

June 19, 2024

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

*Sent via email*

**RE: Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan**

Dear Chair Sperling,

Under condition 40 of our Environmental Assessment Certificate (EAC), BC Hydro is required to fund the development of a Site C Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan (Plan). As per the Site C – Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Plan (ORMP), the Plan would be developed to mitigate potential effect on outdoor recreation and tourism infrastructure, as well as access to water-based navigation.

The Plan development will be:

- funded by BC Hydro,
- initiated within one year after reservoir filling, and
- focused on recreation opportunities provided by the reservoir.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) was consulted as part of BC Hydro's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) where changes in outdoor recreation and tourism infrastructure and use levels were identified as Key Issues, as detailed in Section 25 – Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.

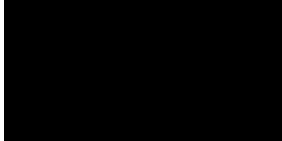
In recognition of the PRRD's role in rural land use management and acknowledgement of the feedback the PRRD provided through the EIS, BC Hydro sent invitations to the PRRD to lead and manage the development of the Plan on November 17, 2015 and April 15, 2019. However, the PRRD declined in resolutions passed on October 13, 2016 and February 13, 2020, respectively.

As we prepare to fill the reservoir later this year and given the potential connection between recreational opportunities and regional economic development, we raise this item again to confirm if the PRRD would like to take on a greater role in the development of this plan.

With your agreement, we would be happy to participate in a further discussion with PRRD staff to determine if this is an opportunity that fits with the PRRD's current priorities and strategic focus.

I have attached Section 2.2.4 of the ORMP, which provides additional information about the Plan.

Sincerely,



Jerry Muir  
Manager of Social and Community Programs, Site C  
BC Hydro

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Plan: Section 2.2.4 Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan

## **Attachment A: Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Plan: Section 2.2.4 Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan**

The following excerpt is taken from the Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Plan located here on the Site C website: [https://www.sitecproject.com/sites/default/files/site-c-outdoor-recreation-mitigation-plan\\_0.pdf](https://www.sitecproject.com/sites/default/files/site-c-outdoor-recreation-mitigation-plan_0.pdf).

### **2.2.4 Reservoir Navigation and Receptions Opportunities Plan**

Condition 40 states: *“Fund the development of a BC Peace River / Site C Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan.”*

A BC Peace River / Site C Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan will be developed to mitigate potential effects on over the long term on outdoor recreation and tourism infrastructure, as well as access to water-based navigation. The planning process and the plan development will be funded by BC Hydro and initiated within one year after reservoir filling.

The plan will focus on new recreation opportunities provided by the reservoir and the changed navigation environment, supporting a wide range of vessel types. BC Hydro will engage with the following groups in development of the Plan: local boating / water-based recreation groups, the PRRD, the Districts of Hudson’s Hope, Taylor, and Chetwynd, the City of Fort St. John, and local area Aboriginal groups.

In the letter to the PRRD sent on November 17, 2015, BC Hydro also raised the opportunity for involvement or leadership from the PRRD to coordinate this planning process to ensure consistency with other parks and recreation planning for the region. BC Hydro has not yet received a response, however due to the proposed timing of this process after reservoir filling a decision from the PRRD is not required at this time, and BC Hydro would be pleased to discuss with the PRRD at a later date.

In order to provide an opportunity for the communities to experience the new reservoir and to develop ideas for recreation and boating in the new reservoir environment BC Hydro will initiate this planning process within one year after reservoir filling. The spatial scope of the plan will include the Site C reservoir; and the Peace River downstream to the B.C./Alberta border.

Based on the interest of the parties identified above, the BC Peace River/Site C Reservoir Navigation and Recreation Opportunities Plan may include the following key areas, as outlined below:

- General navigation
- Reservoir harbours
- Navigational anchorages
- Boat launches and day use areas
- Development of a private sector marina
- Overnight destination areas
- Recreational access points.