

**Fred James** 

Chief Regulatory Officer Phone: 604-623-4046 Fax: 604-623-4407

bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com

September 22, 2020

Ms. Marija Tresoglavic
Acting Commission Secretary and Manager
Regulatory Support
British Columbia Utilities Commission
Suite 410, 900 Howe Streets
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2N3

Dear Ms. Tresoglavic

**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. 12

BC Hydro writes in response to the BCUC's letter dated April 1, 2020 (the **Letter**) to provide a bi-weekly update on the current status of the COVID-19 Pandemic situation on the Site C Clean Energy Project (**Project**).

In the Letter, the BCUC asked for:

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 July 2020 figures, released on September 9, 2020, indicated that there were 4,645 total workers on the Project. The workforce number is a total employment number and is a calculation of all workers who worked during the month of July; this report reflects the March 18 decision to scale back construction activities on the dam site, as well as the May 14 announcement to safely and gradually

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Page 2 of 2

begin increasing construction activities at the dam site. On September 17, 2020, BC Hydro confirmed a positive COVID-19 case for a Site C employee. This was the second COVID-19 case at Site C; the first, involving a contractor employee staying in the work camp, was confirmed on July 17, 2020. 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 September 22, 2020, there are nine people in isolation in the camp under the medical supervision of the on-site health clinic.

Following our announcement on May 14, BC Hydro continues to safely increase construction activities at the Site C dam site in a phased approach.

The phased approach is based on the provincial health guidelines for industrial camps, and BC Hydro is working with project contractors and unions to ramp up construction activities. The first increase in work focuses on restarting some of the main civil works on the earthfill dam and roller-compacted concrete dam buttress.

For the most up to date information on Site C and COVID-19, please visit the Site C COVID-19 updates website at <a href="https://www.sitecproject.com/COVID-19">www.sitecproject.com/COVID-19</a>.

For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Fred James

Chief Regulatory Officer

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