



Power smart

# BC Hydro Integrated Resource Plan: Indigenous Nations Consultation

## Southeast Region

Virtual meeting – June 24, 2021

### First Nation / Organization

Adam Neil	Shuswap Indian Band
Bobby Watkinson	St'at'imc Government Services
Brook Carpenter	Simpcw Resources Group
Colleen Marchand	Okanagan Indian Band
Carroll Draney	Skeetchestn Indian Band
Marshall Gonzales	Skeetchestn Indian Band
Don Kraus	Coldwater Indian Band
Fabian Alexis	Okanagan Indian Band
Mark Blom	British Columbia First Nations Energy Mining Council
Heather Oliver	Simpcw Resources Group
Jeannie Pelkey	Songhees Nation
Judah Vickers	High Bar First Nation
Chief Justin Kane	Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
Kathryn McLeod	Nisga'a Lisims Government
Kerri Jo Fortier	Simpcw First Nation
Marion Eunson	Ktunaxa Nation
Meaghan Hume	St'at'imc Government Services
Maxwell Stevens	Gitxsan Treaty Society - Upper Skeena Watershed
Robin Buss	Tsawwassen First Nation
Kukpi7 Roy Fletcher	High Bar First Nation
Stephanie Paul	Westbank First Nation
Tracey McKay	Nisga'a Lisims Government

### BC Hydro Representatives

Presenters	Bill Clendinning, Director, Energy Planning Charlie Weiler, Indigenous Relations Senior Negotiator
BC Hydro	Ian Wong, Alison Hall, Alex Tu, Ian Wong, Trina Johansen, Jessica Davies, Allison Stockwell
Notetakers	Lyndsey Stark; Anne Pigott
Tech Support	Taruni Singh (IT)

## **Independent Facilitator**

Cheryl Brooks

Indigenuity Consulting Group

## **Summary of presentations**

### **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

The workshop began with Charlie Weiler acknowledging the traditional territory and a moment of silence for the 215 burial sites found at the former Kamloops residential school and the 751 unmarked graves reported this week at the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan. All participants introduced themselves and Tracey McKay offered a prayer and greetings.

After introductions and discussing virtual meeting tools and etiquette, Cheryl Brooks, the facilitator, explained the agenda:

- Overview and recap: Integrated Resource Plan
- What we heard during Phase One
- Discussion: Reviewing the Draft Plan – do items align with your values and interests?
- Discussion: BC Hydro and UNDRIP– gathering your input
- Wrap up and next steps

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.

Due to the interest in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in the first round of consultation on the IRP, BC Hydro included an agenda item to seek input on BC Hydro's plan to implement UNDRIP. A summary of themes from the input received on this topic is captured at the end of this document after the section on the Integrated Resource Plan.

### **BC Hydro presentation on the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)**

Before presenting the draft IRP Bill Clendinning and Charlie Weiler addressed the following topics

- What is an IRP
- Where we are in the schedule of developing the IRP
- A recap of some major themes from the input received from the first round of consultation
- How BC Hydro developed its draft IRP
- An overview of the concepts of energy and capacity

Bill Clendinning presented the IRP load resource balance showing when we expect to need future resources to meet demand and answered questions on this topic. Following that Bill presented the elements of the draft IRP. After each element of the plan was presented Bill paused and Cheryl facilitated discussion on that specific element. The elements of the draft IRP that were presented and discussed in the workshop are:

- Energy Conservation
- Voluntary Time of Use Rates
- Renewing expiring Electricity Purchase Agreements
- Transmission Upgrades
- Future Resources

- Small Plants
- Planning for the unexpected

The PowerPoint presentation from the workshop is attached as to this summary.

## Summary of Participant Input

The following is a summary of what BC Hydro heard from Indigenous Nation representatives during the I workshop. The purpose of this summary is to capture themes from the feedback received from participants attending the workshop and help BC Hydro consider the alignment between the draft plan and Indigenous' interests. Please let us know if you have further questions or information requests regarding the IRP or anything arising from this summary.

### Overview and recap: Integrated Resource Plan

- A participant was interested in whether BC Hydro is a revenue generating business.
- A participant asked if BC Hydro engages with Indigenous Nations to offer benefit agreements. In particular, they wanted to know what steps are taken to address the loss of traditional resources with Indigenous Nations.
- There was interest from several participants about energy trading across borders and if BC Hydro considers customer outside of B.C. as BC Hydro's customers.
- As it relates to electricity sales outside of the province, a participant commented that they would like to see government reinvest this revenue in green energy projects that will reduce costs and environmental impacts. Lower rates shouldn't trump these priorities.

