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BC Hydro 2021 Integrated Resource Plan Meeting Notes: Local Government Webinar #1

Meeting	Local Government Webinar #1 Presentation on the Draft 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)
Date	July 06, 2021
Location	Virtual Webinar (Microsoft Teams)
Local Government Representatives	Steven Faltas, New Westminster Electric Utility Iti Kalsi, Constituency Assistant, Coquitlam-Maillardville Brenda Locke, City of Surrey Eileen Lao, Constituency Assistant, Vancouver-Langara Heather Andrews Reema Ismail, Constituency Assistant, Delta North Ray Hooper, Village of Harrison Hot Springs Mike Starchuk, MLA, Surrey-Cloverdale Susan Clovechuk, Regional District of East Kootenay Laura Sampliner, City of Port Moody Shirley Bond, MLA, Prince George-Valemount Josephine Howitt, City of Kamloops Andrew Adams, City of Campbell River Stephanie Cadieux, MLA, Surrey-Panorama Allan Frederick, Village of McBride Frank (guest) Maggie Baynham, City of Saanich Jessica McIlroy, City of North Vancouver Adam Campkin, Corporation of the District of Saanich Poroshat Assadian, City of Richmond
BC Hydro Representatives	Bill Clendinning – Presenter Anne Wilson – Moderator Johnson Lee – Host Judy Dobrowolski – Capital project communications Kiran Judge - Communications Jen Thompson – Notetaker

WELCOME

BC Hydro opened the session with a welcome and introductions.

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BC Hydro took participants through the upfront information including meeting logistics and then provided an overview of the draft 2021 Integrated Resource Plan (2021 IRP). BC Hydro described what an Integrated Resource Plan is and provided an overview of the main elements in the draft plan. Participants were invited to ask questions and provide feedback throughout the session, and opportunity to provide additional feedback was provided at the end of the session.

The summary notes below capture a summary of themes and session areas of interest. This is followed by, for each section of the presentation, participant questions and comments followed by the general BC Hydro response, as appropriate.

Summary of themes and session areas of interest

In reviewing the **planning context**, there was an interest in understanding how we will manage for continued uncertainty, particularly with the recent heat wave experienced in BC. Interest in electrification was expressed, including electrification uptake and how we are accounting for future capacity needs, for example electric vehicle uptake. There was also an interest in understanding how Fortis BC's electrification assumptions and BC Hydro electrification assumptions interrelate.

In reviewing the **EPA renewal draft element**, a participant expressed concern that the Capital Power contract was not going to be renewed given their contributions to the community.

In reviewing the **future resources draft element**, concern was raised that options are being taken off the table. Feedback was shared that this is the time to look at distributed generation options as momentum and approvals can take years. There was interest in the planning looking at other ways to encourage local, renewable energy generation, given the lag time between when policies come into effect and when those could contribute to the gap in supply. There was also interest in understanding the role of the Columbia River Treaty.

In terms of **additional** items: it was mentioned that the importing of electricity accounts for higher carbon in the province, and an interest to know if there is something in this plan about purchasing low carbon or exploring policies to ensure low carbon purchases.

Local operational reliability issues were also raised, including dealing with distribution-level growth at local substations, connection issues for large loads electrifying, and the ability to notify customers who are on life support machines prior to planned outages.

Introduction and planning context

Area of interest/comment

Participant expressed that the future is uncertain...and wanted to know how BC Hydro plans to continue to reflect the changing environment that we're living in. There was interest in how we're adjusting to think about this in the context of what we've just gone through with the heat waves.

Response

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BC hydro mentioned that this is an ongoing process and a standard part of predicting. Addressed that predicting usage is only half the equation. The other half is modelling the performance of the BC Hydro system. What we've seen there - we could see a 5% impact on our system.

Area of interest/comment

Participant asked for more detail on the modeling of the capacity requirements and how this relates to B.C.'s electrification roadmap – such as with the projections for EV uptake.

Response

BC Hydro acknowledged that government policy is a part of our modeling on the demand side. This means that as policy evolves we update our models. Currently, EV uptake projections are a key part of our modeling.

