



Summary Report

March 7, 9 & 15, 2023

Virtual Engagements with Indigenous Nations in Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs)

Report authored by Mahihkan Management on behalf of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation and BC Hydro.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low Carbon Innovation (the Ministry) in partnership with BC Hydro, convened a series of Indigenous engagement sessions in March 2023 with Indigenous Nations who have communities in Non-Integrated Areas.

The series was broken down into three engagement sessions and involved representatives from the provincial government, BC Hydro, and members of various Indigenous Nations and organizations in BC. It was supported by an Indigenous facilitator, technical advisors, and notetakers from Mahihkan Management.

To meet the objectives, each engagement session included an in-depth presentation from either the Ministry or BC Hydro, followed by structured discussion periods with a set of questions to encourage conversation.

Over the course of the engagements, feedback was gathered from representatives of 22 Indigenous Nations and organizations.

Key Feedback

Indigenous participants in every session emphasized the need for resources and time in order to contribute effectively, especially as many Indigenous offices are juggling multiple projects and requests related to decarbonizing energy. Even if resources were not an issue, it places an undue burden upon Indigenous Nations if they are given limited time to provide their responses – and this is exacerbated by simultaneous requests.

Overall, a lack of capacity was cited as a significant barrier to fully participating in this field and its related consultations. Participants requested that the Ministry and BC Hydro cultivate a deeper understanding of the resources that are needed for Indigenous Nations to participate in such engagements, both prior to and during engagement sessions. There is time spent beforehand in reviewing relevant documentation, in addition to the time spent in the engagement sessions themselves, which can put a strain on already under-staffed offices.

If meaningful participation is the goal, then steps must be taken to avoid the consultation fatigue that many Indigenous Nations are currently experiencing. Participants specifically noted that capacity funding to access legal resources would be extremely beneficial, especially for engagements that are highly technical or demanding. Related to this lack of capacity and legal support, there was considerable support for the creation of an Indigenous body that assists Indigenous Nations in processes like accessing legal advice, business planning, technical experts, etc. If the Ministry and BC Hydro wish to encourage engagement and meaningfully support Indigenous Nations, then they must go beyond incentives to attend meetings.

INTRODUCTION

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (the Ministry) and BC Hydro partnered to deliver engagement sessions on the development of policy proposals and potential regulatory changes. The feedback received through these sessions will assist in the formation of ideas to support the decarbonization of Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs) while honouring the Province and BC Hydro's ongoing commitments to Indigenous peoples.

The Ministry and BC Hydro convened a series of engagement sessions in March 2023 with Indigenous Nations who are located within Non-Integrated Areas. The series included three engagement sessions, opportunities to submit written feedback, and an ongoing invitation to schedule one-on-one conversations. The engagement involved representatives from the provincial government, BC Hydro, and members of various BC Indigenous Nations and organizations. It was supported by an Indigenous facilitator, technical advisors, and notetakers from Mahihkan Management.

The Indigenous participants from BC included staff and elected representatives from Indigenous governments, and organizations. The full list of participants, along with speakers and support staff, can be found in Appendix II at the end of the report.

OBJECTIVES

Each engagement session had its own objectives. The primary purpose of the first session on March 7, 2023, was for the Ministry to review policy issues associated with renewable energy generation projects in NIA communities. The Ministry also solicited questions about existing regulatory tools and sought feedback on parameters for regulatory support.

The aim of the second engagement session on March 9, 2023, was for BC Hydro to introduce their NIA Strategy and the options BC Hydro has been considering for the NIA Long Term Resource Plan Framework (LTRP). They also discussed how Indigenous Nations can be involved and supported.

The objective for March 15, 2023, was for the Ministry and BC Hydro to present their summary from the past two engagements. The Ministry reviewed tools for potential regulatory changes and BC Hydro reviewed the potential Non-Integrated Area Strategy and the Long-Term Resource Planning Framework. Both parties also reviewed comments and questions received during the previous sessions and presented some follow-up discussion questions.

ENGAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND OVERVIEW

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3
March 7, 2023	March 9, 2023	March 15, 2023

Table 1 – Virtual Engagement Dates

The initial invitation e-mails were sent on February 8, 2023, to 66 contacts from Indigenous Nations. The reminder registration e-mails were then sent on February 22, 2023.

The result was 22 Indigenous Nations and organizations participating in the engagement sessions, with a total of 34 participants across the whole series. Every Nation with a non-integrated area sent at least one representative to at least one of the three sessions.

	Number of Nations	Number of Participants
Session 1 – The Ministry	16	23
Session 2 – BC Hydro	17	22
Session 3 – Report Back	16	18

Table 2 - Participant Details per Session

To meet the objectives, each engagement session included an in-depth presentation from either the Ministry or BC Hydro, followed by discussion periods with a set of questions to encourage structured conversation. Each session began with a welcome from the facilitator and an opening from an Indigenous Elder to set the tone for the day. Introductions and land acknowledgements were then made by representatives from the Ministry and BC Hydro.

