

Regarding Site C:

I am a permanent resident of the Peace Valley, having been born in Pouce Coupe and have lived in Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Hudson's Hope for almost 70 years now. I would like to write to express my opinion against this project. BC Hydro still calls Site C a "Clean Renewable Energy Project". All they need to do is to look at the enormous amount of environmental damage that the WAC Bennett Dam and the Williston Reservoir is continuing to cause, but of course BC Hydro refuses to admit that is the case, even after the past 45 years have been nothing but one problem after another.

I attended several meetings of the "so-called" Site C Project (I refuse to call it a Clean Energy project) "information sessions" and not a single question was ever answered to any one of the attendees satisfaction. These were nothing more than propaganda meetings to tell every one what a necessary project this is and how much "we" need the power when we all know not one kilowatt will be used in this area or even so far as we know, in this province. It is going to be produced strictly for export.

The union of BC Municipalities voted against BC Hydro installing "Smart Meters", and subsequently BC Hydro announced that they were going to go ahead regardless. This is the same attitude they have with the proposed Site C Project. Regardless of any opposition, environmental damage or cost, they seem to be able to carry on without any level of government able to control what they do.

They've spent millions on this project already, including Mr. Campbell flying to Hudson's Hope with several jet airplanes and his "chosen few" to announce they were going to proceed with the Site C project. When questioned about the cost of the trip, they announce it was a "mere" four hundred thousand dollars! What gall! When people in this province are homeless and children go to bed hungry.....

There are many alternatives to building the Site C project that would not displace people, animals, wildlife, fish and fowl from their homes and land and would not destroy farmland that is a very precious resource. There is a reason why these hydro electric projects are banned in other countries throughout the world. It's the environmental damage that they cause. Yet, BC Hydro is determined to go ahead with their so-called "Clean Energy Project".

Even though BC Hydro does not actually care about the environment or the families they would displace, wildlife that will die or the beautiful valley they would destroy, they should at least look at the costs involved in building and maintaining this "Site C Project". The maintenance alone at the WAC Bennett and the Site One Dams are costing millions every year.

Wind power would not destroy an entire valley and it would only cost a very small fraction of the cost of building yet another destructive hydro-electric generating facility. Wind power maintenance would cost very little and provide as much power indefinitely.

Part of this assessment is that they have been drilling holes all along the river bank to check for stability, even though the river banks are sloughing away right next to where they are drilling. If they would look at the damage at Williston Reservoir, they could save hundreds of thousands of dollars on these so called "Environmental Assessments" that are being PAID for by BC Hydro and therefore will have an end result that is unquestionably bias.

I write this with the sincere hope that some level of government will be able to independently do an environmental assessment that will once and for all put a stop to the Site C Project from proceeding. This entire area has had the project hanging over our heads for 30 years. It was not feasible 30 years ago. Now, with all the alternatives and what we've learned about the environmental damage they cause, this project should be abandoned in its entirety.

Thank-you,
Evelyn Edinger