

BC Hydro Integrated Resource Plan: First Nations Consultation

Castlegar – March 21, 2011

Fireside Inn

First Nation /Organization Attendees

Ktunaxa Nation Council Society

BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council

BC Hydro Representatives

Charlie Weiler

Project Manager, First Nations Consultation

Danielle Van Huizen

Note Taker

Neutral Facilitator

Dan George

Four Directions Management Services

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

The workshop began with Dan George acknowledging the traditional territory and welcoming everyone to the meeting. Dan then explained the format for the session as follows:

- Description of the Integrated Resource Plan;
- Overview of how an Integrated Resource Plan is developed;
- Presentation on the 6 topic areas related to the Integrated Resource Plan and a facilitated discussion on each.

What is an Integrated Resource Plan and how is it developed?

Charlie Weiler explained that the Integrated Resource Plan is BC Hydro's plan to meet the province's future electricity needs. Charlie then provided an explanation of how BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan is developed and the key things that energy planners need to consider when determining how BC Hydro will meet future demands for electricity. Participants were provided with a copy of BC Hydro's presentation for their reference.

Integrated Resource Plan Topics

Throughout the day separate presentations were made, by BC Hydro, which provided participants with details on each of the following topics:

- Conservation and Efficiency: Should BC Hydro pursue greater conservation and efficiency?
- Electrification: Should BC Hydro be proactive in promoting electrification?

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.

- Electricity Generation Options: When looking forward 20 years, what is the blend of currently available resources BC Hydro should consider when developing a portfolio to provide electricity on a province-wide scale?
- Transmission Planning: Should BC Hydro take a proactive approach in planning for transmission?
- Export Market Potential: Should BC Hydro acquire renewable energy from independent power producers for the sole purpose of exporting electricity to other jurisdictions?
- Clean or renewable energy development in First Nations' communities: One of British Columbia's energy objectives set out in the *Clean Energy Act* is to foster the development of First Nation and rural communities through the use and development of clean or renewable resources. What are First Nations' interests in clean or renewable energy development for their community?

In addition to the presentations, information on the above topics was provided in the *Integrated Resource Plan: First Nation Input Form*. Additional reference information was also provided in the *Planning for a Clean Energy Future* workbook.

The presentations were followed by facilitated discussions lead by Dan George. During the facilitated discussions First Nations input on these topics was sought so it could be considered by BC Hydro in the development of the Integrated Resource Plan.

Charlie Weiler explained to the participants that the BC Hydro note taker would not be attributing comments unless a specific request was made by a participant to have a comment attributed to their First Nation. A summary of the comments captured during the facilitated discussion and grouped under topic headings is provided below.

Participant Input

Conservation and Efficiency

BC Hydro would like to understand First Nations' perspectives on whether BC Hydro should pursue greater conservation and efficiency.

There were comments raised regarding the costs associated with conservation and efficiency as follows:

- It was indicated that the communities do not have the money to spend on upgrades and retrofits.
- Their community supports conservation and efficiency but are concerned with the stronger rate signals as their community is paying a lot for hydro already..

There were comments raised about the current conditions of the homes in their communities as follows:

- It was indicated that their homes were built a long time ago and are cold because of poor windows and insulation.

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.

- There was concern with the issue of radon in their homes as it may lead to health implications and the possibility of having their homes be condemned but they do not have the capital to upgrade their homes.
- It was felt that there needs to be incentives in place for new homes being built to meet conservation and efficiency.
- There was an issue raised with the building standards in the homes as they were built with electric heating because it was cheapest and easiest to install. However, the band offices need to take out the electric heating because it costs too much. The participant would like to see guidelines in place for how these houses should be designed to be more efficient and save money in the long term. People will be happy to discuss this if the resources are there.
- There was an interest in understanding the cause for the heat loss their homes as they do not have inspectors that come by to check the homes.

There was an interest in supporting communities by educating someone in their community to be the champion for conservation and efficiency. They would like to build their capacity so that a First Nation can be the voice for conservation and efficiency.

There was an interest in having funds made available to undertake retrofits. It was indicated that any homes under R20 insulation would qualify to be upgraded, however many of their houses are between R20 and R30. The concern is that R20 insulation is appropriate for Vancouver, but their community is very different from Vancouver.

