

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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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

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:

- BC Hydro will circulate meeting summary for your review and comment
- BC Hydro respectfully requests 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?

- 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%)