

From: <email address removed>
Sent: November 28, 2013 12:10 PM
To: SiteC Review / Examen SiteC [CEAA]
Cc: premier@gov.bc.ca; jennifer.rice.mla@leg.bc.ca; adrian.dix.mla@leg.bc.ca
Subject: Deny the Site C mega-dam

Linda Jones
Panel Manager
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency 22nd Floor, 160 Elgin Street Ottawa Ontario K1A 0H3
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Dear Ms. Jones,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) submitted by B.C. Hydro with regard to the proposed Site C dam on the Peace River.

The Peace River valley is a significant historical, cultural and natural feature in northern B.C. This significance is recognized by the B.C. government's designation of the Peace as a Heritage River. The river is heavily used by local residents for boating, swimming, rafting and fishing. The Peace River has significant cultural and historic values associated with First Nations settlement.

The upper reaches of river have already been developed for hydro power. The WAC Bennett and Peace Canyon hydro-electric dams produce 31 per cent of British Columbia's hydro-electric power. A third dam, called Site C, is now proposed for the Peace River downstream from the confluence with the Moberly River, near the city of Fort St. John.

B.C. Hydro is seeking federal and provincial approval to construct Site C and create a third reservoir on the river. This would destroy virtually all of the historic Peace River that remains within B.C.

The purpose of the EIS is to assess the significance of the impacts of the Site C dam and determine whether or not they can be mitigated or offset. I am writing to let you know my opinion that the EIS for the Site C dam fails to adequately assess the significance of potential and cumulative impacts of Site C. The EIS is deficient in the following ways:

- * The boundaries of the area assessed are far too limited.
- * As a result, the EIS omits assessment of regional impacts to many important species, especially those that range widely, occur at low densities and/or are unevenly distributed.
- * The EIS does not consider the impacts of the existing dams and reservoirs on the Peace River.
- * Wide-ranging animals – such as wolverine, lynx and woodland caribou – are virtually excluded from the assessment.
- * The cumulative effects assessment appears to have omitted a number of past projects and potential new projects.

Peace River region wildlife populations already are unacceptably impacted due to the intensity of human activity and development. The only appropriate response is to deny approval to the Site C dam and implement a comprehensive management approach that will ensure the recovery of at risk species like grizzly bears and caribou.

Sincerely,

Lee Brain

<personal information removed>

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