One participant stated that if BC Hydro is serious about demand side management, they will have to be more committed and it will cost money. Incentives are very small in comparison to the costs. Their communities do not have the money and without funding, conservation will not happen.

It was noted that in their community the lights are on 24/7 with people staying with others due to homelessness. Televisions are on all the time and washing machines run a lot. None of these meet the efficiency standards.

There was an interest to have BC Hydro consider partnerships with First Nations.

Electrification

BC Hydro would like to understand First Nations' perspectives on whether BC Hydro should take a proactive approach to encouraging electrification.

One participant noted that it makes sense to pursue electrification because it would reduce greenhouse gases. Dirty coal is not a generation resource we should consider acquiring. However there was a concern that First Nations are already paying huge electricity bills.

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.

Electricity Generation Options

BC Hydro would like to understand First Nations' perspectives on the three example portfolio options: Renewable Mix without Site C; Renewable Mix with Site C; Mix of Renewables with Site C and Gas-fired Generation.

A participant noted that solar is expensive to install and very little comes out of it. A participant stated their area has one of the best solar resources in the province, but it is not the best option. It is too expensive. However, solar hot water could be a huge benefit.

A participant stated that there is a little bit of money in wind. Small hydro was identified as a need, but environmental impacts, including impacts on streams and fish is a concern. There is a concern that small hydro may have impacts on the streams and on the fish.

Regarding gas fired generation a participant does not believe that it is an efficient means of meeting peak demand.

With example Portfolio One - Renewable Mix with no Site C (i.e. run-of-river), it was indicated that it may come with development and activity within First Nations' territories. This will have impacts and environmental impacts should be avoided. However, there will also be jobs, which is of interest.

For example Portfolio One-Renewable Mix with no Site C, back-up could be regional storage facilities as they require less transmission lines and therefore would have lower environmental impacts.

Biomass was identified by one participant as a resource option of interest.

A participant did not want to say anything about Site C because it is in someone else's territory and was someone else's decision. It was stated that because Site C is in someone else's territory that BC Hydro needs to talk to them about it. There were also concerns about Site C, but it was stated by a participant that they are not necessarily opposed to it.

It was indicated that with the addition of Site C, there is less incentive for BC Hydro to purchase electricity from local projects that have less environmental impacts.

Regarding example Portfolio Three - Renewable Mix with Site C and Gas-Fired Generation (within 93 % *Clean Energy Act* target), a participant stated that gas or coal generation is generally not in their best interest and should be BC Hydro's last option if they cannot get it anywhere else. The participant stated that they would like to stay away from gas or coal if there is an interest in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Economic development was an important consideration in the discussion of the example portfolios:

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.

- There was an interest in more jobs in their communities and dispersed regional jobs. They would like to see job opportunities and apprenticeships for their young people and there was an interest in having those opportunities close to home.
- From a business perspective a participant noted that example Portfolio Three- Renewable Mix with Site C and Gas-Fired Generation (within 93 % *Clean Energy Act* target) has the lowest potential for their Nation to get involved.
- If either example Portfolio Two- Renewable Mix with Site C or Portfolio Three- Renewable Mix with Site C and Gas-Fired Generation (within 93 % *Clean Energy Act* target) were to go ahead, a participant hoped that BC Hydro would offset the loss of opportunity to the other First Nations by supporting economic development. Since their Nation would not have the direct opportunity to participate in the capital projects, they would hope that BC Hydro would support their community in different ways.
- It was suggested that BC Hydro could work a lot closer with First Nations on run-of-river projects if there is an interest in acquiring that generation. The revenue from those projects could be used to pursue energy efficient homes.

Transmission Planning

BC Hydro would like to understand First Nations' perspectives on whether BC Hydro should take a proactive approach to transmission planning.

It was noted that BC Hydro needs to speak to every First Nation and community in the province in order to understand all the interests and whether they are okay with the development in that area. It is important to get an understanding of the interests from every geographical area.

There was worry about the impact of transmission. It was stated that projects need to go through environmental impact assessments first.

A participant stated that if you are going to have a cluster of projects, it does make sense to take a proactive approach because in the end, it will cost less. The participant noted there is uncertainty whether all projects will be approved and developed.

It was stated that their community does not think there will be new transmission lines within their territory so they would have less of an issue with this. However, a participant thought that the proactive approach makes sense as it does not make sense to have transmission lines paralleling each other. The participant could not find reasons not to choose the proactive approach.

Export Market Potential

BC Hydro would like First Nations' perspectives on whether BC Hydro should build clean generation for the purpose of exporting electricity to other jurisdictions.

There was an interest in revenue sharing in relation to exports.

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.

A participant noted that there were pros and cons to export. There was concern that it would result in more independent power producers that may have an impact on the environment, however it could also provide jobs.

There was concern that BC Hydro controls the price for independent power producers and there are fewer opportunities for independent power producers to capture the real value of the projects.

Regarding the point on whether we import electricity from other jurisdictions, a participant indicated that it would depend what sources that power comes from and what the environmental impact will be from those sources.

Clean or Renewable Energy Development

BC Hydro would like to understand what First Nations' interests are in clean or renewable energy development in First Nation's communities.

A question was asked as to whether BC Hydro can support communities in exploring opportunities as they do not have the capacity to do the feasibility studies or research. If there is potential for renewable energy development in the 20 year plan they would like BC Hydro to help them in this.

It was noted how difficult it is for a community to get involved in clean energy projects as they are very complicated and there is very little expertise in this area.

There was an interest in seeing incentives for independent power producers to work with First Nations such as the requirement of 51% First Nations' participation. Another suggestion was to consider having a separate call for power specifically for First Nations.

It was noted that First Nations need to be a part of a potential project. It could be the difference between a project going forward or not.

It was indicated that there should be a province-wide agreement where a certain number of First Nations have ownership on projects. Another possibility could be First Nations ownership of transmission lines.

It was felt that there may be an opportunity for First Nations with the BC Hydro's Smart Metering program. It was suggested that a community can supplement their energy with solar or wind and if they generate more than they need they could sell it back.

Participants noted that they would like to see economic development in their community as follows:

- There was an interest in economic development at the local community level and local jobs and training. To a lot of people mobility is an objective, but it does not fit with rural people that have an attachment to the area.

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.

- One participant stated that their Nation does not have a single member working for BC Hydro.
- A participant shared their frustration with the lack of assistance from BC Hydro on how to become qualified for positions within BC Hydro. They would like to understand what it is that BC Hydro is looking for.
- Another participant stated that their community is looking for an overarching opportunity and not just one hire.
- First Nation job creation has to be a higher priority. A participant indicated that their Nation is also getting ready to make First Nation jobs within BC Hydro a priority.

Attributed Comments

There is an issue of past projects and past infringements. There is destruction of archaeological sites and we have raised the issue of revenue sharing. Also, the issue of consultation and past grievances was raised in Vancouver in September but you are still going about it the same way even though we felt differently. – Bob Luke, Ktunaxa Nation Council Society

BC First Nations Energy and Mining Council (BCFNEMC)

The BCFNEMC introduced themselves and noted that they will be participating in all nine Integrated Resource Plan sessions. They also noted that they have a representative on the Technical Advisory Committee. They described their role in the process as follows:

- To speak to issues or formulate positions on issues that are relevant to all First Nations;
- To support and facilitate participation in the meetings and to provide a voice on behalf of those First Nations and Tribal Councils that cannot or choose not to participate. They noted that they are not attending meetings to replace First Nations engagement and they do not purport to represent any First Nation
- At the end of all the sessions they will compile a formal response to BC Hydro on their perspective of the process and the issues they have heard.

Where comments were made by the BCFNEMC on specific topics in the session, they are included in these summary notes.

Requests

The following information requests were made during the workshop and have been recorded for follow up purposes.

1. To have notification about the draft plans come directly to the participants who attended the meeting.
2. To have information on whether BC Hydro has a measure of how they rate their success in terms of meeting the plan itself.
3. Consider holding the next regional workshop in Cranbrook.

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.

Summary and Wrap-up

Dan George thanked the participants for attending the workshop and providing their input and perspectives.

Charlie Weiler outlined next steps in the consultation process and additional opportunities for First Nations to participate in the development of BC Hydro's Integrated Resource Plan as follows:

- Attend upcoming public open houses and stakeholder meetings;
- Provide written comments;
- Visit the BC Hydro website: www.bchydro.com/irp

Participants were provided BC Hydro's brochure containing information about opportunities with BC Hydro including employment, business, sponsorship and donations, remote community electrification as well as information on energy savings kits.

This summary of First Nation input is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the workshop.