

BC Hydro Integrated Resource Plan: Indigenous Nations Consultation

Southeast region

Virtual meeting – November 27, 2020

First Nation / Organization

Adams Lake Indian Band	Shackan Indian Band
BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council	Simpco First Nation
Bonaparte Indian Band	Splatsin
Sekw'el'was (Cayoose Creek Indian Band)	St'at'imc Eco Resources
Coldwater	St'at'imc Government Services
High Bar First Nation	Takla Nation
Kanaka Bar	Tk'emlups te Secwepemc
Ktunaxa Nation Council	Tl'etinqox Government
N'Quatqua	Tsal'alh First Nation
Nooaitch Indian Band	Xa'xtsa - (Douglas First Nation)
Okanagan Indian Band	Xwisten (Bridge River Indian Band)

BC Hydro Representatives

Presenters	Bill Clendinning, Director, Energy Planning Basil Stumborg, Decision Analysis Expert
BC Hydro Indigenous Relations	Wayne Lam; Danielle Van Huizen; Ali Stockwell; Dina Matterson; Jessica Davies; Trina Johansen; Scott Humphreys; Robin Fowler
Notetakers	Lyndsey Stark; Arsia Assadipour

Independent Facilitator

Indigenuity Consulting Group	Cheryl Brooks
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Summary of presentations

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

The workshop began with Cheryl Brooks acknowledging the traditional territory and welcoming everyone to the meeting.

All participants introduced themselves and one of the participants offered a prayer and blessing.

After introductions and discussing virtual meeting tools and etiquette, Cheryl explained the agenda as follows:

- Overview of Integrated Resource Plan
- Discussion of Planning objectives guiding the IRP – what’s important to you?
- Discussion: Applying those objectives to key planning topics

Cheryl also noted that BC Hydro will take notes and circulate a summary of the meeting in the next couple of weeks. Comments in the meeting summary won’t be attributed to individual participants

What is an Integrated Resource Plan & consultation timeline

Bill Clendinning then introduced the long-term planning exercise:

- What is an integrated resource plan
- Importance of indigenous input to our long-term strategic plan
- Timeline of IRP development and consultation activities

Planning objectives

Basil Stumborg discussed the planning objectives that BC Hydro is considering when making choices. Basil then invited the participants to provide input on the planning objectives. A poll was conducted to collect input from the audience on planning objectives. Poll questions and responses are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Integrated Resource Plan Choices

Bill then presented the 20-year outlook of electricity supply and demand in BC and discussed choices BC Hydro will have to make in light of the outlook. Participants were invited to provide input regarding First Nations values and interests 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.

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

Bill concluded by discussing the regional demand supply outlook and the options that the IRP may considered in the region.

Participant Input

The following is a summary of what BC Hydro heard from Nation representatives during the regional workshops. During the discussion BC Hydro representatives answered questions from participants. Further BC Hydro responses to some topics raised during workshops are set out in the next section.

1. Introduction

Reconciliation and the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

- A participant was interested in details on BC Hydro's mandate to implement UNDRIP and felt the general statement presented in the introduction of the presentation wasn't specific to what the company was doing.
- A participant asked whether presenters had read UNDRIP and have received Indigenous cultural awareness training.

Consultation process

- A participant stated the previous IRP process was disappointing as feedback from Indigenous consultation wasn't incorporated. The previous feedback was focused on building socio-economic opportunities for Indigenous groups through Electricity Purchase Agreement (EPAs).
- A participant commented that it would be nice for BC Hydro to have a more interactive engagement process, programs like Mentimeter as an example. Also wondering if there's still opportunity to take BC Hydro's survey. (BC Hydro confirmed online survey and workbook will continue to be available for providing input to BC Hydro.)

Socio-economic opportunities

- A participant highlighted that it feels like some opportunities have already been written out of the IRP such as the Standing Offer Program.
- Some communities have run of river projects and will need to sell power in the future.
- A participant also took part in BC Utilities Commission's Indigenous Utilities Inquiry process and would like to see a process for Indigenous communities to provide services to their own reserves.
- BC Hydro's monopoly on lines should be removed to open up options for Nations to sell the power they produce. Indigenous Nations want to explore Indigenous utilities and the ability to sell to the communities of neighboring Nations and not just to BC Hydro.
- Training opportunities from BC Hydro doesn't create substantial benefits for the communities that house BC Hydro's infrastructure. We need to move on from benefits previously outlined in Impact Benefit Agreements to bigger topics like revenue sharing, joint decision making, consent and Indigenous ownership.
- More infrastructure will be built in the future by BC Hydro and Indigenous Nations want to participate as suppliers. Would like to see a plan to support Indigenous communities as suppliers. For example, a Nation wanted to install two poles to hook into BC Hydro's system and their partner's cost was less than half of the quote from BC Hydro, but they still had to pay

BC Hydro's rate. BC Hydro should be enabling communities especially when they have capacity to do this work.

- There is disparity between taxes or grants in lieu of taxes that BC Hydro makes to municipalities and payments BC Hydro makes to First Nations through the Community Development fund. First Nation sees many of the impacts from generation, transmission and distribution of the electricity in the territory, but not a fair share of benefits.

2. Planning objectives

- It was raised that supporting reconciliation with Indigenous peoples is not an option to consider for BC Hydro or the IRP as it's passed into law through UNDRIP legislation. Reconciliation should underpin all actions taken by BC Hydro. Reconciliation is not an option, but a requirement, like safety and reliability.
- It was stated that reconciliation is not separate from other objectives but closely linked with other objectives like economic development and limiting land and water impacts.
- Reconciliation needs to be explicit in the IRP instead of wrapped up in other priorities. The IRP process doesn't show reconciliation as a requirement or a priority and it should be for both Indigenous groups and the public.
- Reconciliation should not have been included in the consultation material as a priority to be ranked.
- BC Hydro should take a careful look at the results of public consultation process regarding how priorities are ranked. Given the economic impact of the pandemic, the public will likely choose economic recovery as a top priority but this is not explicitly linked to reconciliation.

