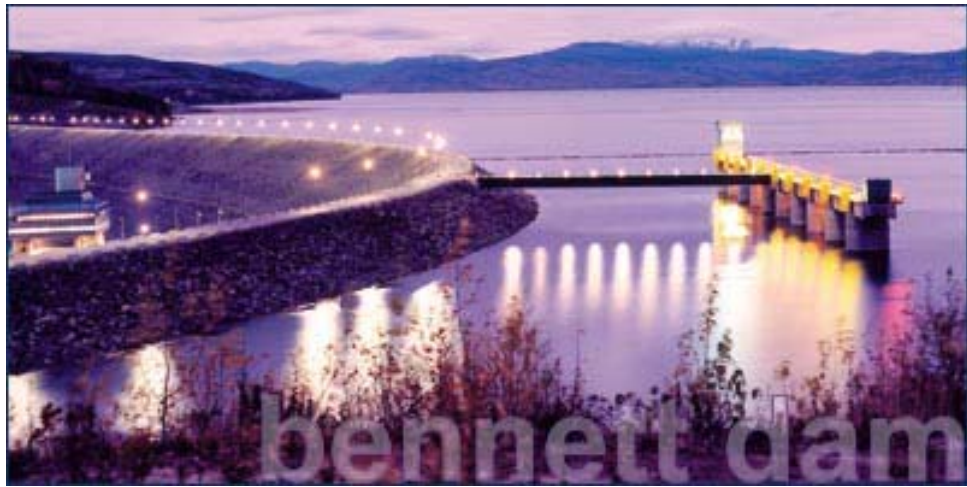


PUBLIC OPINION on EMERGING ISSUES



**Prepared by
BC Hydro Research Services
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APPENDIX : Survey Questions

A total of 600 telephone interviews were conducted by Ipsos-Reid with a random sample of adult British Columbians. The survey sample for this study was stratified by census division to reflect the distribution of the provincial population. Individual households were selected using a modified random digit dialing procedure. Within each selected household, interviews were conducted with the person having the next birthday, minimizing any inherent response bias. A rigorous callback appointments system for households and selected individuals also ensured response bias is kept to a minimum.

Lastly, at the tabulation stage, statistical weighting was applied to the survey data to ensure the sample's age/sex composition accurately reflects that of the actual population according to the 2001 Census data.

Interviewing was conducted during the afternoons and evenings between June 21st and 25th, 2005, by Ipsos-Reid in Vancouver.

Margins Of Error

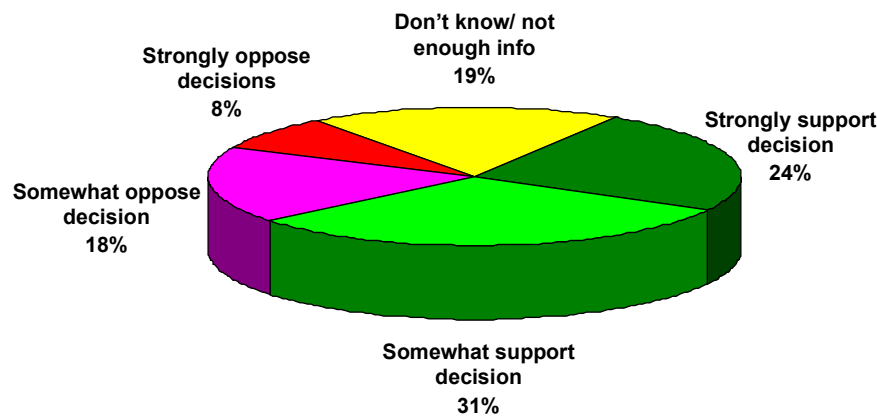
At the 95 percent level of confidence, the maximum margin of error for the total sample size of 600 is +/- 4.0 percent. This is based on a 50/50 split to any given question. As the level of consensus on a question increases, the margin of error decreases. For example, for a total sample size of 601, if 90 percent of residents respond a particular way to a question, then the margin of error at the 95 percent level of confidence decreases to +/- 2.4 percent.

Duke Point Decision

Four in ten British Columbians (39%) report having been previously aware of BC Hydro’s initial plans to build a natural gas fuelled power generation plant in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. Not surprisingly, awareness measures highest among Islanders (59%), about average among individuals residing in the Lower Mainland (38%), and lowest among those living farthest away in the Southern Interior (31%) or in the North (24%).

British Columbians are twice as likely to support BC Hydro’s decision to withdraw its plans to build the Duke Point power plant than to oppose it (55% versus 26%). The balance of individuals – about one in five – are without an opinion, most expressing a need for more information to make a decision.

Attitude towards BC Hydro’s Decision to Withdraw Its Plans to Build a Power Plant in Nanaimo



Among the residents reporting a prior awareness of BC Hydro’s initial plans for Duke Point, support for the corporation’s recent decision increases to 65 percent. However, opposition levels among informed individuals remains virtually unchanged at 27 percent.

