



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: ADM-BRD-123

From: Shawn Dahlen, Chief Administrative Officer

Date: January 14, 2021

Subject: Site C Community Measures Agreement (CMA) Update

RECOMMENDATION: *[Corporate Unweighted]*

That the Regional Board receive the report titled "Site C Community Measures Agreement Update – ADM-BRD-123," which provides an update on the negotiations progress, for information.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

In accordance with Board direction, Chair Sperling along with staff, legal counsel, and consulting support, (the team) have continued negotiations with BC Hydro regarding a Community Measures Agreement (CMA) in relation to the Site C Clean Energy Project (Site C). The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board on the progress of negotiations.

The Peace River Regional Districts' (PRRD) requests to BC Hydro are captured in the attached document. Through the fall of 2020 and during the first week of January 2021, Chair Sperling and team have met with BC Hydro representatives on three occasions to discuss the PRRD's requests, and provide additional supporting information substantiating the requests. There has been progress toward an agreement on a number of the PRRD's requests. During the January 2021 meeting, BC Hydro representatives indicated that a more formal and comprehensive letter outlining BC Hydro's response would be forthcoming in early February 2021. This will include responses to two of the PRRD's substantial financial compensation requests in relation to solid waste (landfilling and recycling), and lost property taxation revenue. The comprehensive BC Hydro response in early February will be followed by continued negotiations.

On January 5, 2021, the PRRD received a request from BC Hydro seeking feedback on a proposed amendment to the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate which envisions hauling of excavated material from the 85th Avenue lands industrial area to the dam site by truck, rather than by the conveyor system. Hauling could occur for up to seven months per year over a period of three years, and would involve up to 122 large trucks per hour using Old Fort, 240 and 269 Roads. This represents a very serious concern to residents and to the PRRD from many perspectives, including traffic volumes, safety, dust and noise. Chair Sperling, staff and legal/consulting support will be responding to this significant development in two ways. First, the prior request to BC Hydro for a financial arrangement recognizing the special effects of Site C being experienced in Electoral Area C of the PRRD will be recast in light of the more pronounced effects which will be felt through additional hauling. Second, a thorough response to BC Hydro's proposed environmental assessment certificate amendment, based on PRRD and the residents' perspectives will be prepared for submission to both the Environmental Assessment Office and BC Hydro.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☒ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. CMA Background Brief