


August 10, 2017



The Secretary Site C Hearings.

Dear Sir/Madam;

This is my submission to the terms of reference set out for the Site C Inquiry.

My intention is to address questions b, c and d as described in the Terms of Reference.

The wisest leaders throughout the world make best use of whatever assets that they have to grow their economy to make the best living standards possible for the people they represent. Perhaps the simplest model of that action is Singapore. A tiny country with no resources. We all know of their success story of harnessing education and human potential. They have used what they have to drive their economy and thus their standard of living. An example is South Korea. Without natural resources and devastated by a war, the country has transformed itself into an industrial giant. By using human capital and education and really working hard they are another true success story. They too have used the assets available.

In British Columbia we have natural resources including the potential to generate hydroelectric energy. I will not use a lot of words to convince you of the virtues of hydro electric generation over that of other forms of energy. To create this energy it is a high capital cost and there is often, as in this case, a large reservoir created to store energy. After those factors we have 12 months a year of reliable clean and very renewable energy at very low operating costs and zero emissions for a very long time. Having these sources of energy make us the envy of the world.

When you build such an energy source you are building for the long term. Unless you are a terrible planner you are not building for today. A British Columbia case in point. Alcan built the Kemano hydroelectric generating station in the early 50's. Eight hundred megawatts of energy at a time when energy was readily available elsewhere. Up until the 70's the decision to build this facility was questioned and often thought of as a bad business decision. Since the 70's the proponents of this project have been described as far sighted brilliant people. The very low cost of production of Kemano energy drives the new Kitimat smelter with a 1000 direct high paying jobs and a large export of finished and semi finished goods into the international markets. We are using our available asset to drive the economy.

Site C will be Kemano on steroids. It will initially push BC Hydro into a surplus position for energy. But this is not boutique energy. It does not rely on the wind to blow or seasonable, terribly expensive run of the river energy. Rather, this is energy we count on being there.

The cost to the taxpayer of suspending or terminating this project would be a terrible burden. We would be the case study for the world on how not to plan for the future. Our competitors around the world (yes, competitors) who struggle with coal emissions and availability of energy would be stunned by our stupidity not to proceed to completion of this project right now.

In summary;

We are building for the long term. Not today.

Hydroelectric energy is the cleanest and has few downsides in it's creation and operation.

Boutique and unreliable sources are expensive and cannot be counted on to be there when you need the energy.

Following years of study and analysis a decision was made to build this project. The taxpayers should not shoulder the burden of a suspension or termination of such a project. To do so would make us the laughing stock of our competitors in world commerce.

Respectfully submitted

Eric S. Sykes

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