

**DISTRICT OF HUDSON'S HOPE
SPECIAL MEETING
HELD IN THE PEARKES CENTRE
THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2008 AT 10:00 A.M.**

Present **Council:** Mayor Harwood; Councillors Kosolowsky, Webster, Johnson, Johansson and Anderson
 Staff: C. Bonnicks, Administrator; M. Ryder, Director of Works and Protective Services; and B. Mercereau, Deputy Clerk
 Others: J. Kirk, D. Conway, B. Misewich, A. Watson, S. Jackson and H. Shaw

CALL TO ORDER

Proposed BC Hydro Site C Project

Mr. Shaw began the meeting by discussing the following topics:

- looking at potential Site C impacts which include the environment, First Nations, social, construction and land;
- no decision has been made as to whether this project will be proceeding;
- Stage 2 is the project definition and consultation, this stage will take two years to complete;
- in the pre-consultation stage they heard from approximately 700 people;
- the top issues raised during pre-consultation were local impacts, how Site C will be compared to other energy alternatives, what the consultation process will be like, local community benefits, impacts on First Nations, costs and conservation; and
- there will be two open houses held in Hudson's Hope in June to hear from residents.

The following information was provided by the BC Hydro representatives:

- analysis of energy alternatives is being done as part of BC Hydro's energy planning process and are filed with the British Columbia Utilities Commission;
- reviewed the various potential electricity resources with the positive and negative impacts of each, which included the following:
 - small hydro; large hydro; conservation; natural gas; coal; wind; biomass; solar; and tidal.
- the PowerSmart program will give early signs to BC Hydro as to whether the smart and net metering will work in the future to help with conservation, as well as other initiatives currently being worked on;
- the following items were outlined as being possible benefits for the community and for the province:
 - regional employment; skill training; local employment; opportunities for local contractors, enhanced recreational opportunities; upgrades to infrastructure; legacy community fund; dependable energy; low-cost energy; and low-emission energy.
- studies are currently being done to determine the impact lines for flood, stability, erosion, groundwater and landslide wave;
- the stability impact line will include the building permit standards;
- some of the effects that are being considered on different water management ranges are the following:
 - downstream fish habitat; boat launches and recreation; flood control; wildlife habitat; and the interests of other water licence holders.
- the reservoir will fluctuate plus or minus 3 feet;
- the old studies have shown that the lake will freeze and will back up to the tailrace of the Peace Canyon Dam;
- an 8 to 10 meter raise in water is expected at the townsite, and maps can be provided to show which islands will be affected;
- studies are currently being done of the type of fishing, the fishing spots and recreation done of the Peace River;

- the routes for the relocation of four segments of Highway 29 were discussed;
- consultation with the Ministry of Transportation regarding the relocation is underway;
- the issue of worker housing is being considered as to whether they will build a camp to house 1,350 people;
- the camp would cause additional burdens on the community, with the need of additional costs for police and school;
- if a camp were built it would be self sufficient;
- the impacts of increased fog is being considered with studies being completed;
- the impacts on fish are also being considered and BC Hydro has initiated and planned a number of studies and surveys to be completed;
- previous studies have indicated that approximately 150 heritage sites could be affected by the project design, however, new studies need to be completed as those estimates were from 30 years ago;
- the First Nation consultation process is currently in progress, however they will need to find out whether the information discussed at those meetings can be given to the public; and
- round 2 of the consultation process will begin in the fall.

Council questioned BC Hydro on the following issues:

- commitments from BC Hydro need to be sustainable and long-term;
- comments from contractors in the area should be considered, as the suggestions for the Lynx Creek boat launch were not taken into consideration and the launch is now having problems;
- the Peace Basin Trust that is in the process of being established should not be tied to Site C, as this trust should have been completed when the first two dams were built;
- the Peace River Regional District has been requested to submit the report on the Peace Basin Trust as part of the Site C consultation process for information;
- the Peace River, Dinosaur Lake and Williston Lake boat launches all need upgrading;
- compensation for landowners affected by the flood lines was brought up and BC Hydro advised that right-of-ways can be put on those properties so that landowners can still use the land below the flood lines for anything except residential use;
- discussed the affects that the fluctuation of the proposed new lake would have on animals and fish;
- concerns were brought up that if the road become too expensive it may not be built, however, the representatives advised that as it is a provincial highway it would be completed;
- questions on the taxation dollars from the proposed camp were brought up;
- some areas that may be flooded are on the scenic by-way program done by NRATHA;
- a request was made that an office be set up in Hudson's Hope at least one day a week for residents of Hudson's Hope to visit and get information about the proposed project;
- a request was also made that maps be provided in Hudson's Hope; and
- it was suggested that BC Hydro speak with Edward Reschke about some of the heritage sites in Hudson's Hope.

ADJOURNMENT

Certified Correct:

Clerk

Mayor