Question from BC Hydro: Are we missing anything to consider in our planning context? (slide 11)

- Two participants mentioned they would like to see diversification of BC Hydro's grid considered in this plan, specially moving away from mega projects like Site C towards in-community generation. This would increase reliability with an example given of a motor vehicle accident causing long term power outages when communities are limited to relying on the BC Hydro grid. It makes sense to have another more localized option.
- There doesn't seem to be a lot of focus on supporting Indigenous communities' economies. Diversification rather than reliance on mega projects would allow for benefits to flow to Indigenous communities.

3. Demand and supply outlook and uncertainty

- Several comments referred to potential cancellation of the Site C project by government if it's found not to be feasible and too expensive to complete.
 - Several participants raised questions about Site C and wanted to know how the project is accounted for in the IRP and how the Demand and Supply outlook will change if the project is cancelled after the government review.
 - Participant asked for clarification around why Site C is considered a committed resource as outlined in the energy and capacity supply graphs when it is undergoing government review. (BC Hydro responded that the project is currently approved)
 - A participant would like to know what steps BC Hydro has taken to consider additional capacities to meet demands outlined in the orange portion of the graph, especially in

the event Site C is discontinued. There was a suggestion that smaller generation projects could help fill the gap from potential cancellation of Site C.

- Participant asked if BC Hydro considers changes in electricity consumption between residential, commercial and industrial sector and its effects on BC Hydro's forecasts (e.g., as a result of pandemic).
- Climate change and electrification should be more explicitly reflected and tied into future growth projections, such as considering topics like electric vehicles
- A participant commented that two options are being considered for transportation: one is electric vehicles and the other is blue gas (hydrogen). Alberta is talking about developing their hydrogen infrastructure and the participant would like to know if BC Hydro is looking at "blue gas" development in the Peace Region.
- A key concern about electric vehicles is charging time and infrastructure to support. BC Hydro should take into account infrastructure required to support electric vehicles.

4. *Future choices 2020 – 2030*

Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs)

- Indigenous EPAs should be considered on same level when it comes to updating BC Hydro's own infrastructure. If BC Hydro is looking for more capacity resources, then the participant wanted BC Hydro to look to do that through EPAs and EPA renewals.
- Indigenous groups should be consulted before cancellation of any existing EPAs in their territories.
- One Nation has owned a project since 2014 but doesn't have an EPA.
- In considering pricing for renewal of EPAs, BC Hydro may think the IPPs should've made enough money over 20 years, but Nations could be saying the same to BC Hydro about facilities in their territories and asking for a discount on rates paid for electricity to BC Hydro.
- Another participant commented that EPA renewal process should allow for existing IPPs to increase their capacity and sell more power at the time of renewal. This is similar to BC Hydro upgrading the capacity of their generation infrastructure when units reach end of life.

Electricity trading

- A participant wanted to know how Columbia River treaty fit into the IRP. BC Hydro committed to providing a response at a later date.
- Questions were raised around exporting power to the United States and how that's considered in this plan.
- Comments touched on how jurisdictions in the Pacific northwest are dismantling their dams which is helping to increase their fish populations and that might increase opportunities for export into the US.

BC Hydro small plants approaching end of life

- A participant wanted to know if there will be environmental assessments in end of life planning for small generation plants. BC Hydro committed to providing a response at a later date.
- Participant doesn't see a mention of putting in new lines in this plan and referenced a situation which included brown outs when a line was reaching end of life. (BC Hydro clarified that the IRP looks at the needs around the bulk inter-regional transmission system, including potential

upgrades to the transmission system to bring power from the interior to Lower Mainland, referenced later in the presentation.)

5. 2030 – 2040

Time varying rates

- Multiple participants requested confirmation that BC Hydro is considering time of day usage rates to allow customers to save money on their bills by changing appliance usage time (e.g., laundry) or changing work schedules. (BC Hydro confirmed voluntary time of use rates are options being considered).
- A participant suggested BC Hydro provide subsidies and support for large industries and employers to offer work from home options or other hours to reduce the 9 am – 5 pm capacity surge.
- Time varying rates might put a burden on consumers/ratepayers who don't have other options.
- A participant asked if BC Hydro has made public all the generation resource options that the IRP is considering. BC Hydro confirmed there is a link to the electricity supply options on the BC Hydro IRP [website](#).

Other rates

- A participant commented that Indigenous people living on reserves do not have access to farm rates. This is because reserves do not qualify for designation as Agricultural Land Reserve because it is federal land. Since being located on reserves wasn't a choice made by Indigenous groups, customers on reserves should have access to farm rates as well.

Customer generation and Net Metering Program

- One participant commented that it was great to see that customer generation is being considered as part of the IRP.
- Would like to know if there are incentives for customers to generate their own power and if the Net Metering Program is going to stick around for a while or evolve.
- There was an interest in BC Hydro buying power from small scale generation, like solar panels on a single house.

6. Region specific

- IRP should consider differences in how people use resources and electricity. For example, electricity use should be higher in South Interior where there is no access to natural gas. Fuel switching is not going to have as much potential in these communities.
- Would like to see revenues coming back to the Nation if BC Hydro generation plants in the Nation's territory are upgraded to produce more power.
- Would like to better understand why increasing the generation capacity of local BC Hydro generation plants is not being considered as part of the replacement of equipment at end of life (Bridge River system).
- Participant also recommended looking at increasing capacity of local IPPs as part of EPA renewal process.

