECIAL MEETING
HELD IN THE G.M. SHRUM GENERATING STATION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007 AT 9:00 am

Present **Council:** Mayor Harwood; Councillors Anderson, Kosolowsky, Johansson, Webster and Johnson
 Staff: Carolyn Bonnick, Administrator; and Becky Mercereau, Deputy Clerk
 Others: Andrew Watson, Hugo Shaw, Siobhan Jackson, Jack Weisgerber, Jennifer Hrankowski, David Conway, Bruce Misewich, Judy Kirk, Deb Bisson, Patricia Robinson and Al Edgar

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

PROPOSED PEACE RIVER SITE C HYDRO PROJECT

BC Hydro hosted the meeting with Mayor and Council to find out how the District of Hudson's Hope wants to be consulted and what topics they want to be consulted on during the consultation process for the proposed Site C Hydro project on the Peace River. The following information was provided by representatives from BC Hydro:

- a decision as to whether this project will be built has not yet been made;
- stage one has been completed which was the review of project feasibility;
- stage two is now in progress which will involve pre-consultation, technical studies and analysis, and project definition consultation;
- as part of stage two BC Hydro will be trying to find out the issues and concerns of communities, how people want to be consulted and starting the first nations consultation;
- this project would help with closing the gap between electricity supply and demand in British Columbia;
- the expected electricity gap is expected to widen up to 45 percent over the next two decades;
- Site C will produce 4,600 GWh/year; however, this will not completely close the electricity gap;
- other options to close the gap will be to promote conservation, continue purchasing IPP's, which will include pine beetle wood for biomass fuel, and continue to maintain current projects;
- new equipment for current facilities is being purchased and installed to increase power and efficiency, as well more generators are being added to current plants that have been designed for future additions;
- the Site C project would be a good compliment for wind energy, so when the wind is producing energy the dam can slow down its production and vice versa;
- the Burrard generating facility has six units with five working currently, it takes between 24 hours and a couple of days to bring a unit online;
- the IPP contracts are usually 20 years, but some are increasing to 40 year contracts;
- after the contract is completed with an IPP they can either renew their contract or choose to sell elsewhere;
- Site C would be provincially owned, it would produce 900 MWH which is a third of the energy produced at the Bennett dam, but with a much smaller reservoir (approximately 3 foot rise/fall);
- the reservoir would be stable, but the dam would operate like a run-of-the-river project;
- updates to the plan design, road relocation, environmental impacts and the safe zone need to be reconsidered as these were all planned 25 years ago;
- four new bridges will need to be constructed in conjunction with the road relocation;

- a detailed map will be available with the proposed new road location, flood lines and safe lines;
- they outlined the following impacts that may be caused by this project
 - environmental impacts, which would include flooding, impacts on fish, wildlife, agricultural, and local air quality;
 - traditional lands of First Nations may be affected;
 - families may need to be relocated and a relocation of some sections of Highway 29;
 - between 1,000 and 2,000 workers would be required for construction;
 - noise, traffic and temporary construction facilities and access roads would affect the community;
 - land will need to be used to create the reservoir;
- they outlined the following benefits that may be caused by the project;
 - this will be a dependable energy source for British Columbia;
 - it will cause minimal greenhouse gas emissions once operating;
 - it will be operational for up to 100 years with low operating costs;
 - will use existing water stored upstream in Williston reservoir;
- regular maintenance will be required to keep the dam operational for the proposed 100 year lifespan;
- the project will take approximately 12 years to complete if approved;
- the current footprint of the Peace River is 4500 hectares and the expected new footprint would be 9300 hectares;
- if the costs for this project become too much then the project will probably not proceed;
- the cost estimate is between 5.1 and 6.6 billion dollars;
- the rebuilding of sectors of Highway 29 is included in the cost estimates;
- the proposed new road relocation should not increase travel time significantly;
- BC Hydro is seeking suggestions for a legacy project (ie. recreation facility);
- recreational opportunities may benefit Hudson's Hope's tourism sector;
- there have been 37 First Nations contacted to date;
- BC Hydro will be considering the concerns from the First Nations and the communities and try to work together with both groups to find solutions; and
- a summary will be given in March of the information collected in the pre-consultation.

The following questions and comments were made by Council;

- how does the project costs compare with alternate energy sources;
- will the gap widen further with companies having to offset emissions of green house gases;
- a pilot program is being tested in Alberta to have ranchers operate windmills which can be linked into the grid, will this option be looked at in British Columbia;
- can individuals with solar power feed back into the grid;
- if one of the energy sources will be pine beetle wood, have they taken into account that this wood will only be available for approximately 10 years;
- if the forestry mills are to close, as they have been recently, have they taken into account the decrease in the large demand from that sector;
- is part of the demand using energy to export to the United States;
- Council voiced that they do not want Hudson's Hope to be an end of the road town;
- are options to keep the Burrard facility being looked at and would BC Hydro provide Council with the current status of this facility;
- will tests be done on mercury levels, as the Williston reservoir has such high levels;
- road relocation and the safe line are major concerns for the community;
- the fog may occur in Fort St. John as it did in Hudson's Hope and could be a problem in Fort St. John, especially with the airport;
- dust problems like the ones on Williston Lake could be a problem with the new reservoir;

- should look at how the silt will effect equipment;
- a new lake may cause tourists to choose to do their recreation activities near Fort St. John rather than driving to Dinosaur or Williston Lake in Hudson's Hope;
- has BC Hydro looked at the other tenures that may be within the safe line such as oil and gas or coalbed methane;
- it was suggested that in the consultation stage communities should be able to meet with the Ministers;
- what type of protection will there be for homes on the banks of the Peace River in Hudson's Hope;
- will residents who may have to deal with a highway near their property have the opportunity to sell their property to BC Hydro or be compensated;
- would like to be consulted on the road design prior to any decisions being made;
- it was suggested that BC Hydro speak with Rich McCrae in Tumbler Ridge with regards to archaeological sites that may be in the area;
- will a berm be made to protect many of the properties;
- will the First Nations have a stronger voice than the communities;
- want to have information in Hudson's Hope for residents who do not travel to Fort St. John to go to the office there; and
- property owners who live on the river may reform an association to meet with BC Hydro.

The representatives were informed by Council of the issues that have been encountered with the Grants-In-Lieu funding that the community receives for having the dams in the District. They would like to see new formulas, especially if a new dam is to be constructed as it would greatly affect Hudson's Hope.

It was requested that the feedback forms be completed and returned or done on the internet. Mr. Conway advised that the pre-consultation should be completed by the end of February and then BC Hydro will be in contact with Hudson's Hope for the consultation phase of this project.

ADJOURNMENT

Certified Correct:

Clerk

Mayor