

Honourable Bob Zimmer
MP for Prince George—Peace River
9916 100th Avenue
Fort St. John, British Columbia, V1J 1Y5

Honourable Peter Kent
Minister of Environment
10 Wellington Street, 28th Floor
Gatineau, Quebec, K1A 0H3

Dear Minister Kent,

Re: CEAA Full Panel Review Request for Proposed Site C Dam on the Peace River in Northeast British Columbia

I am writing to request that BC Hydro's proposed Site C Dam, on the Peace River in north-eastern British Columbia, be subject to a full panel federal environmental assessment (EA).

The project has recently been submitted for a provincial EA; however, the scope of the provincial process does not provide the opportunity to fully and adequately assess the diverse array of issues associated with this project.

This is a mega-project that spans multiple jurisdictions. It will affect residents, navigable waterways, fisheries, wildlife, agriculture and First Nations' abilities to exercise their treaty rights in British Columbia, Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The proposed dam would destroy third-generation family farms. It would flood over 11,000 acres of agricultural land, including over 7,000 acres of exceptionally high quality Class 1 and Class 2 agricultural land, capable of a substantial contribution to future local food sustainability. It would also severely impact the narrowest point of the Yellowstone to Yukon wildlife conservation corridor and destroy unique ecosystems, species and microclimates of the Peace River Valley.

In addition to the known environmental impacts, there is considerable concern regarding the instability of the clay-lined banks that comprise the proposed dam site and reservoir area. The proposed 83 km long reservoir has notoriously unstable banks, with four major landslides having occurred in the past century. To date, BC Hydro's engineering reports have not provided assurance that this critical issue can be managed effectively. The slope instability could lead to a compromised reservoir and even dam failure, with catastrophic results; obliterating several downstream communities, bridges, gas and oil pipelines, and electrical transmission lines.

There are many viable alternatives that can provide the energy required to meet the needs of British Columbians that are both more cost effective and far less detrimental to our natural environment. Options to be considered include: wind, geothermal, upgrading of existing facilities close to the greatest sources of demand, and energy conservation. A full panel federal EA is the process required to adequately consider not only the environmental impacts of this highly controversial project, but also the need for, and effective alternatives to, meeting the energy needs of British Columbia now and in the future.

It is your mandate to protect the Canadian environment from unreasonable human activity, and to protect humans from unacceptable environmental risk. With that in mind, I am asking you to please ensure that BC Hydro's Proposed Site C Dam project and transmission development on the Peace River is subjected to a full panel review under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Sincerely,