

## Slot, Aliana

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**From:** Cass, Emily  
**Sent:** 2014, September 25 10:58 AM  
**To:** ltsakoza76@hotmail.com  
**Cc:** Proverbs, Trevor; Mullard, Joanna; McConnell, Seanna; JRichert@treaty8.bc.ca; lands.rtsakoza@prophetriverfn.ca  
**Subject:** Site C | Letter re Mitigation  
**Attachments:** STC-PROP-Letter-LTsakoza-EIS Mitigation Requirements-TProverbs-2014Sep24.pdf  
**Categories:** Green Category, Yellow Category

Good morning Chief Tsakoza,

Kindly see attached a letter dated September 24, 2014 from Trevor Proverbs respecting EIS mitigation measures.

Respectfully,  
Emily.

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### Emily Cass

Aboriginal Relations Project Analyst,  
Site C Clean Energy Project

### BC Hydro

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BC Hydro Site C Project  
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September 24, 2014

Chief Lynette Tsakoza  
Prophet River First Nation  
PO Box 3250  
Fort Nelson, BC V0C 1R0

By: Email

Dear Chief Tsakoza

As you may be aware, a decision on the issuance of an Environmental Assessment Certificate by the Province and a decision statement from the Federal government on the Site C Project (Project) are anticipated by late October 2014. If approved, construction of the Project is subject to regulatory permits and authorizations, and other approvals before it can proceed to construction.

In Section 19 of the EIS, BC Hydro proposed mitigations for the potential effects to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes. Those mitigations included mitigations proposed in Sections 12 to 14 of the EIS on Fish and Fish Habitat, Vegetation and Ecological Communities, and Wildlife Resources. Many of these proposed mitigations include collaboration with Aboriginal groups to gather information and seek input

In its May 1, 2014 report, the Joint Review Panel made 50 recommendations, 37 of which were directed at BC Hydro. Again, many of these recommendations suggest that BC Hydro work with Aboriginal groups to gather information. BC Hydro anticipates that, should the Project be approved, some or all of these recommendations, along with mitigations proposed in the EIS, will form part of any conditions that may be attached to the provincial Environmental Assessment Certificate and federal decision statement

In anticipation of potential Project conditions, BC Hydro is beginning to prepare construction and mitigation plans that would incorporate its approach to implementing the EIS mitigations. BC Hydro would like to consult with your community on these plans through the fall of 2014. Building on our previous engagement with your community, the purpose of this letter is to highlight the areas of the EIS mitigations and JRP recommendations that specifically address the incorporation of information from Aboriginal groups and to invite your community to provide BC Hydro with any relevant additional information for our consideration in preparing the plans.

## **1. Proposed mitigations: Ground truthing**

The following mitigations were proposed by BC Hydro in section 19 of the EIS to mitigate potential project effects to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes for hunting, fishing and other cultural uses of the land during construction and operations:

*Work with Aboriginal groups to ground truth traditional and use information for specific areas within the Project activity zone prior to commencing construction, e.g., when determining the exact location of an access road.*

*Work with Aboriginal groups to identify permanent habitation structures used in the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes that may be lost to inundation.*

The Joint Review Panel's recommendation #40 also highlighted the need to continue the ground truthing initiative with respect to burial sites.

As construction on the Project could start in the proposed dam site area as early as January 2015 and as mentioned in its letter dated February 13, 2014 respecting BC Hydro's approach to future consultation, BC Hydro is interested in working with your community to ground truth traditional and other land use information in that area prior to the start of construction. The purpose of this initiative is to identify and verify important sites (e.g., burial, cultural, ceremonial, habitation, medicinal and food plants) within the proposed dam site area. BC Hydro has identified **the weeks of October 14-17 and October 20-24, 2014** to conduct ground truthing at the proposed dam site and would like to invite your community to participate in the exercise. BC Hydro will have an archaeologist as well as other members of the BC Hydro team available, and is prepared to provide funding to support participation by community members.

BC Hydro also wishes to discuss carrying out ground truthing in other areas located within the Project activity zone, such as along the proposed transmission line and areas that will be cleared for the reservoir, prior to commencing construction. In addition to identification of permanent habitation sites, BC Hydro would also be interested in those used on a temporary basis, and in areas identified as having high value for hunting, fishing and trapping, as well as gathering and other cultural uses of the land.

