

**Fred James**

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January 4, 2021

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. 19**

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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 October 2020 figures, released on December 7, 2020, showed that there were 5,181 total workers on the Project in October 2020, which represents the highest number of people working on the Project to date.

Since the last bi-weekly report, BC Hydro confirms that eight contractor workers have tested positive for COVID-19. Since March 2020, BC Hydro has been notified of 30 people testing positive for COVID-19 while working on the Site C project. As of January 4, there are three active cases of COVID-19 at site and 27 cases that have recovered.

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 January 4, 2021, there are three people in isolation in the camp under the medical supervision of the on-site health clinic.

On December 29, 2020, the Provincial Health Officer posted a new order for several large-scale industrial projects in the Northern Health region, including the Site C project. The order is designed to help slow down the number of workers returning to northern communities following the holiday season, and the potential for COVID-19 transmission by workers travelling to projects.

The order limits out-of-region workers returning to Fort St. John and specifies the number of workers that can stay in camp throughout January. We are working closely with health officials and our contractors on a safe and staged plan to slowly increase the number of workers staying at camp to a maximum of 1,100 by the end of January. The order does not impact people working on the project that live locally or those that work 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 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.

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).

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For further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



(for) Fred James  
Chief Regulatory Officer

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