
TITLE: Site C Hydroelectric Dam on the Peace River

SUBJECT: Lands and Resources/Environmental Assessment

MOVED BY: Stewart Phillip, Proxy, Penticton Indian Band, BC

SECONDED BY: Chief Frances Lacey, Tribal Chair, Carrier Chilcotin Tribal Council

DECISION: Carried by Consensus

WHEREAS:

- A. The province of British Columbia announced on April 19th, 2010 its intention to move forward with the Site C Hydroelectric Project on the Peace River in BC. This project will have a devastating effect on the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights of Treaty 8 First Nations in British Columbia, Alberta and the NWT and the Treaty No. 11 peoples of the NWT.
- B. The Treaty and Aboriginal rights of these Nations have already been infringed and their treaty protected modes of life interfered with by the devastation of vast amounts of wetlands and critical wildlife habitat by the construction and operation of the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon Dams.
- C. The Government of British Columbia and its crown agency, BC Hydro, refuse to acknowledge Crown responsibility for these ongoing infringements; and the Government of Canada has failed to use existing federal laws to protect and safeguard the rights of Treaty peoples from these ongoing infringements.
- D. The environmental assessment processes of both the provincial and federal governments are insufficient to properly address ecosystem integrity, climate change impacts, agricultural security, provincial financial implications or energy needs.
- E. Article 32(2) of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples requires States to consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples in order to obtain their free and informed consent

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prior to the approval of any project. Article 32(3) of the Declaration also requires States to “provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact”.

- F. Treaty 8 First Nations (Doig River, Halfway River, Prophet River and West Moberly) will use all available processes and legal options to oppose the construction of the Site C Hydroelectric Dam.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Fully support the efforts of Treaty 8 First Nations to ensure that their Aboriginal and Treaty rights are honored and preserved.
2. Mandate the National Chief and AFN Secretariat to advocate to the BC government, Canada and the United Nations to ensure there is full consultation and accommodation of all Treaty First Nations through a fair, open and transparent process. Such a process needs to include sufficient resources to look at the potential impacts of the Site C Hydroelectric Dam on the Peace River on the traditional, environmental, social and economic interests of Treaty First Nations, and mitigation to ensure that there is no net impact on Aboriginal and Treaty rights – or denial of approval of the dam if such impacts cannot be mitigated.
3. Mandate the National Chief and AFN Secretariat to advocate to the government of California to retain their Green Energy Import Standards.
4. Direct the AFN to assist Treaty First Nations in their efforts to oppose the Site C Hydroelectric Dam.
5. Direct the National Chief and AFN Secretariat to advocate for a fully funded, full panel review of the environmental assessment process of the Site C Hydroelectric Dam involving the Federal Government and taking into consideration all impacts in British Columbia, Alberta, and the Northwest Territories.

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