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April 21, 2020

Mr. Patrick Wruck
Commission Secretary and Manager
Regulatory Support
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Mr. Wruck:

**RE: British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC or Commission)
British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro)
Site C Clean Energy Project
COVID-19 Impact and Risk Mitigation Bi-Weekly Report No. 1**

BC Hydro writes in response to the BCUC's letter dated April 1, 2020 to provide details outlining the anticipated impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Site C Clean Energy Project (**Project**) as well as steps being taken to mitigate any risks.

BC Hydro responds to each of the information requests below. BC Hydro has been asked to provide:

- 1.0 An update on the current status of the Pandemic situation on-site, including numbers of workers who: have ceased work on the Project; those who continue to work on the Project; and anyone who remains on-site, but who is not actively working on the Project. Also, any confirmed Pandemic cases to-date, and the work status and location of these individuals. We request an update to this information on a bi-weekly basis while the Provincial State of Emergency in British Columbia remains in effect.

BC Hydro Response:

BC Hydro reports the total number of workers on site as a whole and does not distinguish between the project work areas. There is an approximate four to six-week lag from when BC Hydro receives this information as it is collected and reported from the contractors on the Project. The February 2020 figures, released on April 7, 2020, indicated that there were 4,785 total workers on the Project. Please see BC Hydro's response to BCUC information requests 2.0 below for details on its decision to scale back activities at the Site C dam site.

At this time, BC Hydro has not been notified of any confirmed cases of COVID-19 at Site C. BC Hydro is being very cautious with our application of the health guidelines and is requiring people to self-isolate with any slight symptoms. As of April 21, 2020, seven people are in self-isolation in the camp under the medical supervision of the on-site health clinic.

2.0 A high-level description of measures taken in response to the Pandemic at the Project site including current emergency response plans, safety and health considerations, as well as risks to local communities surrounding the Project and any preparations for future response plans.

BC Hydro Response:

BC Hydro's top priority will always be the health and safety of our employees, contractors and the public.

BC Hydro has been closely monitoring COVID-19 for several months. On March 16, 2020, we initiated a Site C Emergency Operations Centre in Vancouver to coordinate project activities. We've been working with the Northern Health Authority and strictly following federal and provincial health guidelines to ensure our site is safe for workers and the wider public.

On March 18, 2020, BC Hydro decided to scale back our activities at the Site C dam site and focus only on essential work and critical milestones. This decision allowed us to de-densify the work site and on-site accommodations. Other essential work such as keeping the site secure and meeting the project's environmental and regulatory commitments are continuing as planned.

Work is continuing in areas off-site, including the realignment of Highway 29, the transmission line construction and clearing activities. The majority of these workers do not stay in camp and can more easily practice physical distancing on their work sites.

Following this decision to scale back work at site, we have reduced the number of people staying at camp by approximately 50 per cent. As of April 21, 964 people are staying at the worker accommodation lodge, including the camp staff.

Across the project, we've implemented measures to mitigate the risk of a COVID-19 event on Site C, and to keep the community and workers safe.

Key changes include:

- **Longer shift rotations: Workers from Peace River Hydro Partners affiliated with the CLAC, CMAW carpenters, the Ironworkers Local 97, and Millwrights unions have transitioned to shifts lasting six to eight weeks instead of two weeks. In addition, ATCO, the camp operator, has successfully implemented a**

new longer shift arrangement with the Teamsters union workers. This decreases the movement of people to and from the region.

- **Ceasing operation of the shuttle: The shuttle service between the worker accommodation lodge and Fort St. John has been suspended.**
- **Health pre-screening: Everyone is given a temperature scan at the gate before entering the site. This is in addition to the Ministry of Health self-assessment.**
- **Physical distancing: We're implementing physical distancing in everything we do – from asking people to work from home, reducing in-person meetings and having smaller pre-shift safety meetings.**

Changes have also been made at the worker accommodation lodge to increase cleaning and physical distancing. New measures at the worker accommodation include:

- **More frequent disinfecting cleaning of all high touch point areas.**
- **Closing all common areas.**
- **Eliminating self-service stations in the dining room and setting up tables to help workers adhere to physical distancing guidelines (one seat at each table and tables spaced farther apart).**
- **More sanitizing stations.**
- **Staff dedicated to decreasing congestion in higher-traffic areas.**

ATCO and the on-site health clinic have implemented an isolation and quarantine plan to manage any contagious illness, including seasonal influenza, gastrointestinal infections, and COVID-19. The health clinic, which is governed by the Northern Health Authority, is well equipped with experienced health practitioners, test kits and medical supplies.

In addition, the camp has the ability to comfortably isolate and care for any workers who are exhibiting flu-like symptoms, awaiting test results, or who may test positive for COVID-19. We continue to take guidance from the Province of B.C. and Northern Health – including guidelines for [industrial camps](#), [smelting and mining operations](#), and [construction sites](#) – and will swiftly implement additional measures when necessary.

- 3.0 An update on the effects of BC Hydro's Pandemic response to the progress and schedule for each key work area, and any steps being taken to mitigate Project schedule impacts.

BC Hydro Response

Priority (critical and essential) Construction Activities

Even before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, BC Hydro had been working with its contractors to define the critical construction activities required to achieve river diversion, along with other essential services such as care of water and regulatory requirements.

All critical construction activities required for river diversion continue to progress. The critical construction activities needed to achieve river diversion in 2020 are listed below:

- Concrete lining of the two diversion tunnels.
- Construction of inlet and outlet structures for both tunnels.
- Construction of a temporary fish passage facility.
- Construction of debris management structures.
- Installation and commissioning of tunnel gates.
- Upstream and downstream stage 2 cofferdams.

To support critical construction activities, the worker accommodation lodge continues to run regular camp operations, with the exception of the mitigation measures identified above.

Non-critical and Non-essential Construction Activities

Following the March 18 decision to scale back work at site, the following dam site work areas have been scaled back:

- Generating station and spillways – All active work areas in the generating station and spillways have been ramped down.

- **Turbines and generators – All site activities have stopped, except for deliveries of equipment.**
- **Balance of plant – No work was underway on site, and we anticipate a moderate delay in the procurement schedule.**
- **Substation construction – Work continues with a reduced workforce (not staying in the worker accommodation)**

4.0 An analysis of the anticipated Pandemic related impacts or risks to meeting the proposed river diversion timeline and other critical Project milestones.

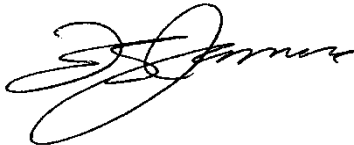
BC Hydro Response

Risks are being investigated to determine the impacts on the project schedule resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We are actively mitigating risks related to maintaining the schedule for river diversion by focusing on this work and redeploying resources, as required. As of April 21, we remain on track to achieve river diversion in 2020.

For the most up to date information on Site C and COVID-19, I encourage you to visit our website at www.sitecproject.com/COVID-19.

For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Fred James
Chief Regulatory Officer

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