

# The Site C Dam on the Peace River in northeast British Columbia: We don't need it and we can't afford it.

An inquiry into Site C by the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) is underway. It began in August 2017, with a preliminary report released on September 20th and a final report expected this November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Community input sessions are being held throughout the BC from September 23rd to October 11th. This is your chance to stand up and defend the Peace River Valley. To participate, please visit [www.bcuc.com](http://www.bcuc.com).

The following fact-based arguments come from highly credible sources including: the Deloitte LLP review of BC Hydro's plans to build Site C; international energy expert, Robert McCullough with 37 years providing expert advice on energy issues; Dr. Harry Swain, former Chair of the Joint Review Panel for the EA on Site C; and, Eoin Finn, Director of the Pacific Electricity Ratepayers Assoc. and retired partner of a major accounting and consulting firm, among others.

## Why Site C should be terminated

### Energy forecasts are unreliable

- Over the past 20 years, BC Hydro's forecasts have overestimated demand by over 30% on average - Deloitte

***"BC Hydro forecasts are dangerously vintage. BC Hydro is still forecasting rapid growth even though demand has been flat for many years" - McCullough***

### Creating jobs for necessary BC projects

- Borrowing \$10 billion for Site C, restricts opportunities to borrow for projects we really need like affordable housing, schools, hospitals and day care centres.
- These projects would provide fair-wage construction jobs throughout BC. This easily replaces 'lost jobs' from Site C.

***The Association of Major Power Producers have warned that an increase of more than 2.6% in energy costs will run the risk of destroying demand – "existing industrial customers will scale or shut down operations, or even transfer production to other jurisdictions."***

### Alternatives are cheaper

- Terminating Site C and building a renewable portfolio of wind and geothermal would save BC ratepayers \$.7 to \$1.6 billion.
- If and when BC needs more power, alternatives such as wind, solar and geothermal are now more cost effective and could provide energy with no increase in greenhouse gases, they are less expensive, more easily built and more flexible resources.

### No market for the power

- Despite Hydro's inflated forecasts, BC's energy demand is flat and will remain so for some time.
- If Site C were completed, BC Hydro will lose money on exports to the U.S.
- Presently BC has to sell power for less than it costs to produce.
- Demand growth is effectively zero as new energy saving technologies such as LED lighting emerge and more conservation efforts are initiated.

***"Quebec and Newfoundland are competing to sell energy to New England at a loss" - McCullough***

***In 2013, BC Hydro's demand forecast did not include any energy for LNG. Now Hydro claims 60% of Site C power is for LNG. What gives?!***

### Addressing Dispatchability

- Site C is a large run-of-river project. It won't provide back up power like WAC Bennett Dam.
- BC already has sufficient back up for intermittent sources (e.g., wind and solar) from WAC Bennett dam, the Northwest Power Pool, Columbia River Entitlement and Burrard Thermal.

***"If we stop now and the 25% sunk cost estimate is correct, ratepayers will be able to utter a sigh of relief" - McCullough***

# More reasons to bring Site C to a full stop

## Valuing ecological services

- The David Suzuki Foundation estimated the value of ecological services provided by the Peace River Watershed to be \$7.9 to \$8.6 billion per year.
- This includes services like carbon storage, water supply, air filtration, flood and erosion control, and wildlife habitat.

*“The era of construction of large hydroelectric dams is over” – Premier Philippe Couillard, Quebec*

## Our commitment to UNDRIP

- Both the federal and BC NDP governments promised to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Our governments have ignored this international pledge when it comes to Site C.
- Both the federal and BC governments must abide by Canada’s commitment to Indigenous and human rights at the United Nations.

## Loss of critical wildlife habitat

According to Dr. Clayton Apps, Wildlife Biologist,

- “Site C will form yet another barrier to wildlife movement in a region where industrial development is expanding rapidly.”
- “Site C will threaten the future survival of several wildlife populations in the Peace region.”

## Infringement of Aboriginal and Treaty Rights

- The Peace Valley is one of the last remaining areas in northeast BC that has been sufficiently protected from industrial development so that Indigenous peoples can still exercise their Treaty rights.
- The valley offers stories, contains cultural and burial sites, and serves as an indispensable source of food, furs, fish and medicines for Treaty 8 First Nations who have inhabited the area for over 10,000 years.

*“We haven’t pushed conservation and efficiency as far as they can go. We need to consider the costs and benefits of alternative energy production” - Swain*

## Loss of food producing land

- BC is not food secure.
- Over 31,000 acres of Class 1-7 farmland could be destroyed by Site C.

*“The land to be flooded is capable of providing an annual, local and sustainably produced supply of fresh produce to over a million people” - Wendy Holm, Agricultural Economist.*

## TAKE ACTION!

**Save BC from Site C – a project that will become the biggest White Elephant BC has ever seen.**

**Defend over 57,000 acres of forest and farmland and prevent billions worth of debt for future generations:**

1. Attend a BCUC Community Input session near you. Details at [www.bcuc.com](http://www.bcuc.com). Material to help you prepare can be found at <https://keepingthepeace.wordpress.com/resources/>.
2. Write letters asking the BC NDP and your MLA to stop borrowing for Site C and instead fund necessary public projects like day-care centres, hospitals, schools and affordable housing – projects that will provide fair-wage construction jobs throughout BC.
3. Signing our petition and joining our mailing list at [www.SaveBCfromSiteC.ca](http://www.SaveBCfromSiteC.ca) for updates.



Peace Valley Environment Association



@SavePeaceValley



[www.SaveBCfromSiteC.ca](http://www.SaveBCfromSiteC.ca)

**Thank you for your support!**

Peace Valley Environment Association, PO Box 6062, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4H6 [peacevalleyenv@gmail.com](mailto:peacevalleyenv@gmail.com)