### What we heard during Phase One

- A participant commented that they reviewed the draft IRP, but it was not clear where feedback from phase one of consultation with Indigenous Nations had been incorporated.
- A participant commented that they had reviewed the draft IRP summaries and noticed that the topics highlighted by Indigenous Nations in the Indigenous consultation stream differed greatly from those through the public stream. They expressed a desire to include their community members in discussions on IRP topics but had been prevented from doing so following phase one of consultation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They also had an interest in hearing legal and professional opinions at workshops on IRP topics to help guide their understanding of how to best move forward.

### Load Resource Balance

The load resource balance shows when BC Hydro expects to need more resources by comparing BC Hydro's forecast of future electricity demand against resources, we know we have in place to meet future demand. It also shows the range of uncertainty in BC Hydro's forecasts (i.e. future demand may be higher or lower than expected).

- A participant wanted to know when Site C would be commissioned and the impact this would have on the load forecast.

**Reviewing the Draft Plan – BC Hydro asked: “does this plan align with your values and interests?” “What other feedback do you have?”**

#### *Energy conservation programs*

- A participant commented that some homes on reserve are in poor condition and the top priority for energy conservation should be upgrading these homes. Some existing conservation programs offered by BC Hydro focus on other opportunities, but these don't address the root issue for many of their community members.
- Several participants expressed an interest in using heat pumps for conservation. One participant shared that some homes in their community had installed heat pumps which had proven to be effective for decreasing bills, but high upfront costs are a deterrent. They expressed an interest in installing more heat pumps if they were more affordable.
- A participant commented that they would like to see an electricity use monitoring program started for their community to help educate residents and allow community members to spot issues contributing to high bills.

#### *Voluntary rates and supporting programs*

- A participant shared their concerns about how time varying rates would affect their community as they wouldn't be able to enjoy any of the benefits. In particular, they noted that time varying rates benefit electric vehicle owners, but these benefits won't be recognized in their region as the infrastructure is not in place. It was requested that BC Hydro consider different rates in different communities.
- A participant asked whether BC Hydro was exploring different rates for places where electricity is generated versus where there is increased demand. They expressed interest in understanding the legislative context to some of these decisions to support Government to Government discussions First Nations are having.
- There was a question as to whether BC Hydro considered or can consider regional varying rates. The majority of BC Hydro generation and associated impacts are in rural areas but the demand for more electricity is coming from more urban areas. Perhaps urban areas should pay higher rates to offset the impacts and costs on more rural areas where the power is generated.
- A participant commented that they live in an area with high electricity bills since they aren't able to access gas for heating or cooling which can be an issue when they experience extreme temperatures in the summer and winter. They would like to see fair and equitable rates available across the province.

#### *Renewing Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs)*

- A participant noted that they were disappointed that there were no opportunities for Indigenous Nations under the Standing Offer Program. They shared that their Nation is

ready to roll out solar projects that can help reduce costs on reserve and make sure of a clean energy source.

- A participant expressed an interest in a solar powered project on their reserve which has been zoned for multiuse.

#### *Transmission system upgrades*

- No comments received during this part of the presentation.

#### *Future resources*

- No comments received during this part of the presentation.

#### *Small BC Hydro plants*

- No comments received during this part of the presentation.

#### *Planning for the unexpected*

- A participant expressed an interest in where utility scale batteries could be used in the BC Hydro system.
- A participant inquired about the environmental impacts of utility scale batteries which should be considered in their use as well as learnings from other utilities who have implemented them.
- A participant commented they expected that Indigenous Nations would be interested in opportunities to privately own utility scale batteries and sell stored power back to BC Hydro.
- A participant wanted to acknowledge the clarity of the presentation and that the content was presented in a way that was easy to understand.

## **Further information on Topics Raised During the Workshop**

**Utility-scale batteries in the BC Hydro system:** Utility scale batteries can help address uncertainties. These large-scale batteries are able to help meet capacity demands by storing power to be used when customer demand is high and recharging when demand is low. They're not currently part of the base plan but a new technology that can be incorporated into the system, if needed. Currently, other utilities are making use of batteries in places like California. BC Hydro will be observing how they're used to help meet demand so it can be determined how to best implement them into B.C.'s system.