Further BC Hydro Responses to some topics raised during the workshops

- **UNDRIP and Reconciliation:** BC Hydro has a mandate to incorporate UNDRIP into its business within our specific mandate and context. Consultation on the IRP is consistent with UNDRIP. The IRP is the earliest opportunity for engagement with Nations on what work BC Hydro may consider in future to meet electricity demand. The IRP is the first step in continuous engagement on meeting future electricity demand. BC Hydro's hope is that engagement on the IRP will lay a positive foundation for future processes aimed at obtaining consent from Indigenous Nations for our work. Incorporating UNDRIP into BC Hydro's business involves more than the IRP. BC Hydro has relationships with many different Indigenous Nations across the Province and each relationship has its own history and context. Building relationships with Indigenous Nations, particularly those most impacted by our presence in their territory, will continue to be a focus of our work and will inform how we incorporate UNDRIP into our business.
- **Consultation on the IRP:** The IRP is the first step in ongoing consultation with Indigenous Nations. Specific projects are subject to their own separate consultation and approval process. At this stage BC Hydro does not have a draft IRP and it is not clear whether any projects will be proposed in a specific territory and whether these could affect Indigenous interests. Consultation on future BC Hydro projects will be supported by capacity funding as appropriate.
- **The Government Review of BC Hydro:** BC Hydro's consultation on its IRP is separate and distinct from the government's consultation with Indigenous Nations on its review of BC Hydro. BC Hydro's consultation on the IRP is seeking input on planning decisions which must be made within BC Hydro's current policy context. The IRP is informed by policy direction provided by government, including through the Phase 2 review when that occurs.
- **Indigenous Utilities:** BC Hydro recognizes there is growing interest in Indigenous utilities. At the direction of the Province the BC Utilities Commission recently held a public Inquiry on Indigenous utilities resulting in a report that was submitted to the Province by the Commission. We understand the Province will be responding to the report and initiating further dialogue with Nations in the coming months.

Follow up

1. A participant asked for details on if we do environmental assessments for end of life small plant assets? For each of the small plants reaching end of life a project team is formed and those projects undertake an in-depth consideration of all options for addressing the end of life of the asset. During project planning the appropriate scope of environmental assessment is determined and undertaken in consultation with Indigenous Nations.
2. A participant asked how the Columbia River Treaty is considered in the IRP? The Treaty sets some operating parameters for our generation facilities in the Columbia and this is reflected in our IRP load resource balance. The IRP will not be exploring changes to the Treaty and any further consideration of how the Treaty can inform the IRP is unclear at this time. The Columbia River

Treaty is currently being renegotiated and further information on this can be found on the provincial government [website](#).

Summary and Wrap-up

Cheryl Brooks thanked participants for attending the workshop and reminded audience of the next steps in the consultation process:

- BC Hydro will circulate meeting summary for your review and comment
- BC Hydro respectfully asks for your comments and input for this phase of consultation by Jan 31, 2021
- Your input will inform Draft Actions
- BC Hydro will release the Consultation Summary Report in winter/spring 2021
- Consultation on Draft Actions will take place in spring/summer 2021

Additional input can be provided through the following means:

- Please take the survey: <https://bchydro.civilspace.io/en/projects/clean-power-2040/engagements/clean-power-2040-indigenous-input>
- Provide input by emailing CP2040.Indigenous@bchydro.com
- Call us at 1-877-461-0161 (extension 3) if you have any questions

Appendix 1: Poll results – questions on objectives

A poll was conducted so participants could provide input. Verbatim comments are below. Answers have been minorly edited for spelling and clarity

1. Are we missing any objectives?
 - Support of First Nations economic opportunities through IPPs and revenue sharing which supports rural and Indigenous economic growth and diversifies B.C.'s economy
 - yes, you haven't asked how to support the FN economy
 - Customer choice. Communities should be able to choose how they participate.
 - reliability criteria - only appears in the heading
 - Encouraging consumption reduction
 - Implementation of UNDRIP Act
 - Energy Purchase Agreements & SOP
 - Climate change adaptation and diversification of the grid
 - no
 - just a note this workshop is not considered consultation with [redacted] band . i am
 - Culture/ heritage conservation, infrastructure built to last so as to limit land and water impacts over the long term (sub category under reconciliation and land/water impacts)

2. What advice do you have for us as we use these objectives to compare options?
 - you need to know that BCH is upgrading existing facilities, and that is costly
Avoid viewing these as trade-off, some options will allow more progress than others.
 - lowering your rate for first nations communities since the resources BC Hydro uses come from our lands...mostly for free to bch
 - Put reconciliation as a requirement not an option to consider - to Meaghan's point
 - we shouldn't be expected to rate reconciliation, it is a given
 - Shared decision making and partnerships with Indigenous Nations
 - Reduce the focus on lowest costs options through BC Hydro and the BCUC. The resolution of Aboriginal title is normally not included in economic assessments.
 - What to do with end-of-life infrastructure
 - Find a balance between the options - all are important and there is a need to create social equity with whatever you do
 - Keep costs down
 - meeting with our chief and council at a scheduled meeting, i know it is a lot of work and a lot of people

3. Select the top 3 most important objectives to you

A. Keep costs down for customers	9/38 (24%)
B. Limit land and water impacts	19/38 (50%)
C. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through clean electricity	11/38 (30%)
D. Support reconciliation with Indigenous people	20/38 (53%)
E. Support the growth of B.C.'s economy	2/38 (5%)

BC Hydro Integrated Resource Plan: Indigenous Nations Consultation

Southwest region

Virtual meeting – December 1, 2020

First Nation / Organization

Nanoose First Nation	K'ómoks First Nation
Cheam First Nation	Halalt First Nation
BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council	Leq'a:mel First Nation
Tsawwassen First Nation	Sumas First Nation
We Wai Kai Nation	Squamish Nation
Sto:lo Nation	Vertex Resource Group
Tsleil-Waututh	T'Sou-ke Nation
Musqueam	TS'KW'AYLAXW FIRST NATION
Da'naxda'xw First Nation	

