

**Fred James**

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April 6, 2021

Mr. Patrick Wruck  
Commission Secretary and Manager  
Regulatory Support  
British Columbia Utilities Commission  
Suite 410, 900 Howe Streets  
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. 26**

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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 January 2021 figures, released on March 15, 2021 showed that there were 3,852 total workers on the Project in January 2021.

Since the last bi-weekly report, BC Hydro confirms that 11 contractor workers have tested positive for COVID-19. Since March 2020, BC Hydro has been notified of 67 people testing positive for COVID-19 while working on the Site C project. As of

April 6, 2021, there are seven active cases of COVID-19 on the Project and 60 cases that have cleared.

On March 17, 2021, Northern Health announced it would provide COVID-19 vaccines to several industrial projects in northern B.C, including Site C. On March 29, 2021, following guidance from health authorities<sup>1</sup>, BC Hydro paused the vaccination program that was underway at the Site C medical clinic. BC Hydro is awaiting further direction from health authorities about next steps on the vaccination program for industrial camps. Prior to pausing the program, the on-site medical clinic had administered vaccines to 1,430 Site C workers.

BC Hydro is being very cautious and is applying all public health guidelines. We are requiring people with any slight symptoms to self-isolate. As of April 6, 2021, there are seven people in isolation in the camp under the medical supervision of the on-site health clinic.

BC Hydro continues to work closely with health officials and Site C contractors to slowly and safely increase the number of workers at the dam site in accordance with the Industrial Projects Restart Order, dated January 12, 2021. The order does not impact people working on off-dam site activities such as clearing, transmission construction and Highway 29 work.

BC Hydro has been monitoring COVID-19 closely since early 2020 and has regularly reviewed and adjusted its safety protocols to minimize the risk of transmission to, or within, the project site based on the guidance of the health authorities.

These include health screenings prior to accessing the Project site, enhanced cleaning throughout the worker accommodation, mandatory mask use in camp and construction offices, and adherence to physical distancing rules throughout the Project site.

BC Hydro and its contractors also recently set up thermal scanners at various exit and entry points of the worker accommodation lodge that are used before workers board crew buses or leave camp to go to various project work sites. Local workers are already scanned each day when they enter the Project site.

BC Hydro continues to work with the Northern Health Authority and strictly follows all federal and provincial health guidelines to protect other workers in the camp and the local community.

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<sup>1</sup> On March 29, 2021, provincial health authorities suspended the use of the AstraZeneca-SII vaccine for people under the age of 55. As a result, BC Hydro paused the vaccination program that was underway at the Site C medical clinic, as the AstraZeneca-SII vaccine was the one being administered at Site C and other industrial projects in northern B.C.  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0023-000581>

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For the most up to date information on Site C and COVID-19, please visit the Site C COVID-19 updates website at [www.sitecproject.com/COVID-19](http://www.sitecproject.com/COVID-19).

For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Fred James  
Chief Regulatory Officer

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