

Appendix C – Written Comments from Survey

Base Resource Plan Draft Elements

Energy Conservation

Survey question: How does our plan to keep our current level of energy conservation and prepare to ramp up align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

“Limits land and water impacts by avoiding or deferring the construction of new power system infrastructure.”

“with the growing need for hydro electricity, not only for this province, but for other markets, the current situation with the rapid deforestation, the ecosystem cannot cool down as fast and maintain itself”

“Personal responsibility helps consumers understand the issues best.”

Some Alignment:

“I feel this approach is fine, given the availability to ramp is there. IE. Land/watercourses available to BC Hydro to build future infrastructure on.”

“I believe in conservation of energy and having energy efficient appliances and this is where I see the interests aligning. We would like to see more incentives for people that live in low income situations and often can't afford the low energy appliances unless the First Nation/Government pays for it.”

Neutral:

“If DSM is the way to go then why not ramp it up right away instead of 'preparing' to ramp up later on?”

“Conservation is not always an option. It can be viewed as a economic privilege. You need the economic means to buy new energy efficient appliances, replace widow with new energy efficient ones, change lights to LED etc. Indigenous communities often don't have the resources and income. BCH program development is need to support FN communities.”

Little Alignment:

“Change in Climate change play a role here, summers are dryer, rain fall for spring is low. More electric cars and energy supplied in town off freeways etc.”

“Ever since, the BC Liberal Party allowed large foreign corporations to become IPP that sells electricity back to BC Hydro at inflated prices, along with some American States do not buy IPP electricity since it costs too much which means BC Hydro has become a non debt company to a hugely indebted company. At the same time, BC Hydro has to

pay a large dividend each year to the BC Government in order to cover up for the corporations and rich people's non existence tax returns to the Government-BC Hydro becomes more in debt. According to your new energy plan, the largest energy gap will appear in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, so your energy conservation plans the northern BC residents will reduce their energy consumption demands for the benefit of the lower BC residents, even though the northern BC residents pay a lot higher rates for their electricity consumption in comparison with the southern BC residents."

"First Nations are not receiving sufficient funding form the Government to be able and capable adapting the required/proposed energy conservation. The Government funding is actually being cut down significantly for the structures and activities related to the energy conservation."

"We would like to also be able to purchase large amounts of power at market rates. If conservation is the priority, it likely means there will not be opportunities for First Nations to become large customers of BC Hydro."

No Alignment:

N/A

Time-varying rates and supporting demand response programs to reduce peak demand

Survey question: How does our plan to pursue voluntary time varying rates and supporting demand response programs align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

"it again goes back to maintaining our forests, riparian zones throughout the province. these are what factor into the general consumption levels of the everyday consumer."

"Limits land and water impacts by avoiding or deferring the construction of new power system infrastructure."

"Being voluntary takes into account that options are not available to everyone. Also, it limits land and water impacts by avoiding or deferring the construction of new power system infrastructure."

Some Alignment:

"Do not have the flexibility to shift the timing of electricity use. Limits land and water impacts by avoiding or deferring the construction of new power system infrastructure."

"As part of our plans to potentially purchase large quantities of power, we would be interested in exploring off peak purchase options."

Neutral:

"Many people do not have the luxury of flexible schedules and the financial means to purchase smart appliances."

Little Alignment:

“People are the customers, who may not have 8 - 4 job? Students and elders need to be able to afford Hydro. Climate change. country living, wind storms have an effect. Paying for electric cars and consumption?”

“The northern BC residents live in a colder climate therefore they will always use more electricity for their home heating during the parts of the Fall/Spring seasons and through out the winter season therefore their energy bills will be higher in comparison to the southern BC residents.”

“The rural areas are very difficult to be managed due to severe lack of other infrastructures, BC Hydro power outages are very frequent, thus making the managed electricity consumption (high-low times) close to impossible. The majority of rural areas still do not have cell signal coverage and slow and expensive metered satellite internet only, thus making any energy conservation devices impossible to use.”

“We are on Electrical heat in Northeast BC and will not be able shift usage times, therefore we will be punished for using electricity simply to survive the winter.”

