

**Chris Sandve** 

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June 2, 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. 30

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.

## 2.0 **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 latest employment statistics show that there were 4,589 total workers on the Site C project in April 2021. Of the workers, 3,269 were from British Columbia, or 71 per cent. There were 919 workers on site from the Peace River Regional District - that's 24 per cent of the construction and non-construction contractor's workforce.

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Since the last bi-weekly report, BC Hydro confirms that 14 contractor workers have tested positive for COVID-19. Since March 2020, BC Hydro has been notified of 122 people testing positive for COVID-19 while working on the Site C project. As of June 1, 2021, there are nine active cases of COVID-19 on the Project and 113 cases that have cleared.

On April 28, 2021, the Medical Health Officer of Northern Health declared an outbreak on the Site C project. This step has been taken to ensure the health and safety of the project workforce and members of the public. Northern Health has determined there is no need to stop work on the project, and work continues as planned.

The declaration will remain in place until 28 days after the last positive test. The expected end date is late June. All cases from when the outbreak was announced have since cleared. Since mid-May, however, a new cluster of cases in the powerhouse has emerged involving contractor workers with AFDE, the generating station and spillways contractor. To date, 11 workers from this cluster have tested positive. Seven cases associated with this cluster remain active.

BC Hydro continues to meet daily with Northern Health to discuss cases and additional measures to reduce the potential for transmission. New health and safety protocols have been implemented, including asymptomatic testing of workers that may have been exposed, isolating entire crews and modifying shifts to prevent the virus from spreading at site.

The Site C vaccination program resumed on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Northern Health has since authorized Site C to expand the AstraZeneca vaccination program to include Site C workers 18 years of age and older. Since mid-May, the on-site medical clinic has been administering second doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to qualified individuals. As of June 1, 2021, a total of 2,332 vaccines have been administered, including 719 second doses. This figure does not include workers who have been vaccinated in their home communities.

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 June 1, 2021, there are 44 people in isolation in the camp under the medical supervision of the on-site health clinic, and 47 people isolating at home and one person isolating in hospital. The majority of these isolations were identified through contact tracing the group of cases connected to the powerhouse cluster.

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.

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.

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For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

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