Interestingly, while the largest segment of residents on Vancouver Island do support BC Hydro’s decision, no other region in the province is as divided on the issue or shows similar signs of entrenchment. Specifically, while five in ten Islanders support the corporation’s decision, including 33 percent who “strongly support” it, four in ten oppose the decision, including 15 percent who “strongly oppose” it.

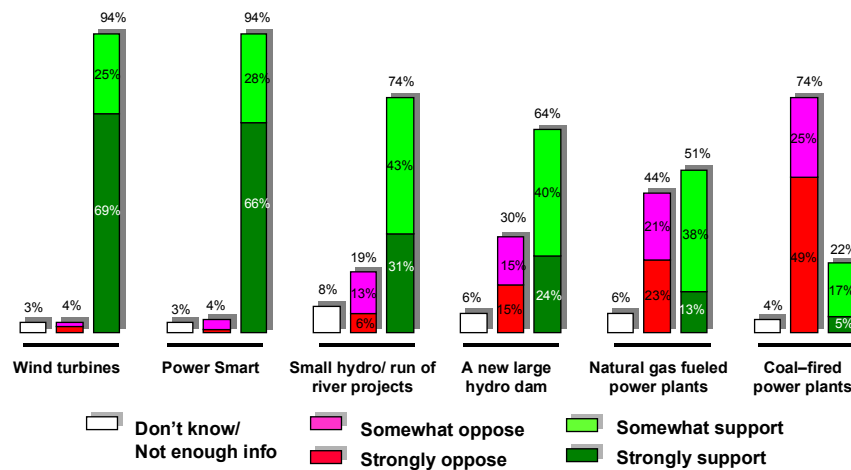
Public opinion of BC Hydro has remained unchanged on the heels of the Duke Point decision. In fact, residents opposed to the decision are just as likely as those in support of it to feel favourably towards the corporation.

Resource Options for Meeting Additional Electricity Demand

In considering a range of potential options BC Hydro could implement in meeting the future electricity demand in the province, the overwhelming majority of residents support additional electricity produced by *wind turbines* (94%) and energy saved by *Power Smart energy conservation initiatives* (94%). Furthermore, endorsement of these two options is quite firm rather than just moderate or soft, with a total of seven in ten “strongly supporting” them.

Although there still is a majority consensus, support slides to 74 percent for *small hydro/run-of-river projects* and further to 64 percent for *a new large hydro dam*. Only about one-half of the public are in favour of additional electricity produced by *natural gas fuelled power plants* (51%) while only one-quarter are in favour of *coal-fired power plants* (22%).

Attitudes towards Resource Options for Meeting Additional Electricity Demand in B.C.



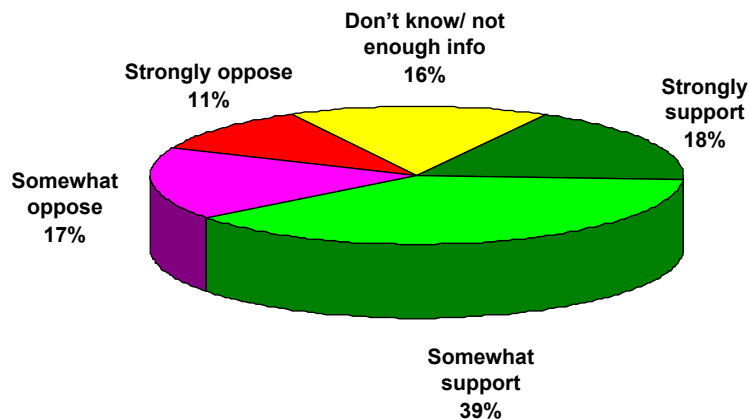
Findings should be interpreted as providing only a top-of-mind indication of residents’ preferences around electricity resource planning. In 2002, focus groups were conducted across the province in regards to BC Hydro’s Integrated Electricity Plan. Upon learning of the pros and cons different resource options have, nearly all respondents in these groups fully embraced a new large hydro dam, along with Power Smart, as being a key foundation in meeting increased electricity demand in the province.

Site C Dam

Having been read a brief description of the proximity of Site C to the Bennett and Peace Canyon Dams on the Peace River in northern B.C., a total of one in four residents report prior awareness of Site C or the idea of building a third dam on the Peace River. Recall levels vary most significantly by region, measuring highest in the North (31%) and lowest on Vancouver Island (16%) and in the Southern Interior (14%).

British Columbians are twice as likely to support rather than oppose the idea of BC Hydro building the Site C dam to help meet the future electricity demand in the province (57% versus 28%). The balance of individuals – about one in six – are without an opinion, most expressing a need for more information to make a decision.

Attitude towards BC Hydro Building the Site C Dam in Northern B.C.