No Alignment:

“This model disproportionately impacts working class people to the benefit of BC Hydro. Financially punishing those who work 9-5, by charging them extra for household upkeep tasks using appliances, until late into the evening will make their lives more difficult. Wealthier customers can afford to just pay the extra cost, but this plan negatively affects the majority of your customer base who can't afford either to pay the cost or to go without washing their family's clothing, doing dishes etc. You'll be punishing the poor to keep profits high and investment in alternatives low. I certainly hope people get educated on reducing their electrical needs, but putting the responsibility on the poorer consumers without flexibility in their schedules, rather than on the corporation is quite frankly disrespectful and tone deaf.”

Survey question: How does our plan to pursue voluntary demand response programs targeting electric vehicle drivers align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

“this is especially needed in the northern regions, we do not have the infrastructure to recharge electric vehicles, our weather (winters) does not allow the use of electric vehicles, we depend on fossil fuels to travel to urban centers”

“electric vehicle drivers will likely be charging their vehicles after peak hours and so while their needs should be met, plugging in after 9 would likely not be as much of a burden on the individual.”

“They can plug in their cars overnight when the demand is low.”

“They do have the option to change their time of electricity use by plugging in overnight and not during peak times.”

Some Alignment:

“If increased access to charge stations is created a places of work.”

Neutral:

“No electric vehicle drivers.”

“Charging EV during the evenings will help reduce energy demands down during peak energy hours since northern residents live in a colder climate region which reduces the energy storage capacities of EV batteries-they will end up using more energy because they will be charging their EV more during the colder climate seasons.”

“This is interesting noting that BC wants to pursue having no gas powered vehicles in the future but I don't know where we stand on this one. There are some people in the community that use electric vehicles.”

Little Alignment:

“expensive to the local people. Entrepreneurs out there. New Housing? New families.”

No Alignment:

“We live 1 hour minimum from charging station and cold weather adversely impacts battery life in electric vehicles”

Electricity Purchase Agreement Renewals

Survey question: How does our plan to offer a market price based renewal option for electricity purchase agreements that are expiring over the next five years align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

“we will still need small energy producing plants, run of river, bio fuels and other small hydro producing stations in our areas in the north, working with first nations should be priority.”

“We want to keep the independent clean energy producers but we also want to see more First Nations producers of independent clean energy.”

“We are happy to see renewal options for clean, independent power producers. We would also like to see more of these purchase agreements with First Nations involvement.”

Some Alignment:

“Allow for opportunities for communities to develop their own power infrastructure and even sell some back to the region.”

“Is long as peak time market rate is payed or BCH resale profit is restricted.”

Neutral:

“The majority of IPP are foreign large corporations who sell energy back to BC Hydro at inflated prices, so the BC Government should buy back these energy licenses and they should only sell these energy licenses to small town companies which as the original intent of the IPP plan. Through out Canada, Government energy companies and private energy companies have built dams to produce electricity which flooded a lot of Indigenous People’s land without paying any kind of compensation to them and a lot of times the energy transmission lines from these dams completely bypassed Indigenous communities who remained on dirty energy generators to provide them with electricity. Therefore the Canadian Governments and energy companies have provide redress compensation monies to all First Nation’s in Canada retroactive to when the first dam was built in Canada. included in these compensation agreements, the Governments and private energy companies have to build Indigenous IPP companies so that First Nation’s can own their own energy companies.”

Little Alignment:

“Some of these projects are providing significant benefits to communities - offering market-price may impact such communities negatively.”

*“I don’t talk to my Hydro Person for the local area.
Telephone in Person or Virtual meetings need to happen on Zoom, teams, etc..”*

“There should be options for First Nations to be a partner with BC Hydro in the spirit of Reconciliation and the DRIPA.”

“Indigenous Suppliers should be remunerated at a good rate, Site C budget over runs should not be mitigated by nations that are taking or have taken initiative to create energy. Also from the feedback I heard while at the meetings NEW Projects should be encouraged.”

No Alignment:

“We have no agreement with BC Hydro and BC Hydro is not open to any new energy purchase agreement (like solar energy) anymore.”

Transmission System Upgrades

Survey question: How does our plan to advance the first step of transmission upgrades to the South Coast and prepare to initiate step two align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

“Limits land and water impacts relative to building new transmission lines or new pumped storage hydro facilities in the South Coast. However, when these systems first went in there was little or no engagement with First Nations so it is imperative with the upgrades.”