## **2. Proposed mitigations: Vegetation and Ecological Communities**

The following mitigations were proposed by BC Hydro in section 19 of the EIS to mitigate potential project effects to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes for other cultural uses of the land during construction and operations:

*Work with Aboriginal groups to identify potential sites for relocation of medicinal and food plants to compensate for areas that will be inundated.*

*Engage with Aboriginal groups around any reclamation phase that may present opportunities to restore ecological communities that support species of high traditional use value.*

BC Hydro wishes to engage with your community about potential sites for relocation of medicinal and food plants in areas that would be inundated. Some of this information may be identified in the ground truthing initiative described above, and BC Hydro remains interested in discussing this topic further with your community.

### **3. Proposed mitigations: Cultural Resources**

The following mitigations were proposed by BC Hydro in section 19 of the EIS to mitigate potential project effects to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes for other cultural uses of the land during construction and operations:

*Establish a Culture and Heritage Resources Committee to provide advice and guidance on the mitigation of specific effects of the Project on culture and heritage resources. The Committee would consist of BC Hydro officials and Aboriginal members whose communities are in the immediate vicinity of the Project.*

BC Hydro views that the Culture and Heritage Resources Committee described above would be an ideal mechanism through which consultation on the following section 19 mitigation measures could be carried out:

*Consider implementing, in consultation with Aboriginal groups and British Columbia where appropriate, the following potential initiatives:*

- *The identification and naming of key cultural sites and the potential to integrate Aboriginal names into Project operations and sites;*
- *Recording of stories and history associated with key cultural sites that may be affected by the Project;*
- *The protection and documentation, including mapping, of important Aboriginal trails and sites;*
- *Contribute funding to support a youth culture camp that includes transfer of knowledge around medicinal and food plants;*
- *Engage with Aboriginal groups to commemorate the lost and submerged places;*
- *Engage with Aboriginal groups around potential plans to undertake ceremonies prior to the commencement of construction on key elements of the Project; and*
- *Develop and implement an education program respecting Aboriginal culture, history and use of lands and resources in the Project Area to be offered to all workers on the Project.*

In order to establish the Culture and Heritage Resources Committee, BC Hydro would like your community to nominate two individuals to participate on the committee. BC Hydro is prepared to provide an honourarium and to cover associated travel costs for Committee members. BC Hydro would like to schedule the first meeting of the Culture and Heritage Resources Committee for early November 2014. Please advise as to the names of the two individuals, and how best to contact them.

#### **4. Proposed mitigations: Construction Communications Plan**

The following mitigations were proposed by BC Hydro in section 19 of the EIS to mitigate potential project effects to the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, and apply to fishing, hunting and trapping, and other uses of the land during construction and operations:

*Develop a communications program to inform harvesters of planned or unplanned events related to construction activities that may affect fishing opportunities or access.*

*Develop a communications program to inform harvesters of planned or unplanned events related to construction activities that may affect hunting opportunities or access.*

*Develop a communications program to inform harvesters of planned or unplanned events that may affect opportunities to harvest plants, berries, and other resources.*

BC Hydro is now preparing an Aboriginal Groups Communication Plan, and anticipates that this plan will be available for review by Aboriginal Groups in October 2014. In developing the plan, it would be useful for BC Hydro to know how your community would like to be informed of construction-related activities that may affect opportunities to hunt, fish and trap, or use the land in the Project area in other ways.

As described above and in previous communications, BC Hydro remains interested in consulting with your communities on the mitigations and environmental management plans associated with the Site C Project. If your community would like to have further discussion on any of the items listed above, or on other topics, we would be pleased to arrange a meeting to discuss and incorporate your input into the draft plans currently under development. Please contact Seanna McConnell, Senior Negotiator, at 604.695.5263, or by email at [Seanna.McConnell@bchydro.com](mailto:Seanna.McConnell@bchydro.com) to arrange a meeting to discuss any of the initiatives identified above.

Sincerely,



Trevor Proverbs  
Director, First Nations Engagement

Cc: Robin Tsakoza, Lands Department, PRFN  
Brian Wolf, Lands Department, PRFN  
Jeff Richert, Natural Resource Management Advisor, T8TA  
Seanna McConnell, Senior Negotiator, Site C First Nations Engagement  
Joanna Mullard, Senior Negotiator, Site C First Nations Engagement