

Received DC Office July 30, 2020

From: FLNR RSD ADM's Office FLNR:EX <RSD.ADMs.Office@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: July 30, 2020 3:08 PM

To: prrd dc <prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca>

Subject: Blackfoot Park/Clayhurst Bridge Boat Launch

Ref: 256785

Brad Sperling, Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8

Dear Brad Sperling:

Thank you for your letter of June 18, 2020 addressed to Honourable Doug Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, regarding reservoir access near Blackfoot Regional Park and Clayhurst Bridge. Minister Donaldson has asked that I respond on his behalf.

As directed by the Peace Project Water Use Plan Order, dated August 9, 2007, BC Hydro conducted a feasibility study to improve boat ramp access at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

The feasibility study concluded that construction of a boat ramp within Clayhurst/Blackfoot Park is not feasible due to low forecasted use relative to projected high construction costs and public safety concerns with annual flood hazards within the park boundaries. In 2013, upon recommendation from the Comptroller of Water Rights, BC Hydro expanded the study to investigate options for the relocation and re-design of the parking area that was within the floodplain.

Based on the results of the feasibility study, the Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights granted BC Hydro relief from the requirement to improve boat ramp access at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park on October 10, 2013. BC Hydro has no further obligation to build a ramp in that area.

At this time, there is insufficient justification to consider additional boat ramp feasibility studies near Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park. If you have new or additional information regarding the forecasted use of a boat ramp near Blackfoot Regional Park, we can review this information to determine if additional boat ramp feasibility studies warrant consideration and further discussion.

Yours truly,

David Muter
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Resource Stewardship Division



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

June 18, 2020

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
PO Box 9049
Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Via Email FLNR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Donaldson:

RE: Blackfoot Park/Clayhurst Bridge Boat Launch

At the June 11, 2020 meeting of the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Board of Directors, the following resolution was passed:

"That the Regional Board send a letter to the Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to advocate for the Blackfoot Park/Clayhurst Bridge Boat Launch; noting that BC Hydro is accountable for fulfilling their obligations, under the 2007 Water Use Plan, to provide safe and reliable access to the Peace River at the Clayhurst Bridge/Blackfoot Regional Park."

The Peace River Regional District has had previous discussions with BC Hydro and Water Management Branch regarding a boat launch in the Blackfoot/Clayhurst area. BC Hydro had been required by the Comptroller of Water Rights, as part of the 2007 Water Use Plan, to ensure access to the Peace River at Blackfoot Regional Park. In June 2014, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that they were no longer planning to construct the boat launch and had been released by the Water Comptroller of their requirement to do so under the Water Use Plan.

The need for a boat launch in the area has not changed since 2014 and members of the PRRD Regional Parks Committee would like to meet with BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights to advocate for the development of a boat launch in the Blackfoot/Clayhurst area.

Yours truly,

Brad Sperling
Chair, Peace River Regional District

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PLEASE REPLY TO:

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