“We support using existing infrastructure before building new infrastructure in order to

mitigate environmental impacts as long as First Nations are consulted early on.”

Some Alignment:

“Limits land and water impacts relative to building new transmission lines. Our community was not consulted about current lines through territory and impacts were not offset. This option keeps impacts concentrated to just stations.”

“some areas still experience numerous power outages in the winter, it is not uncommon to experience outages throughout the seasons due to the aging infrastructure.”

“Years ago, researchers done some energy studies where they concluded that BC did not have to build any more dams since BC can meet it's future energy needs by up grading the efficiency ratings of their existing energy infrastructures.”

“We recognize the growth within the Fraser Valley and do see the need for upgrades to keep up to electricity demands.”

Neutral:

“BCH is heavily invested in an approach to power delivery that requires upgrades, but the impacts to land and Indigenous right bare the long term impacts. BCH has chosen to move away from a regional generation and transmission model.”

“out of immediate area of concern.”

Little Alignment:

“On reserve, should be no taxes, and agreement made with local Indigenous Nations for offset transmission lines.”

No Alignment:

“[Nation] is strongly opposed to proposed routes.”

“We are located in Northwestern BC with a very old insufficient power grid prone to frequent failures and el current fluctuation causing the outages “blips” numerous times per day, damaging our electronic equipment.”

Future Resources

Survey question: How does our approach to future resources align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

“We would like to see as many solar and wind resources as possible in the future.”

“We do have a strong interest in economic opportunities from clean energy development.”

Some Alignment:

“our region sees and feels the impact of rising electricity costs, some households cannot afford the rising costs due to the inflation, due to their limited income, they do not get the same breaks the large companies do.”

“Good planning and upgrading the current resources will help with the future resources needed to power BC for years to come.”

Neutral:

“Why does this just have "options include" why are you not including your non-green options in this question?”

“Support if these license will become available to interested FN. Ture reconciliation.”

Little Alignment:

“Allow community hubs to establish micro-grids that provide climate resilience.”

“Hire Indigenous People to your crews, offices etc.”

“The Highway 37 high power line project and the Site C dam project were built for the benefit for the mining, oil and gas corporations-who will get sweet heart low cost energy agreements while the rest of BC population will have to pay higher energy costs far into the future, in order to cover these low cost energy agreements and project over run costs of the Site C dam. Also, do not forget the IPP high cost energy agreement with BC Hydro and BC Hydro's dividend payments to the BC Government, so any savings provided by any future green energy projects being built will be negated by these hidden costs that BC Hydro and the public has to pay out.”

“We have a viable run of river project that was a likely candidate until cancelation of the SOP, as well as downstream capacitor limitations.”

No Alignment:

“Strongly opposed to wind related projects in the NE region.”

Evaluating small generating facilities

Survey question: How does this approach to evaluating these facilities with our proposed timelines align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

“these and other small projects need to be moved on, the timelines for approval and shovels in the ground need more attention.”

“Evaluating these facilities with the proposed timeline makes sense as time allows to be open to the possibility of new technology by then.”

“Indigenous Nations interest in exploring ownership of Shuswap Falls should be considered, as well as the importance of engaging with local Indigenous Nations early on. FPIC is also crucial, not pressuring FN to respond by Hydro's deadline and set agenda.”

Some Alignment:

N/A

Neutral:

“This is good: Support for decommissioning and restoring habitat, and for keeping costs low. Some interest for looking at alternative ways to use these plants. Indigenous Nations interest in exploring ownership, as well as the importance of engaging with local Indigenous Nations.”

“Don't think it will help meet 2027 predicted short fall. Is BCH is under estimating climate change impact and how rapid the impact will be experienced. Will these facilities have any real relevance on meeting future demand?”

“I would like to see defunct or inefficient generating stations removed safely. I understand some concern already exists regarding the backup of contaminates being held in place behind dams, so sustainable methods of dealing with this issue needs to be taken into account by Hydro. Perhaps holding mining corporations, like Teck Resources, accountable for processing the soil and contaminates would be an option since they generally put the contaminates into the rivers through their operations. Working closely with Indigenous communities and governments should be taking place as well in planning for either course.”

