

Clean Power 2040

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BC Hydro 2021 Integrated Resource Plan Meeting Notes: Customer and Public Consultation

Meeting	Telephone Town Hall about the Integrated Resource Plan
Date	Feb 2, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Location	Telephone conference line
Participants	98 BC Hydro customers from across the province
Host services and BC Hydro attendees	Host, STRATCOM Bill Clendinning, BC Hydro, Director of Energy Planning and Analytics

Welcome and introduction to the session

The host and BC Hydro representative welcomed people to the session and provided opening remarks and background on the topic. Opening remarks are provided in the Appendix attached to this summary. The evening session covered three topics, and participants were invited to ask questions throughout the session.

Question and answer topics of interest

Throughout the session participants were invited to ask questions. As questions spanned across the planning topics, areas of interest are grouped here in the following categories:

Generation supply options (6 questions) participants wondered about the supply mix in the future and whether we would expand from the hydroelectric base, questions regarding wind, ocean sources, hydrogen, natural gas, and small modular nuclear reactors were of interest.

Small scale customer level supply (5 questions) participants were interested in expanding the net metering program as a way of diversifying the system and reducing transmission, providing solar panels to customers, using small scale power options in rural settings

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Providing opportunities for Indigenous Nations (3 questions): participants questioned how BC Hydro is supporting IPPs in Indigenous Communities and also with small projects where this participant heard there were problems being encountered.

Managing demand (3 questions): participants were interested in education and incentives for energy conservation and helping large customers, one participant did not like the idea of time of use, and other was interested in hearing the kinds of rates being considered.

Topic 1: Planning priorities

Introduction to topic

We're fortunate in B.C. to have a large system based on dams and water that provides clean power to the province. Continuing to provide clean, reliable power is a key priority for us as we plan for the future. As we plan, we look at the lowest cost options to meet new demand and also consider other planning priorities to make choices on how to best meet future need. Those priorities are:

- 1. Keeping costs down for customers, in other words, what you see on your bill.*
- 2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through clean electricity instead of using fossil fuels*
- 3. Limiting land and water impacts. This means protecting the natural environment as much as possible to minimize damage or disruption to the eco-system.*
- 4. Creating economic development opportunities with Indigenous Nations, such as pursuing infrastructure projects that have Indigenous Nations involvement*
- 5. Supporting the growth of B.C.'s economy through things like job-creation with infrastructure projects.*

Poll results

Which of the key planning priorities being discussed tonight is the most important to you?

Answer	Votes	%
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through clean electricity	22	37
Keeping costs down for customers	16	27
Limit land and water impacts	12	20
Supporting the growth of BC's economy	5	8
Creating economic development opportunities with Indigenous Nations	1	2
Something not listed here	3	5

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Topic 2: Doing more with managing electricity demand

Introduction to topic

Technologies are rapidly evolving and changing the way we generate and use electricity, and climate action is also influencing how we do or could use electricity (such as electric vehicles). This opens up new ways for BC Hydro to work with customers to manage electricity use through our conservation, or power smart programs.

Some of these new ways of increasing customer involvement include:

- more programs to help use electricity more efficiently (also known as demand management programs)
- introducing time varying rates (where customers can pay cheaper prices for using electricity at special times during the day)
- introducing home and business automation tools to help customers move some activities to times of the day where electricity use is not as high

These demand management methods help to control the pressure on the electricity system and offer more options for customer savings. Now that we've discussed some ways to manage electricity use, we'll open the floor to take a few questions on the topic of managing electricity use and customer involvement.

Poll results

If BC Hydro had to focus on one, which one are you most likely to participate in?