BC Hydro Representatives

Presenters	Bill Clendinning, Director, Energy Planning Basil Stumborg, Decision Analysis Expert
BC Hydro Indigenous Relations	Wayne Lam; Charlie Weiler; Danielle Van Huizen; Frankie Vaide; Christine Korosec; Joanne McKenna; Alison Erven; Julian Gonzalez; Brent Billey; Corry Archibald
Notetakers	Lyndsey Stark; Arsia Assadipour

Independent Facilitator

Cheryl Brooks	Indigenuity Consulting Group
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- Importance of indigenous input to our long-term strategic plan
- Timeline of IRP development and consultation activities

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1. Introduction

Reconciliation and the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

- Participant stated that UNDRIP is a legal obligation and that government requires a supporting action plan and would like to know if the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) process is part of BC Hydro's action plan. They mentioned that First Nations act as stewards of the land and have been so since time immemorial, so this discussion is beneficial for all of us.
- A participant wanted to see more details on BC Hydro's plan to support reconciliation with Indigenous people.
- One participant suggested that Nations may want to consider developing an agreement with BC Hydro as a lot of good can come out of those relationship agreements. The participant Nation's agreement with BC Hydro took many years to develop.

Consultation process

- A participant said BC Hydro has access to analysts and should provide capacity for Nations to assess the decisions being made and how they will impact their community.
- A participant understands this plan looks ahead 20 years, but historic and current concerns need to be heard as well. For example, Site C is in progress and not in the past. BC Hydro should outline more specific details on how First Nations will be part of the process from the inside.
- A participant including the following reference to Article 28 of UNDRIP in the online chat to give context to the conversation taking place around consultation
 1. *"Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent."*
 2. *"Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress."*
- A participant acknowledged the weight of the discussion today and their gratitude to have the opportunity to attend. They advised they'll be reporting back to their leadership and others in attendance may be doing the same.
- A First Nation representative requested that the meeting record include the following: I want to put it on the record that BC Hydro needs to provide us with resources and capacity to analyze the information you are providing us and how it is affecting us. In the name of building a foundation for a relationship. Once that is done, we can then respond to your questions. I am requesting that a meeting be set up with our Governance Body.

Site C and reconciliation

- Through their participation in the last IRP process, a participant recalled looking at options with and without the Site C project. They asked how reconciliation fits into BC Hydro's planning when

Indigenous rights and title were impacted by the Site C project. They commented that this makes it difficult to take the IRP process seriously.

- A comment was made about planning for the next 20 years and what it means for Indigenous groups. The commenter outlined that Site C remains a sore spot for First Nations across the province and asked how BC Hydro will pursue reconciliation with groups whose territory has been impacted by the project.

Indigenous Utilities

- A participant noted that American tribal associations run their own utilities was interested in whether this happens in Canada.
- A participant stated that supply from other utilities should be shared in the IRP to increase transparency. For example, some municipalities have their own electric utilities (e.g., New Westminster). The participant isn't sure of the costs but felt it was important for BC Hydro to disclose options around other utilities providing electricity.

2. Planning objectives

- A comment was made that providing clean reliable power is outlined as the main priority for BC Hydro, but the other objectives listed are also key priorities that should have their own component and not be secondary. Another participant commented that it's difficult to rank one priority over the other in a poll as they are all important to consider.
- A participant referenced UNDRIP Article 23 as it seemed applicable to planning objectives: *"Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for exercising their right to development"*. In particular, Indigenous peoples have the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other economic and social programs affecting them and, as far as possible, to administer such programs through their own institutions.
- A participant asked for further clarification around what BC Hydro means when they reference "supporting reconciliation with Indigenous people". (BC Hydro discussed its approach to UNDRIP and has provided a further response to questions around UNDRIP and reconciliation in the section below. During the meeting BC Hydro asked what reconciliation means to participants within the context of the IRP)
- Another participant shared they think we need to go back to the early beginning and acknowledge the intention of producing energy and the sacrifices Mother Earth has given to provide this for the people.

Affordability

- Concerns were raised around the high cost of electricity in rural areas, in particular in regions where there is no access to natural gas for heating. This is despite the fact that transmission lines and other infrastructure are impacting the rural areas to bring electricity to urban areas.
- A participant indicated that costs are always going to be the leading priority for planning objectives in their community as well as project consultation.
- A participant understands we need to plan for the future through the IRP process, but highlights that it's important to consider current financial challenges for First Nations related to building in their communities. Funds are not readily available for building new homes with gas and heat pumps and Elders in existing homes can't afford their bills.
- A participant talked about the challenges faced by their community and suggested that BC Hydro consider sending one bill to band leadership for the electricity use of the reserve.

Limiting impacts to land and water

- A participant wanted to know BC Hydro's approach to cumulative effects and asked if environmental impacts are considered on a larger scale rather than only at the project level.

Other Planning Objectives

- Diversifying renewable energy supply was suggested as another objective.
- Territories need to be recognized by BC Hydro through these meetings. History is important especially from the federal perspective and the Indian Act. One Nation has 50 km of lines running through their territory which they use as their place of worship, hunting, and gathering. Indigenous Nations territories should be given formal recognition.
- A participant shared that the lessons they have to teach BC Hydro should be considered.

3. Demand and supply outlook and uncertainty

- Several questions and comments were made about Site C and how it affects the load resource balance including what would occur if Site C was removed from the committed resources bar on the graphs.
- A participant referred to the recent installation of a solar field to power their village and wanted to know how these practices might affect demand if they were repeated widely.
- A participant asked if the graphs consider alternative power sources that they hope to move towards in the next 10 years. BC Hydro answered that the supply side of the graph outlines our current resources and doesn't include what we could do.
- There was an interest by some participants in understanding the load resource balance including the existing surplus of electricity and the change in supply side resources over time.

4. Future choices 2020 – 2030

- A participant commented that they did not know all the options available to BC Hydro and a follow up question was asked on whether BC Hydro has explored what other countries are doing with their IRPs.

