Clean Power 2040
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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 08, 2020
Location	Virtual Workshop (Webex)
Local Government Representatives	Lara Beckett, Electoral Director, Regional District of Fraser-Fort George Walt Cobb, Mayor, City of Williams Lake Carol Leclerc, Mayor, City of Terrace
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.

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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.

2020 to 2030: Managing current resources

Customer involvement (2 comments): There was interest in what more can be done to encourage individuals to do more at home to both reduce electricity use or contribute to the grid by producing electricity through solar panels. Another participant noted that customer involvement is very important, using the example of Ontario Hydro offering high rates for a feed in system that promoted solar panel adoption by homeowners. Having these customers see their own dial made a big difference in helping them to conserve.

Time-varying Rates (1 comment): One participant recommended implementing higher rates between 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm to help shift load. It was also noted that there is no incentive for customers to shift their usage even though the technology to do so is there.

Conservation (1 comment): Another participant suggested that BC Hydro encourage and incentivize major retrofits in energy poverty areas there housing tends to be cheaply constructed, old, and energy inefficient.

2030 to 2040: Getting ready to explore new resources

Climate change (1 comment): One participant questioned the effect of climate change on BC Hydro's infrastructure, citing the example of a landslide taking out a transmission pole.

General

One participant expressed interest in BC Hydro's efforts towards reconciliation with First Nations, and involvement in First Nation's energy projects.