Answer	Votes	%
More conservation programs through Power Smart	7	17
Introduce options like time varying rates	14	33
Supporting the adoption of smart technology in the home and business	1	2
All of these about equally	14	33
None of these	5	12
Something not listed here	1	2

Topic 3: Looking ahead when we need new supply

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Introduction to topic

We've talked about planning priorities and some of the key options BC Hydro might be able to introduce in managing electricity demand. Now, to do that the electricity system itself will need to change. The key issue for the long-term plan is, in what way and to what extent will the electricity system need to change? The main scenarios of change are:

1. Add the ability to create and deliver more electricity through the existing system using traditional methods. This could include adding generating units to existing stations and upgrading the grid.
2. Adopt new technology for creating and storing electricity. This could for example include large-scale batteries.
3. Provide more options for even greater conservation and ways for customers to control their electricity use. This could for example include home automation as well as ways for customers to generate their own electricity at home.

Poll results

Thinking about what we have covered today, which of the following courses do you think BC Hydro should focus on over the next two decades?

Answer	Votes	%
Add capacity to the system using	6	16
Focus on adding new technology for creating and storing electricity	17	45
Provide more options for even greater conservation and ways for	12	32
Something not on this list	3	8

Thank you and session close

The BC Hydro representative thanked everyone for joining in the discussion on the long-term plan, expressing appreciation for listening, providing input, and asking questions. It was mentioned we are now looking ahead to drafting our action plan, which will incorporate inputs from events like tonight. The plan is scheduled for release to the public later this spring. If participants had a comment, or wanted to participate in future telephone town hall, they were invited to leave a message at the end of the discussion.

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Additional comments left on voicemail

Participants were provided an opportunity to leave additional comments or request their name be added to future telephone town halls via voice mail at the end of the session.

Number of participants leaving voicemails: 19

Number of participants requesting to be added to future town halls: 13

Number of participants appreciating the town hall: 9

Comments received:

- Would like to see more done with our conservation programs for low income seniors, such as being offered better subsidies for retrofit houses with insulation and higher quality windows. Suggested anyone who qualifies for senior home owner grant should get it.
- Would like to see hydro creating a variety of opportunities to generate at home. Concerned over large corporations such as big box, amazon and google. Would like more autonomy as individuals and think it would be good for the economy. Thanks for opportunity to share ideas.
- A suggestion to reach out to Chamber of Commerce members for our consultation, if we are not already doing so.
- Voiced concern over more intense storms and weather bringing power outages, especially with people being at home during the pandemic and wondering if we are including this issue. That is why we should use and store alternatives sources as soon as possible.
- Did not agree with smart meters for existing buildings (maybe with new builds) or Site C dam. Concerned over these recent large investments and wondering why we are talking about household savings in comparison. Agree ten years out is probably a good idea.
- If there is a surplus over the next ten years, will we see a reduction in rates and an incentive program to attract industry?
- Questioned the impact of climate change on existing generation capacity, and the time it is taking to provide redundant power to west Kelowna
- Question about how much we are relying on power from the US
- Question about more money going to maintenance programs for reliability
- Question about reliability in the Fraser Valley

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Appendix 1: introduction and background

Introduction and background

We're in the process of developing BC Hydro's long-term plan for the power system. This plan ensures our customers will have electricity in the future when they need it. Since it takes time to build new generating stations and power lines, develop new powersmart programs, or buy power we are planning now for what you may need 10 to 20 years in the future.

The plan for the power system typically includes 3 main elements: how we manage our electricity through conservation, expanding our existing generating stations and power lines, and buying power from independent producers. How much depends on our best estimate of the future electricity need of our customers.

Our outlook shows that, similar to other areas across North America, the need for electricity could grow at about about 1% per year. This takes into account impacts related to the pandemic, which our electricity demand forecasters have been monitoring carefully. Given our existing ability to provide electricity today and what's already being built, we likely have enough power for about the next 10 years. We may need power in some regions like the south coast where most of our customers reside before others. In any event, you can think about our plan falling into two time periods. The first ten years where we likely have enough power, and how do we prudently managed the resources already have to provide electricity. Then, the later years where we have choices to make to supply our customers as electricity demand outpaces our current ability.

Of course, as we all know living through a pandemic the future is uncertain – so our planning also needs to plan how to handle uncertainty. So, tonight, we're reaching out to you as customers to guide us. We'd like your feedback on our planning priorities, as well as your thoughts on potential choices we have ahead of us to me the province's future need for electricity.