

From: EMLI EAED Correspondence EMLI:EX <MEM.EAED.Correspondence@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 19, 2025 8:46 AM
Subject: Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions Response - 144074

Leonard Hiebert
Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Avenue
Dawson Creek BC V8G 4H8
prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear Leonard Hiebert:

Thank you for your letter of February 25, 2025 to Premier Eby reaffirming the three recommendations regarding wind farm projects that Peace River Regional District (PRRD) sent to the Province in July 2024. I note that, on February 25, 2025, Minister Dix also responded to your letter of January 22, 2025 regarding your concerns with wind farm projects in northern British Columbia (BC).

The Province is committed to developing the power necessary to meet energy needs for a clean future while lowering greenhouse gas emissions through electrification. The transition to clean energy needs to happen quickly and the Province is taking urgent action to get more clean and affordable power online faster, including through removing the requirement for wind-based clean energy projects to go through an environmental assessment.

The Province remains committed to maintaining robust environmental standards during the development of the nine wind farms announced through BC Hydro's Call for Power. I recognize that two of the successful wind power projects in BC Hydro's Call for Power are located in the PRRD and that in your July 2024 letter, the PRRD board noted that there are approximately 200 wind turbines in the PRRD. From your recommendations, I understand your interests to be ensuring appropriate end of lifecycle planning for wind power projects, understanding cumulative effects and ensuring economic benefits from wind farms in the PRRD.

While the Call for Power nine wind farm projects will not undergo environmental assessments, each project will still be subject to rigorous permitting requirements through a single window permitting process for renewable energy projects led by the BC Energy Regulator (BCER). The BCER is an experienced organisation that has demonstrated expertise at providing robust regulatory oversight through the lifecycle of projects and will bring this experience and capacity to the Province's broader stewardship efforts for water, land and resources.

The Province is committed to considering cumulative effects in its decision-making processes and improving cumulative effects management. The Cumulative Effects Framework is a set of policies, procedures, and decision-support tools that helps the Province identify and manage cumulative effects consistently and transparently across BC's natural resource sector. The BCER is also working to advance cumulative effects considerations in its decision-making.

I recognize your interest in ensuring there is sufficient economic benefit from independent power producers located in the PRRD. Although BC Hydro is exempt from all property taxes other than school taxes, BC Hydro provides local governments with annual grants in lieu of taxes (GILTs) to compensate

them for the loss of property taxation revenue. GILTs are provided in respect of BC Hydro's generation facilities, transmission and distribution lines, and commercial and other properties. Independent power producers, including those producers who operate wind power facilities, pay property taxes based on the assessed value of the land and improvements as determined by BC Assessment.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns about wind farm projects located in the PRRD. I understand that you are meeting with BC Hydro on March 20, 2025 and that the PRRD has reached out to have the BCER present on many of these items at an upcoming board meeting. If you would like to further discuss your concerns about wind farm projects, please reach out to the Clean Energy and Major Projects Office at CEMPO@gov.bc.ca to organize a meeting.

Sincerely,

Chris Fleming
Acting Assistant Deputy Minister
Electricity and Utility Regulation Division
BC Ministry of Energy and Climate Solutions



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

February 25, 2025

File#: 0400.20.01

Honourable David Eby
Premier of British Columbia
PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Via Email: Premier@gov.bc.ca

Dear Premier Eby:

Re: Wind Farms Projects

At the February 20, 2025 Regional Board meeting, the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Board reaffirmed their concerns regarding wind farm projects in northern BC and subsequently passed the following resolution:

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

“That the Regional Board send a letter to Premier David Eby and the British Columbia Legislature reaffirming the three previous recommendations that were sent to the Province in July 2024 regarding wind farms:

July 18, 2024

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

“That the Regional Board request that the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation undertake a study on the cumulative impacts of wind farms within the Peace River Region to understand the effects of the disturbance to the land base and to inform future decisions on wind farm siting and volume.”

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

“That the Regional Board request that the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation require proponents to prepare and submit reclamation and responsible asset disposal plans as part of the approval process for wind farm development to ensure appropriate end of lifecycle planning is in place for wind farms in the Peace River Regional District.”

MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED,

“That the Regional Board request that the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation enter into an economic impact benefit agreement with the Peace River Regional District for wind farms located in the Peace River Regional District.”

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diverse. vast. abundant.

Northern British Columbia hosts a significant proportion of the province's wind farms and the Regional Board feels these matters need to be addressed.

The PRRD looks forward to responses to these requests.

Sincerely,

Leonard Hiebert

Leonard Hiebert
Chair

c: BC Legislature officeoftheclerk@leg.bc.ca
Larry Neufeld, South Peace MLA, Larry.Neufeld.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Jordan Kealy, North Peace MLA, Jordan.Kealy.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Bob Zimmer, MP, Bob.Zimmer@parl.gc.ca

REPLY TO: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca