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Province of British Columbia Legislative Assembly



John Horgan, MLA (Juan de Fuca)

May 31, 2017

Jessica McDonald President and CEO BC Hydro 333 Dunsmuir St. Vancouver, BC V6B 5R3

Dear Ms. McDonald,

I write to you today to express my concern regarding impacts on the community of Bear Flat, the West Moberly First Nation, the Prophet River First Nation, and other families and communities impacted by the government's decision to expropriate lands for the advancement of Site C.

I note that BC Hydro has recently extended the residential leases for the Boon and Meek/Jardine families by one month beyond the May 31st eviction date. While this is a welcome respite, I believe there is no demonstrated short term need to force these families from their homes, and because the status of the next governments of British Columbia are uncertain, the threat of imminent removal of residents from their expropriated homes and property is unreasonable.

I note that the majority of British Columbians who voted in this election voted for parties that want to see the Site C project reviewed or stopped. The BC NDP position is that the Site C project should be independently reviewed by the British Columbia Utilities Commission.

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Given what the Premier has characterized as a probable change in government over the coming weeks, we urge BC Hydro to suspend the evictions from these lands and grant a further extension on the timeline so that impacted families can stay in their homes until the future of Site C is firmly determined.

Similarly I am concerned at the potential to increase the liability of BC Hydro, BC Hydro ratepayers and taxpayers for new contracts that BC Hydro may be contemplating during this time of uncertainty regarding future governments and what new decisions may be made regarding Site C. We urge BC Hydro not to finalize any contracts that do not contain a penalty-free cancellation clause until a new government has gained the confidence of the legislature to govern and decide future policy regarding the Site C project.

Sincerely,

John J. Horgan

John Horgan, MLA Leader, BCNDP

Cc. Premier Christy Clark Andrew Weaver, Leader, BC Green Party Ken & Arlene Boon