Energy efficiency

- One participant suggested keeping things simple and limiting energy use by putting a cap on customer's electricity use to achieve conservation.
- One commented that we should consider providing more training to help people use less energy and reduce bills on the reserve
- A participant recognized the virtues of conservation: We have the right to expect that others respect the earth, the power she provides. Only taking what you need is our teaching.
- A participant shared their thoughts, "I recognize where we are and accept where we have come in this world, I do believe that humanity has become entitled though. We need to restrict amount of energy use. People will make better decisions about how they allocate their power usage. We need to get back to simply doing the right thing."

Time varying rates

- It makes sense to reduce peak demand through time of day usage rates and the participant was surprised that it doesn't exist already with smart home technology.

Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs)

- One participant wondered whether BC Hydro is hesitant to work with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) based on Ontario's experience with their signed agreements. There was an interest in knowing if the approach of other provinces informs our decision-making process.
- A participant wanted to know if other Nations without a current EPA would have the opportunity to sign one.
- A participant asked whether BC Hydro has considered leaving the Standing Offer Program open for Indigenous IPP's as part of reconciliation.

BC Hydro small plants approaching end of life

- It was highlighted by a participant that it's important to discuss the plans for these plants specifically with the respective Nations whose territory they are located in.
- There was an interest in knowing whether BC Hydro has considered passing ownership of these facilities to First Nations in their respective territories.
- A participant shared if these plants are feasible to upgrade, BC Hydro should upgrade them and divest ownership to First Nations as part of reconciliation.

Demand side management

- A participant asked about the purpose of the Smart Meter Program and if it filled its purpose.
- A participant shared their opinion that BC Hydro's current two-tier conservation rate is out of date and doesn't support the transition to heat pumps and electrical cars.

5. 2030 – 2040

Reliability

- It was raised that forest fires in the Pacific Northwest appear more severe lately, and lightning strikes have increased in their own community, sparking increased concerns about wildfires and how this may affect reliability if transmission lines are affected.

Other utility practice

- A participant was curious about the approach other jurisdictions take to the IRP process and what actions are taken in other jurisdictions that are comparable to B.C.

Batteries, pumped storage and other capacity options

- A participant was interested in understanding more about batteries including their cost, expected life, disposal and their environmental impact.
- A participant was interested in knowing which capacity options have the lowest environmental impacts on land, water, plants, reptiles and animals.

6. Planning uncertainty

A participant wanted to know about predictions for power generated by alternative sources in the next 10 years.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions through clean electricity

- It was asked if LNG plants can create their own power (BC Hydro indicated they can by powering themselves using natural gas).
- A participant asked if there is or will be any kind of relationship between LNG and BC Hydro. (BC Hydro indicated they are potential customers).

- A participant noted that Americans have been shutting down coal fired plants and moving to natural gas and wanted to know if BC Hydro sees the Provincial government increasing our export activity to North American markets considering the amount of natural gas in B.C.

7. Region specific

- A participant mentioned other jurisdictions have moved to cleaner energy (e.g., move to wind and solar in Ontario and even tidal and other emerging technologies elsewhere). In the United States they noted a shift from coal to gas as well. The participant emphasized the importance of common sense and not harming the environment.
- A participant noted the potential for wind projects on Vancouver Island as meaningful opportunities for First Nations to work with BC Hydro. They mentioned a specific project in North Vancouver Island which could be a model. They also noted that wind projects done through Independent Power Producers have the benefit of not costing tax payer money. Another benefit is added reliability in case forest fires or natural disasters impact transmission lines.

Further BC Hydro responses to some topics raised during workshops

- **UNDRIP and Reconciliation:** BC Hydro has a mandate to incorporate UNDRIP into its business within our specific mandate and context. Consultation on the IRP is consistent with UNDRIP. The IRP is the earliest opportunity for engagement with Nations on what work BC Hydro may consider in future to meet electricity demand. The IRP is the first step in continuous engagement on meeting future electricity demand. BC Hydro's hope is that engagement on the IRP will lay a positive foundation for future processes aimed at obtaining consent from Indigenous Nations for our work. Incorporating UNDRIP into BC Hydro's business involves more than the IRP. BC Hydro has relationships with many different Indigenous Nations across the Province and each relationship has its own history and context. Building relationships with Indigenous Nations, particularly those most impacted by our presence in their territory, will continue to be a focus of our work and will inform how we incorporate UNDRIP into our business.
- **Consultation on the IRP:** The IRP is the first step in ongoing consultation with Indigenous Nations. Specific projects are subject to their own separate consultation and approval process. At this stage BC Hydro does not have a draft IRP and it is not clear whether any projects will be proposed in a specific territory and whether these could affect Indigenous interests. Indigenous consultation on future BC Hydro projects will be supported by capacity funding as appropriate.
- **The Government Review of BC Hydro:** BC Hydro's consultation on its IRP is separate and distinct from the government's consultation with Indigenous Nations on its review of BC Hydro. BC Hydro's consultation on the IRP is seeking input on planning decisions which must be made within BC Hydro's current policy context. The IRP is informed by policy direction provided by government, including through the Phase 2 review when that occurs.
- **Indigenous Utilities:** BC Hydro recognizes there is growing interest in Indigenous utilities. At the direction of the Province the BC Utilities Commission recently held a public inquiry on Indigenous utilities resulting in a report that was submitted to the Province by the Commission. We understand the Province will be responding to the report and initiating further dialogue with Nations in the coming months.

