

For Immediate Release

September 9, 2014

**Expert and Independent BC Utilities Commission Review Required Before  
\$ 7.9 Billion Spent on Site C**

HUDSON'S HOPE, BRITISH COLUMBIA – Today the District of Hudson's Hope held a briefing on the proposed \$ 7.9 billion Site C Dam on the Peace River (Site C) releasing a backgrounder which sets out the reasons why Site C must be reviewed by the B.C. Utilities Commission.

The BC government is currently considering a confidential Site C report prepared by the government Environmental Assessment Office. To date, the BC government has refused to refer Site C to the B.C. Utilities Commission and is expected to decide whether to give the go ahead to the dam before October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

Hudson's Hope Mayor, Gwen Johansson notes:

“The BC government is considering committing British Columbia taxpayers and ratepayers to what could well be the largest public infrastructure expenditure in a generation: the estimated \$7.9 billion Site C dam.

However, despite repeated requests, the government is refusing to allow the B.C. Utilities Commission to conduct an independent and expert review of whether Site C is needed, or what this project might actually cost British Columbians.”

The only independent review to date, which was conducted by the federal/provincial Joint Review Panel, found that:

- 1) the need for Site C has not been established;
- 2) the cost estimates and rate impacts for Site C could not be verified and need further scrutiny;
- 3) Site C should not proceed without expert and independent review of the Project by the B.C. Utilities Commission.

In July, Hudson's Hope released a report by Urban Systems Ltd., *A Review of the Proposed Site C Clean Energy Project: Exploring the Alternatives* and called on Premier Christy Clark to refer Site C to the B.C. Utilities Commission. Mayor Gwen Johansson notes:

“Our review of the Joint Review Panel findings, and the Urban Systems Report we commissioned, suggests alternatives to Site C could save billions of dollars in capital costs. British Columbians deserve an open, independent and expert review of the alternatives by the B.C. Utilities Commission.

We are therefore asking, once again, that before destroying the remainder of the Peace River valley and adding a further \$ 7.9 billion to the provincial debt for this project, that the BC government refer Site C to the BC Utilities Commission for an independent review - as per the Commission's long-established mandate as well as the recommendation of the Joint Review Panel."

[Backgrounder on B.C. Utilities Commission Review of Proposed Site C Dam Project](#)

[Urban Systems Ltd. Report, A Review of the Proposed Site C Clean Energy Project: Exploring the Alternatives](#)

For more information on the Urban Systems Report, contact John Kenney at 250-374-8311 or 250-819-5771

To contact Mayor Gwen Johansson, call 250-783-0820 or 250-686-6887