“BC Hydro is the entity that knows its' system best and has the data to support decisions of this nature.”

Little Alignment:

“Consider the Indigenous lands as well.”

“Any First Nation's ownership of older up graded energy stations has to be included in any redress agreements signed between Indigenous Peoples and BC Government, since the vast majority of First Nation's communities lack capacity funding for developing any energy projects, the costs to up grade older energy stations has to be covered by the BC Government. Also, these economic opportunities for First Nation's have to be viable for a long time, that supplies employment and generates revenues for the First Nation's.”

No Alignment:

“We are in Northwestern BC, not Southern.”

Contingency Resource Plan [preparing for higher or lower demand]

Explore batteries in the South Coast

Survey question: How does preparing to introduce utility scale batteries in the South Coast align with your values and interests?

Strong Alignment:

“Using batteries is a good back-up plan as long as there is no new/better technology available at that time.”

“Batteries disposal, environmental danger. Although the batteries would be servicing down South, the dump/recycling site will probably be selected here up North where is the less dense population.”

Some Alignment:

“we need to look at the bigger picture, not only the south but the entire province.”

“If no new tech comes out, we would agree with falling back on battery use, but there is a possibility there will be better options by that time.”

“out of our immediate area but environmental concerns about production and disposal of batteries is paramount, especially in terms of lithium mining and its impacts on ecosystems.”

“We would like to know more about this initiative and we look forward to learning more about it.”

Neutral:

“Need more information at this time.”

“Don’t know enough about the batteries and their impact to land and resources.”

“Batteries production can have huge environmental impacts. Lithium extraction is not green . Supply chain analysis must be considered.”

“I would like to see BC Hydro consider the economic and political impacts of using utility scale batteries and from whom they purchase them. Indigenous communities throughout the world discuss the importance of managing overhead while simultaneously not causing or contributing to human rights violations in other "seemingly" disconnected areas of the world. Buying batteries from some entity actively working to destabilize a democratically elected government for instance would be in bad form.”

Little Alignment:

“Include the Indigenous the Values and Interests, maybe a better outcome.”

“So far your energy plan, does not include BC Hydro redress issues with First Nation's

in BC, your energy company has been making money for years on unceded land without sharing any of your revenues with First Nation's, this racist policy has to quickly change right now. In order, for BC Hydro to live up to the Truth and Reconciliation, 2019 UNDRIPA and 2021 Bill C-15, they have to settle the redress issue with FN, also they have to recognize the BC First Nation's ownership and jurisdiction rights of their traditional lands and resources, ensure that they treat First Nation's as equal Governance partners and they consult with First Nation's in a transparent and fair manner while negotiating free, prior and informed consent on any economic, political and social agreements with FN."

No Alignment:

N/A

Additional Feedback

As part of the survey participants were asked to provide any final feedback.

“All new initiatives, new projects must have early and pre-engagement with Indigenous communities.”

“Thanks for the opportunity to share.”

“Employment opportunities for Indigenous People, thank you.”

“Just a note to include the possibility of new tech on the draft plan to be open to better options in the future. We want as low impacts on land and water as possible.”

“We would like to see as many First Nations based, clean energy producers as possible.”

“In 2021, Bill C-15 was passed in Ottawa and in 2019, UNDRIPA was passed in BC, however I have not seen any changes in the racist actions and procedural protocols from both levels of the Canadian Government, plus the proponents in the local economy still do not fairly share any of the revenues that they make on our [Nation] or respect the ownership and jurisdiction rights of FN. Furthermore, the regional settler population racist attitudes has not changed against the First Nation's, so I do not feel very optimistic or hopeful about new BC Hydro Clear Power 2040 plans that include FN in BC. FN continue to live in poverty, experience high levels of unemployment, high levels of alcohol and drug abuse, high levels of incarceration rates, high levels of suicide rates, high levels of health problems and shorter life expectancy.”

“Any major structural/technology upgrades planned? Also for Northern BC, not only down South?”

“Curious why the Graph shows consistent 8000MW, Where does the Site C bump in power show up. From everything I've heard BC has will have surplus power and selling a bunch to the States particularly California.”