Summary and Wrap-up

Cheryl Brooks thanked participants for attending the workshop and reminded audience of the next steps in the consultation process:

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Additional input can be provided through the following means:

- Please take the survey: <https://bchydro.civilspace.io/en/projects/clean-power-2040/engagements/clean-power-2040-indigenous-input>
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- Call us at 1-877-461-0161 (extension 3) if you have any questions

Appendix 1: Poll results – questions on objectives

A poll was conducted so participants could provide input. Verbatim comments are below. Answers have been minorly edited for spelling and clarity

1. Are we missing any objectives?

- I don't know what I don't know for objectives and options
- I have said this before and I'll say it again here. Conduct some research on other forms of energy and fund/support it
- You haven't suggested what benefits or employment training, procurement and job placement
- Formal recognition of territories. Meaningful participation in working with BC Hydro in a meaningful way.
- lower costs in remote locations
- Without having more time to process this engagement I cannot think of anything else at this moment
- Development of Joint Ventures for future power development with FN
- Diversify renewable energy options. Also need to consider cumulative effects of BC Hydro activities on the land base (not just project-specific impacts).
- Strategize towards a stronger connection to Mother Earth, acknowledgement of the life forces in all things.
- Cumulative impacts of infrastructure on the landscape.
- Incorporate all provincial and federal climate change/environmental policies.
- Supporting community health and well-being.

2. What advice do you have for us as we use these objectives to compare options?

- With a stated mandate to implement UNDRIP, each clause should be recognized, and a plan associated with each clause
- They should all be priorities, and each be discussed individually
- Some direct one on one engagement may be helpful
- You should have a First Nations liaison officer who is a bridge between hydro and First Nations
- Each First Nation should get one BC Hydro bill instead of individual homes.
- Keep information flowing between FN and BC Hydro
- First Nations should be a part of all decision making, not just on the outside.
- I feel that every nation, not just region, has unique situations to deal with. We may all have some similar concerns, but all nations have different situations we are in.
- Complex trade-offs require a lot of dialogue with nations. Site C is a good example- what do you do when there are conflicting priorities and consensus cannot be reached? I think the reconciliation aspect of BC Hydro's work has to be better fleshed out (e.g., how are you operationalizing UNDRIP? Are you providing capacity funding for all nations to engage on work that is occurring in their territories?). Also need to train ALL BC Hydro employees in cultural and archeological heritage.
- Do the right thing
- Build up BC Hydro's internal knowledge, awareness, and respect for work happening in traditional territories.
- Pay attention to key environmental stressors.

3. Select the top 3 most important objectives to you

A.Keep costs down for customers	9/23 (39%)
B.Limit land and water impacts	13/23 (56%)
C.Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through clean electricity	12/23 (52%)
D.Support reconciliation with Indigenous people	15/23 (65%)
E.Support the growth of B.C.'s economy	1/23 (4%)

BC Hydro Integrated Resource Plan: Indigenous Nations Consultation

North region

Virtual meeting – December 2, 2020

First Nation / Organization

Kitselas First Nation / Kitselas Development Corporation	Tahltan Central Government
Skii Lax Ha nation	Gitga'at First Nation
NISGA' A VILLAGE OF GITWINKSIHLKW	Prophet River First Nation
Nisga'a Lisims Government	Saulteau First Nation
BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council	Lheidli T'enneh
Doig River First Nation	Ktunaxa
Soda Creek Indian Band	Tahltan Central Government (Tahltan Youth Council)
Gitanyow Band	Takla Nation
Wet'suwet'en	
Witset First Nation	
McLeod Lake Indian Band.	

BC Hydro Representatives

Presenters	Bill Clendinning, Director, Energy Planning Basil Stumborg, Decision Analysis Expert
BC Hydro Indigenous Relations	Wayne Lam; Charlie Weiler; Danielle Van Huizen; Arsia Assadipour; Jocelyn Paul; Michelle Macdonald; Alicia Christie; Celine Lee; Carolyn Stock;
Notetakers	Lyndsey Stark; Frankie Vaide;

Independent Facilitator

Cheryl Brooks	Indigenuity Consulting Group
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Summary of presentations

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

The workshop began with Cheryl Brooks acknowledging the traditional territory and welcoming everyone to the meeting.

All participants introduced themselves and one of the participants offered a prayer and greetings.

After introductions and discussing virtual meeting tools and etiquette, Cheryl explained the agenda as follows:

- Overview of Integrated Resource Plan
- Discussion of Planning objectives guiding the IRP – what’s important to you?
- Discussion: Applying those objectives to key planning topics

Cheryl also noted that BC Hydro will take notes and circulate a summary of the meeting in the next couple of weeks. Comments in the meeting summary won’t be attributed to individual participants

What is an Integrated Resource Plan & consultation timeline

Bill Clendinning then introduced the long-term planning exercise:

- What is an integrated resource plan
- Importance of indigenous input to our long-term strategic plan
- Timeline of IRP development and consultation activities

Planning objectives

Basil Stumborg discussed the planning objectives that BC Hydro is considering when making choices. Basil then invited the participants to provide input on the planning objectives. A poll was conducted to collect input from the audience on planning objectives. Poll questions and responses are outlined in **Appendix 1**.

Integrated Resource Plan Choices

Bill then presented the 20-year outlook of electricity supply and demand in BC and discussed choices BC Hydro will have to make in light of the outlook. Participants were invited to provide input regarding First Nations values and interests 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.

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

Bill 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 what BC Hydro heard from Nation representatives during the regional workshops. During the discussion BC Hydro representatives answered questions from participants. Further BC Hydro responses to some topics raised during workshops are set out in the next section).

1. Introduction

- A participant expressed their knowledge of BC Hydro's surplus of power through previous consultation and engagement with the British Columbia Utility Commission (BCUC) and the Ministry of Energy and Mines and they would like to hear how BC Hydro is planning to work with Nations on this topic through the IRP.
 - A speaker shared that each attendee faces their own unique challenges in their territories related to service, requirements for upgrades, etc. that they would like to discuss today.