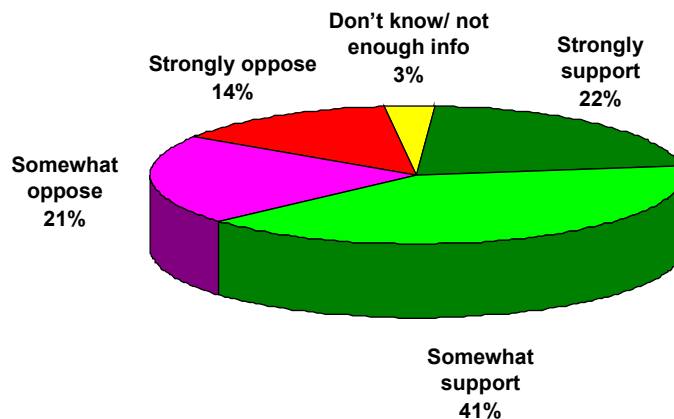
In the North, a slim majority of residents (54%) support the building of the Site C dam. At the same time, however, there is significant opposition (37%) and it is markedly higher than in any other region of the province. There is some evidence of NIMBYism as comparably more northern residents support (62%) and fewer oppose (33%) the idea in principle of a new large hydro dam other than Site C specifically. It follows that the net support of a new large hydro dam – support less opposition – drops from 29 points to 17 points once the Site C location is considered by these particular residents.

Electricity Exports to California

Approximately eight in ten British Columbians report having been previously aware that BC Hydro buys and sells electricity outside the province in places such as California (84%) and that it makes significant amounts of money from buying and selling electricity (74%).

In considering the benefits that trade brings to BC Hydro – including earning the province approximately \$150 million each year and helping to keep prices low – along with the fact that some California parties have taken legal action against Powerex for actions they say occurred during the 2001 energy crisis, just over six in ten residents support the corporation continuing to sell electricity to California. Few individuals are without an opinion, however, as close to four in ten oppose further trade relations with the state.

Attitude towards BC Hydro Continuing to Sell Electricity to California



With just one exception, the majority of residents in each of the regions do support BC Hydro continuing to sell electricity to California – the proportion ranging from 55 percent to 67 percent. In the North, public opinion in this regard is reversed, albeit still generally divided, with 52 percent opposed and 47 percent in support. What may be behind this is a sense of resentment some northern residents have expressed in past focus groups that the natural resources in their part of the province have been sacrificed for the good of residents, business and industry elsewhere – particularly in the Lower Mainland. Their attitudes towards BC Hydro exports to California may just be an extension of this.

APPENDIX
- Survey Questions -

ROTATE/RANDOMIZE FOLLOWING SECTIONS: B - E

B. Duke Point decision

BC Hydro recently announced that it has withdrawn its plans for a natural gas fueled power generation plant in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island.

1. Prior to this survey, had you ever heard of BC Hydro's initial plans of building this plant in Nanaimo?

Yes

No

2. Do you...**READ**

Strongly support BC Hydro's decision to withdraw this plan

Somewhat support it

Somewhat oppose it

Strongly oppose BC Hydro's decision to withdraw this plan

DNR Don't know (volunteered)

DNR Not enough information (volunteered)

C. Powerex and California/exports

BC Hydro, through its subsidiary Powerex, earns the province approximately \$150 million each year trading electricity outside BC and in the Western US., including California. This brings a number of benefits to customers, including helping keep BC Hydro's electricity rates among the lowest in North America. BC Hydro and Powerex plan to continue trading in all regions, including California, even though some California parties have taken legal action against Powerex for actions they say occurred during the 2001 California energy crisis.

1. Prior to this survey, were you aware that BC Hydro buys and sells electricity outside the province in places such as California?

Yes

No

2. Were you aware that BC Hydro makes significant amounts of money from buying and selling electricity?

Yes

No

3. Do you...**READ**

Strongly support BC Hydro continuing to sell electricity to California
Somewhat support it
Somewhat oppose it
Strongly oppose it

DNR Don't know (volunteered)

DNR Not enough information (volunteered)

D. Views on Site C

A large portion of the province's electricity supply is generated at the Bennett and Peace Canyon Dams – both situated 23 kilometres apart on the Peace River in Northern B.C.

In planning to meet the future electricity demand in the province, BC Hydro has identified a third site on the Peace River - very close to the other two - as a possible location for another dam. This location has come to be known as Site C. It and many other possible options are currently being discussed with stakeholders all across the province.

1. Prior to this survey, had you heard of Site C, or the idea of building a third dam on the Peace River?

Yes

No

2. Do you...**READ**

Strongly support the idea of BC Hydro building the Site C dam in Northern B.C.?
Somewhat support it
Somewhat oppose it
Strongly oppose it

DNR Don't know (volunteered)

DNR Not enough information (volunteered)

E. New Electricity Supply

BC Hydro is currently considering a range of potential options for meeting the future electricity demand in the province. Such options include producing electricity from a new large hydro dam, small hydro or run-of-river projects, natural gas, coal, wind and Power Smart.

RANDOMIZE OPTIONS

1. Do you...**READ**

Strongly support additional electricity produced from a new large hydro dam

Somewhat support it

Somewhat oppose it

Strongly oppose it

DNR Don't know (volunteered)

DNR Not enough information (volunteered)

- additional electricity produced from small hydro or run-of-river projects
- additional electricity produced from natural gas fuelled power plants
- additional electricity produced from coal-fired power plants
- additional electricity produced from wind turbines
- additional electricity saved from Power Smart energy conservation initiatives

END OF SECTION B-E