**Heat pumps in energy conservation:** Following a comment from a participant about the use of heat pumps in their reserve, a conversation took place about how heat pumps may be useful for Indigenous Nations to conserve energy and improve comfort. Heat pumps use electricity to move heat between the home and either the ground (ground-source heat pumps) or the outside air (air-source heat pumps) with very high efficiencies. Heat pumps are not new technologies, and they

have historically had some problems operating in colder northern climates. However, there have been technological advances that enable some heat pumps to operate in some more extreme environments, with some growing pains in colder climates as the technology continues to evolve.

## Follow up

The What We Heard report from the first round of Indigenous consultation on the IRP was sent to the workshop participants again.

## Summary and Wrap-up

Charlie Weiler 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 **July 31, 2021**
- The final IRP will be filed with the BCUC by December 31, 2021
- Consultation summary will be sent to you and included in the filing with the BCUC

Additional input can be provided through the following means:

- Please take the survey: <https://bchydro.civilspace.io/en/projects/clean-power-2040/engagements/irp-phase-2/sections/1>
- Provide input by emailing [CP2040.Indigenous@bchydro.com](mailto:CP2040.Indigenous@bchydro.com)
- Call us at 1-877-461-0161 (extension 3) if you have any questions

## Reconciliation and Implementing the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in BC Hydro's business

In the first round of consultation on the IRP there was a high level of interest in how BC Hydro will implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“UNDRIP” or the “Declaration”) in its business. As result the second round of regional workshops on the IRP also had an agenda item to seek Indigenous input into the development of an UNDRIP implementation plan and how BC Hydro plans to implement UNDRIP into its business.

Participants in the IRP consultation sessions were asked for their input on five themes that BC Hydro believes relate to UNDRIP and BC Hydro’s work. The five themes are:

1. Respectful Relations
2. Social and Cultural Well-Being
3. Decision-Making
4. Water, Lands, and Resources
5. Economic Relations

BC Hydro sought feedback on the following questions: Are these the right themes? Are we missing any? What are some ideas for advancing reconciliation in each area?

The Indigenous input at the regional workshops will help BC Hydro develop a plan to implement UNDRIP in its business.

BC Hydro's UNDRIP presentation is part of the PowerPoint presentation attached to this summary.

## Participant input on UNDRIP and BC Hydro

- A participant expressed an interest in understanding what types of agreements other Indigenous Nations hold with BC Hydro as they see agreements have helped guide consultation on their rights and title.
- A participant expressed curiosity about how Indigenous culture and heritage resources fits within the five themes proposed by BC Hydro. They shared that they see it fitting into various themes on the list.
- A participant shared that archaeological assessments are a priority and they were concerned that pole replacements seem to happen in their community without proper communication. They thought it was wonderful these conversations on UNDRIP are now taking place with Indigenous communities.
- A participant shared that it would be beneficial for BC Hydro to connect Indigenous communities with other Nations who work with the company to promote peer-to-peer learning. Sharing best practices and learning from one another might help bring benefits to Indigenous communities while also finding efficiencies for BC Hydro. Nation employees tend to deal with large portfolios and a high volume of work so learning from other communities might help streamline processes for both Nations and BC Hydro.
- Comments were received on cultural protection and mitigation as top priorities for participants.
- A participant commented that there are 203 Indigenous Nation in B.C. and the UNDRIP themes will be interpreted and prioritized differently for each group. They would also like for these conversations to happen at the community level.
- Decision-making was highlighted as a priority for a participant. They shared that past conversations with the Province often take place after a decision has already been made and Nations are often asked what they think instead of including them in the decision. They would like to be included earlier based on UNDRIP's principles and this needs to be done at the individual band level. Technical discussions should be recorded in a project management framework so it can be relayed to Nation leadership.
- A participant commented that they would like to see lessons learned from the Site C project as well as Independent Power Producer projects to improve the outcomes of future projects. Currently, they don't think it's clearly communicated why some Indigenous Nations oppose projects due to social or environmental impacts.
- A participant shared that they would like to see BC Hydro play a central role in planning Independent Power Producers projects in their territory. There are many impacts to their territory from projects who don't coordinate between one another and BC Hydro could help these companies take a more holistic approach to find efficiencies.
- A participant shared that they are seeing less local participation in projects in their territories. Would like to see companies come to them before coming into their territory to understand their capacity.

- One participant was shocked to hear a question about UNDRIP today. They agreed these are important questions to ask but communicated that they need more time to process and prepare an appropriate response.
- A participant was curious about the five themes proposed and asked how BC Hydro defines each one.