Reconciliation and the United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

- There was interest by a number of participants in how BC Hydro was incorporating UNDRIP into its business and the role that the IRP plays in this effort.
- There was a request to see the mandate letter from the Provincial government to BC Hydro directing BC Hydro to incorporate UNDRIP into its business as appropriate given BC Hydro's specific mandate and context. There were questions and discussions about BC Hydro's mandate and context and how this relates to BC Hydro's approach to incorporating UNDRIP into its business. A link to the mandate letter was shared with participants using the chat function during the virtual workshop and it was further requested that the letter be emailed to participants.
- A participant referenced Article 29 of UNDRIP which says "*shall establish and implement assistance programs for Indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.*" and indicated that they understand this as BC Hydro should establish funding for a Nation. The participant indicated that their rights and title were not considered when infrastructure was built across their territory, consent wasn't provided, and culturally important sites were impacted. They explained UNDRIP outlines the right of First Nations to protect and conserve their territories which should be supported by funding from BC Hydro for the Nation to participate in future project consultation and review historical projects.

- A participant wanted to know how BC Hydro will pursue economic reconciliation as the participant is hearing Nations don't have opportunities to generate electricity.
- A participant commented that they hope the IRP will remain flexible since it covers a 20-year timeframe and political issues will undoubtedly change.

Consultation process

- A participant thanked BC Hydro for including Indigenous people in this early stage of the IRP compared to previous years where they were engaged later in the process.
- A participant acknowledged their appreciation for early engagement so we can work together to understand priorities and concerns. The environment and animals continue to be a top priority for the speaker. They asked all participants to listen and learn from each other throughout the discussion.
- A participant was interested in hearing back from the Ministry of Energy and Mines on the feedback they provided during the separate engagement process led by government during the recent government review of BC Hydro.

2. *Planning objectives*

Affordability

- A participant expressed concerns about high electricity costs in their community despite their reserve being located near two large dam facilities.

Limiting impacts to land and water

- A request was raised for BC Hydro to consider manual brushing and clearing for their vegetation management practices over pesticides and herbicides use. BC Hydro should recognize the Nation's laws and mandates as this practice has recently been adopted by the Nation
- BC Hydro should look for alternative power options to limit impacts on climate change, like solar wind and geothermal. Ice caps and permafrost are melting, and rivers also may be impacted one day which could impact future hydroelectric generation
- It was stated that we need to consider environmental impacts in our planning and this will also ensure can we continue generating in the future.

3. *Demand and supply outlook and uncertainty*

- There were inquiries about how the load forecast could be affected if Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs) are renewed or as a result of the implementation of the CleanBC objective of low-carbon electrification.
- A participant shared they have an electric vehicle that only accounts for 4% of their electricity bill and questions about why load growth will be affected as electric vehicles are widely adopted.
- A participant wanted to know if there are any planned upgrades to existing dams over the period of the IRP and noted that the Bennett Dam and powerhouse has been undergoing upgrades for 10 years.

4. *Future choices 2020 – 2030*

Indigenous utilities

- It was noted that several First Nations are pursuing the idea of creating Indigenous utilities, transmission lines, microgrids and other projects. Participants emphasized these are excellent options for Indigenous economic development and reconciliation.
- There was an interest in understanding what is occurring in the rest of Canada and North America with Indigenous utilities and seeing an inventory of Indigenous owned utilities.
- It was asked if BC Hydro or the BC Utilities Commission have a mandate to alter the ban on utilities having retail access to customers using BC Hydro grid infrastructure. (see the section below with further BC Hydro's responses on the Government Review of BC Hydro and the BCUC Indigenous Utilities Inquiry).

Electricity trade

- A number of participants were interested in understanding more about energy trading and asked a number of questions, including whether BC Hydro purchases electricity from other jurisdictions, whether the export of electricity is profitable, if BC Hydro has ever been a net importer of electricity and whether energy trading is considered part of the IRP. There was considerable discussion about the role of energy trading in BC Hydro's business with BC Hydro responding to specific questions posed by the participants.

Alternative energy sources

- It was suggested that BC Hydro should look for opportunities for geothermal heating instead of baseboard heating, comparable to how the company supports heat pumps.

Time varying rates

- A participant expressed interest in a time varying rate to charge their electric vehicle.
- Another comment was that time varying rates might not be appropriate for northern communities as many drive long distances and may be restricted on when they can charge an electric vehicle.

Demand side management

- A participant wanted to know how successful BC Hydro's Demand Side Management program have been to date.

Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs)

- A participant would like to know how many EPA's are owned by Indigenous groups. BC Hydro was not sure of the exact number and will follow up to see what information is available. Later in the session a participant offered information on an upcoming study in this area: The Pembina and New Relationship Trust are working on a study on Indigenous involvement in clean energy. Early results are showing that 90% of projects with EPAs have some form of Indigenous participation. The study will break this down into: 100% Indigenous owned, equity participation, and revenue/royalty agreements. The participant indicated that the final results of the study are expected in early January.
- A participant commented that reconciliation will not be possible if viable projects' EPAs are not renewed.

- There was an interest in understanding the remaining life of hydro projects with Electricity Purchase Agreements and this being a consideration in determining whether to renew an EPA.
- When determining whether to renew an EPA and the cost associated with such a renewal a participant was interested in knowing how BC Hydro balances its mandate to implement UNDRIP and advance reconciliation with its responsibilities to the broader customer base to keep electricity rates affordable. One participant expressed an interest in whether EPAs with Indigenous Independent Power Producers (IPPs) could be given priority over non-Indigenous IPPs when determining whether to renew the EPA.
- A participant commented that the decision to renew an EPA should fall to the BCUC or government since decisions haven't been favourable to First Nations when they've been made by BC Hydro.
- A participant shared that renewing EPAs with Independent Power Producers (IPPs) is important. A participant said that Bill 17 sought to remove self-sufficiency from the Clean Energy Act and this would undercut First Nations that have developed clean power projects.
- A participant asked if it might be cost effective to renew all EPAs so we have plenty of power now to meet future demands and excess energy could be sold to USA markets.
- A participant noted that their Nation is interested in an EPA with BC Hydro and is frustrated it hasn't moved forward while LNG projects have been progressing. They stated BC Hydro's priority to generate clean electricity should include supporting Nations' abilities to generate electricity as well. This includes moving communities off diesel power. The participant commented that BC Hydro should have a fulsome discussion about how its approach to both integrated and non-integrated areas of the electricity grid can properly support reconciliation.

