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September 18, 2023

Hi Ana,

Thank you for your email and the opportunity to provide some information about the Site C project and the comprehensive and meaningful consultation and engagement we have undertaken with Indigenous Nations.

We are working with Indigenous communities to help build long-term relationships and to better understand their interests as they relate to Site C. We have also worked to find ways to incorporate their interests into the project and mitigate impacts wherever possible.

The Site C hydroelectric project will be the third hydroelectric dam, generating facility, and reservoir on the Peace River. The purpose of Site C is to provide energy and hydroelectric capacity for the people of the Province of British Columbia, while meeting provincial public policy goals, including contributing to global efforts to combat climate change.

Site C is on-track to come into service by fall 2025. Once complete, it will provide British Columbia with 1,100 megawatts of firm capacity and produce about 5,100 gigawatt hours of clean electricity each year. This is the equivalent amount of energy needed to power about 450,000 homes or 1.7 million electric vehicles per year.

BC Hydro is committed to working in collaboration with Indigenous peoples to advance reconciliation. In respect to Site C, BC Hydro has been carrying out engagement from 2007 to the present with the potentially impacted Indigenous groups, including through an extensive multi-year joint federal-provincial environmental assessment process. Various procedural and substantive accommodations were made throughout this engagement process to address their interests, and where possible to avoid adverse impacts to their rights.

In 2014, BC Hydro received an Environmental Assessment Certificate, allowing the Site C project to proceed. The certificate lists 11 Nations as potentially impacted by Site C. To date, benefit agreements have been publicly announced with seven of those Nations. While specific agreements are confidential, they include elements such as cash payments, land transfers, land protection measures and contracting opportunities. Through these agreements, those Nations have affirmed that they have been adequately accommodated and do not oppose the project.

The Government of Canada, Province of British Columbia and BC Hydro have continued to consult with Indigenous groups in relation to the ongoing construction of Site C. The ongoing consultation process

includes regular information sharing through in-person (or online) forums, site visits and various correspondence aimed at providing opportunities to exchange information, seek input, and answer questions.

One of the Site C project objectives is to provide lasting economic benefits for Indigenous groups. Many Indigenous contractors and employees have been involved in the construction of the project, in areas including environmental services, clearing, site preparation, and road and bridge construction.

Since the beginning of the project, about \$760 million in procurement opportunities have been awarded to Indigenous designated companies. In addition, about 10 per cent of the total Site C project workforce on average are self-declared Indigenous workers.

Additionally, BC Hydro created a Culture and Heritage Resource Committee (comprised of representatives of BC Hydro and Indigenous groups) that provides guidance on the mitigation and management of impacts on cultural resources.

The next major milestone on the Site C project is the filling of the Site C reservoir, which could begin as early as this fall. BC Hydro continues to work with Indigenous Nations to prepare for the impact of reservoir filling, through engagement opportunities such as open houses, field tours, as well as supporting ceremonies.

I hope the information I have provided is helpful.

Sincerely,



Lindsay Thompson

Director, Indigenous Relations  
BC Hydro