Clean Power 2040
Powering the future

BC Hydro 2021 Integrated Resource Plan

Meeting Notes: Local Government Webinar – Northern BC

Meeting	Local Government Webinar (Northern BC) about the Integrated Resource Plan
Date	December 07, 2020
Location	Virtual Workshop (Webex)
Local Government Representatives	Scott Somerville, CAO, Village of Kimberley Kris Olsen – Mayor of Queen Charlotte Alan Harris – CAO, Smithers Daris Gillis – District of MacKenzie
BC Hydro Representatives	Bill Clendinning; Presenter Anne Wilson; Moderator Shaka Baker; Host Alex Tu; SME Bob Gammer; Community Relations Dave Mosure; Community Relations Sharon Wasylik; note-taker Jen Walker-Larsen; note taker

Presentation Summary

The webinar began with a traditional territory acknowledgement.

After introductions and discussing virtual meeting tools and etiquette, Bill Clendinning, Director of Energy Planning and Analytics at BC Hydro led the presentation for the webinar. The presentation is appended to the meeting notes.

What is an Integrated Resource Plan & consultation timeline

Bill Clendinning provided an overview of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) and the schedule for creating the plan for submission to the BC Utilities Commission.

Planning objectives

Bill Clendinning explained the five planning objectives that BC Hydro is considering when reviewing topics for the IRP. He also explained two important terms to know when discussing the topics for the IRP: energy and capacity.

Integrated Resource Plan Choices

Bill presented the 20-year outlook of electricity supply and demand in BC, for both energy and capacity, and discussed choices BC Hydro will have to make in light of the outlook. The outlook, as shown on the graph, does not include:

- Upgrades to BC Hydro's integrated electricity system
- Conservation programs that could be employed.

Participants were invited to provide input regarding the choices and options presented.

During the first several years when we have sufficient supply of electricity to meet demand, choices presented were:

- Energy efficiency programs, voluntary time varying rates and voluntary demand response programs
- Expiring Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPA) and BC Hydro's potential options
- BC hydro's Small generation plants approaching end of life

Later in the planning horizon as gaps between supply and demand emerge, the following illustrative options were presented:

- Looking at ways that new technology, such as utility-scale batteries and pumped storage could help to store electricity for when customers need it.
- Upgrading our existing system, including expanding some of our larger facilities, like adding an additional generating unit at the Revelstoke Generating Station, and upgrading our power lines to help meet demand from customers.

Bill then discussed uncertainty and the various scenarios BC Hydro considers when evaluating the options presented above.

The webinar concluded by discussing the regional demand supply outlook and the options that the IRP may consider in the region.

Participant Input

The following is a summary of the discussion that took place.

Energy and Capacity: 20-year outlook of Supply and Demand

Peak Demand and Peak Supply (1 comment) one participant asked what would happen to the system if peak demand exceeded peak supply.

Build Resilience (1 comment) another participant asked if we are going to have to increase transmission capacity on the grid to meet the potential future growth from liquid natural gas facilities and mining.

2020 to 2030: Managing current resources

Expiring EPAs (1 comment) one participant asked if contracts with Independent Power Producers will be less lucrative in the future.

2030 to 2040: Getting ready to explore new resources

Conservation Programs (1 comment) one participant noted that if we start purchasing heat pumps, solar or battery storage, we can reduce demand on the system. They further questioned whether BC Hydro would look at a payback system to help people afford these technologies, adding that it would be a good way to get many households in the province to adopt these technologies.

New local power sources (1 comment) another participant asked if tidal was being considered for non-integrated areas.