COVID-19

- A participant indicated that Indigenous Nations have a desire to be better informed about COVID-19 cases as their community members are at risk when workers visiting their territories become sick.

BC Hydro small plants approaching end of life

- A participant recommended the documentary "Dam Nation" for a look at points to consider around decommissioning facilities.

5. 2030 – 2040

Renewable energy

- A participant was interested if BC Hydro is looking at upgrading existing infrastructure or considering renewable energy projects for the northwest (BC Hydro indicated the IRP is looking at these choices). They shared that renewable projects might be cost efficient if they're funded by the private sector and were interested in understanding how costs are projected for these options. There was a further discussion of BC Hydro's Resource Options Database which contains high level information on the cost of different resources.
- A participant expressed that wind farms in the northeast are leaving the area because they can't sign EPAs with BC Hydro. They value wind energy due to high generation potential and low gigawatt hour cost and were interested if BC Hydro has considered the potential energy generation from these projects. This led to a further discussion of the Resource Options Database which includes wind resource in the northeast of the Province.

Reliability

- A participant expressed concerns about reliability due to vegetation management in remote communities. This should be considered on the same level as exploring alternative energy sources like wind and solar.

6. *Planning uncertainty*

- A participant was interested in how early BC Hydro needs to start planning a project for it to come online in time to meet anticipated demand, in particular from potential LNG customers.
- A participant was concerned about events like the explosion of the Enbridge pipeline earlier this year and potential impacts on electricity supply.

7. *Region specific*

- A participant was interested in understanding whether BC Hydro has enough transmission capacity in the northwest to meet LNG production needs.
- A participant was interested in whether transmission limitations caused LNG Canada to choose natural gas generated electricity to power their operations.
- A participant was interested in whether BC Hydro plans to shorten interconnection studies. They referenced one at Site C that took four years to complete and asked if LNG companies will wait that long.
- It was asked if BC Hydro is planning to use of batteries at substations in the northeast to meet capacity demands, noting high LNG related activity in the area adds increased pressure to capacity needs.
- It was asked if the regional discussion covers the area north of Fort St. John, Site C and the Peace to Kelly Lake Capacitors project (BC Hydro confirmed that it is).
- One participant was interested in Alberta's efforts to shift away from coal and whether that was considered in the IRP.

Further BC Hydro Responses to Topics Raised During the Workshop

- **UNDRIP and Reconciliation:** BC Hydro has a mandate to incorporate UNDRIP into its business within our specific mandate and context. Consultation on the IRP is consistent with UNDRIP. The IRP is the earliest opportunity for engagement with Nations on what work BC Hydro may consider in future to meet electricity demand. The IRP is the first step in continuous engagement on meeting future electricity demand. BC Hydro's hope is that engagement on the IRP will lay a positive foundation for future processes aimed at obtaining consent from Indigenous Nations for our work. Incorporating UNDRIP into BC Hydro's business involves more than the IRP. BC Hydro has relationships with many different Indigenous Nations across the Province and each relationship has its own history and context. Building relationships with Indigenous Nations, particularly those most impacted by our presence in their territory, will continue to be a focus of our work and will inform how we incorporate UNDRIP into our business.
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Follow up

1. A participant asked for the number of BC Hydro Electricity Purchase Agreements with IPPs owned by Indigenous groups. BC Hydro does not know the total number of Independent Power Producers that are owned by Indigenous groups as these commercial arrangements are subject to confidentiality between the parties involved and are not generally shared with BC Hydro.
2. A participant asked for the current BC Hydro mandate letter. A link to BC Hydro's mandate was shared in the Webex chat and is provided again [here](#).

Summary and Wrap-up

Cheryl Brooks thanked participants for attending the workshop and reminded audience of the next steps in the consultation process:

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Appendix 1: Poll results – questions on objectives

A poll was conducted so participants could provide input. Verbatim comments are below. Answers have been minorly edited for spelling and clarity

1. Are we missing any objectives?

- UNDRIP implementation mandate needs to be clearer.
- None that I can think of
- Yes
- I can't think of any right now. I'll let you know if I come up with more.
- More opportunities for First Nations to develop generation and transmission projects to achieve reconciliation.
- Look at First Nations ownership or investment in the BC Hydro Program as part of ongoing discussions and good faith planning. Work with First Nations to assist in clearing old and uncollectable accounts. This is an issue with a number of homes and members.
- Assessment and efficiency of power in each region. We have significantly high bills and really need to review how we can decrease costs in our area. In addition, work with First Nation's in terms of how you can support us with projects that we have initiated. Surplus power isn't a viable answer in this regard.

2. What advice do you have for us as we use these objectives to compare options?

- Consider all energy options (geothermal, nuclear)
- Consider Non Integrated Areas issues as well
- As Elder Mary has pointed out, we need to look at saving the land now or we won't have the water to use in the future.
- Connect with leadership and management to see what works best for First Nations perspectives
- Engage with us directly. This is good, but as noted, we have specific issues in each of our areas.

3. Select the top 3 most important objectives to you

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| A. Keep costs down for customers | 9/26 (35%) |
| B. Limit land and water impacts | 13/26 (50%) |
| C. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through clean electricity | 8/26 (31%) |
| D. Support reconciliation with Indigenous people | 16/26 (62%) |
| E. Support the growth of B.C.'s economy | 5/26 (19%) |