Area of interest/comment

Participant shared feedback that there are a number of substations that are working over capacity. One being near Harrison Hotsprings. There isn't an upgrade planned until 2025. Participant wanted to know how that is going to work with the level of development in the area.

Response

BC Hydro noted that modelling does look at a number of factors to ensure we're ready for growth.

Area of interest/comment

Participant expressed concern that should there be planned power outages to save electricity, people on dialysis or other home lifesaving equipment be given a time/update before the outage occurs.

Response

BC Hydro noted that our objective is to avoid the outage. But when we can't, notice is given around where the outage will take place and there is a standard protocol for emergency procedures of this nature.

Area of interest/comment

Participant wanted to know how we compare to Fortis BC's pathway to electrification and in particular, about our predictions for demand.

Response

BC Hydro outlined how Fortis and BC Hydro are working together and how, even though there are different approaches, we still benefit from each others' planning.

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ELEMENTS OF THE IRP

Conservation and time-varying rates and demand response options

BC Hydro outlined the first draft elements of the Base Resource Plan: Demand side measures including energy efficiency and time-varying rates and demand response programs.

No questions/comments on this section.

Renewing electricity purchase agreements

BC Hydro summarized the draft approach for EPA renewal element of the plan.

Area of interest/comment

A participant stated that they've heard that the renewal with Capital Power is not going to be renewed at all. This is a concern for this participant as it is in a heavy industrial park that it serves quite well and they are a great community partner.

Response

BC Hydro thanked the participant for this feedback.

Transmission system upgrades

BC Hydro summarized the draft plan element of transmission upgrades.

No questions/comments on this section.

Small BC Hydro plants

BC Hydro summarized the draft plan element of small BC Hydro plants.

No questions/comments on this section.

Future resources

BC Hydro summarized the draft plan element of future resources.

Area of interest/comment

A participant wanted to know if the Columbia River Treaty negotiations impact the IRP.

Response

BC Hydro offered to follow up after the session to confirm.

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Shared after the session: *The electricity from the Columbia River Treaty is from outside the province and is not considered as a resource in our planning process. The Treaty does set some operating parameters for our generation facilities in the Columbia and their impacts are reflected in our load resource balances. Any changes to these parameters that arise from the Treaty negotiations will be reflected in our next IRP.*

Area of interest/comment

There was interest and concern that options are being taken off the table because BC Hydro isn't looking at them now. Feedback was shared that this is the time to look at things like vehicle to grid as a different approach, large-scale batteries, more community and household solar installations. Expressed that the end of the decade feels like a long way off but the lead time and build-up of momentum is not that long and approvals can take years.

Response

BC Hydro confirmed that we are looking at a number of these and that they just aren't in the plan at this point. Acknowledged a balance to be found and shared some updates on different distributed generation options.

Area of interest/comment

There was interest in hearing about the potential timeline for feed-in tariffs or other ways to encourage local, renewable energy generation, given the lag time between when policies come into effect and when those could contribute to the gap in supply.

Response

BC Hydro noted their concern and asked for additional feedback to be shared more formally with us.

Area of interest/comment

It has been stated that we have enough capacity for 10 years; however, with larger electrification connections in the Metro Vancouver region we are hearing the feedback that there are capacity constraints. This results in a significant connection capital investment for those first movers who then enable the connection for others to follow. However, that initial cost is too high for many of those looking to connect. How is this being addressed?

Response

BC Hydro agreed to connect offline with an answer. In summary, BC Hydro noted that this is the interconnections process. We're regulated in this area but there is work currently being done on this point

Area of interest/comment

Participant noted that BC Hydro is talking about there being a surplus but we do import electricity and this accounts for higher carbon in the province. There was interest in knowing if there is something in this plan for purchasing low carbon – or if a policy can be put in place.

Response

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BC Hydro shared that our plan, as a strategy that follows government policy, does not include imports and exports. However, it is mentioned in the Phase II report from the government. Phase II has in the works for a 100% clean standard.

Closing

BC Hydro thanked people for their participation and mentioned feedback opportunity continues until July 31 with an on-line survey as well as opportunities for organizations to submit comment forms.

Thank you and end of session.