Presentation – Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

The first session of the engagement series featured a presentation from the Ministry. A representative from the Community Clean Energy Branch spoke alongside a presentation entitled *Provincial Engagement with Indigenous Remote Communities in Non-Integrated Areas*. They shared a brief overview on the engagement process in Spring and Summer of 2023, as well as background information on the CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES).

The Ministry presentation included the following:

1. Engagement Process
2. CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy
3. Policy Issues in Non-Integrated Areas
4. Regulatory Tools
5. Engagement Next Steps
6. Discussion Questions

The CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) is a multi-stakeholder initiative to reduce diesel electricity generation and heating in remote communities by 80% by 2030. The speaker then defined remote communities as those that are not connected to the integrated grid but instead use micro-grids, either operated by the community or Nation themselves, BC Hydro, or another utility provider. There are 14 Non-Integrated Areas served by BC Hydro. NIA communities represent 85% of provincial diesel consumption.

The speaker emphasized that this conversation was a continuation of previous engagement. They shared an overview of the virtual gatherings and sessions that occurred in Summer 2020 and Spring 2021, and noted that the previous engagement sessions covered the following topics:

1. Capacity Building
2. Energy Efficiency
3. Renewable Energy
4. Emerging Topics: Food Security

The speaker also provided background information on the RCES Working Group and RCES Action Plan. The Ministry has been working to transform the recommendations from the RCES Working Group into an Action Plan for the Ministry.

The speaker then outlined the potential need for regulatory support, highlighting the uncertainty of project approval as a primary reason. The speaker presented the following table of policy issues that was included in the briefing material for the session.

	Policy Issue	Description
1	Uncertainty of Project Approval	New renewable options may cost substantially more in comparison to the average BC Hydro diesel cost of energy which could pose a problem to the BCUC to approve new Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs). That being said, there are other compelling reasons to approve these projects, for example advancing reconciliation and supporting climate action.
2	Cost of Upgrades	System upgrades are required when connecting remote energy projects to the BC Hydro micro-grid. The cost of upgrades can be considerable and are not usually included in project cost estimates. BC Hydro's current practice is that the proponents cover 100% of the system upgrade costs. How these costs will be recovered is currently under review. ¹
3	Unexpected Costs	Feasibility studies are required at various stages of clean energy project development in NIA communities. These studies present unexpected funding gaps for Indigenous Nations. There is debate about how to best cover these costs.
4	Uncertainty of Purchase Price	Indigenous Nations have described the difficulty of assessing the business case for clean energy projects when the purchase price for

¹ BC Hydro provided the following clarity on this policy: "Proponents secure those costs incurred by BC Hydro until such time as BC Hydro has received sufficient revenue to offset the costs it has incurred."

		clean energy is unknown. The uncertainty can lead to delays and increased costs, especially if there is also uncertainty around funding for capital costs.
5	Purchase Price Amount	Purchase prices may not be sufficient for covering the costs of clean energy development. There is an open question as to whether they should reflect Provincial reconciliation objectives which note the importance of economic development opportunities for Indigenous nations.

Following the summary of policy issues, the speaker offered more context regarding some regulatory tools that the Ministry could use to ensure the timely advancement of renewable energy projects. The list of regulatory tools included the following:

- An amendment to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation (GGRR) under Section 18 of the Clean Energy Act
- An exemption under Section 22 of the *Utilities Commission Act*
- A direction to the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) under Section 3 of the *Utilities Commission Act*

The speaker acknowledged limitations of the above regulatory tools, namely that they would not involve immediate changes to legislation to provide the BCUC with a robust decision-making framework regarding renewable energy projects in NIAs, but rather provide an interim measure to expedite those projects. The speaker further mentioned that discussions regarding the need for legislative changes are being addressed through the Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities (ICEO) process, co-lead by the Ministry and the First Nation Energy and Mining Council.

The speaker then outlined some potential parameters for regulatory support, including:

- Project Timing
- Type of Project
- Project Cost
- Project Ownership Structure
- Ratepayer Recovery

The Ministry is looking for input on the types of parameters that should be included in their recommended guidance to government.

To conclude the presentation, participants were then given the following three questions to consider, followed by three engagement questions.

Regulatory Questions:

1. Have the policy issues been appropriately characterized?
2. Do you have questions regarding the regulatory tools available?
3. What information would you like the Ministry to take into account as it considers options for regulatory support?

Engagement Questions:

1. What does meaningful engagement on these topics look like?
2. How would you like to be involved in the regulatory process moving forward?
3. What information do you need to participate fully?

Presentation – BC Hydro

Maureen Daschuk, BC Hydro's Executive Vice President, initiated the second engagement session series by welcoming everyone and making a brief presentation. She was unable to remain for the entire meeting. The second session then featured an in-depth presentation from BC Hydro. A representative from the Integrated Planning, Regulatory and Indigenous Relations team spoke alongside a presentation titled *BC Hydro's Non-Integrated Area Strategy & Long-Term Resource Plan Framework*. They shared a brief overview of what BC Hydro has been doing since 2018 and highlighted that the Non-Integrated Area Strategy & Long-Term Resource Plan Framework would outline a proposed regulatory approach being submitted to the Commission in Spring 2023. The speaker informed the participants that this session was the first of several opportunities to discuss these topics.

The BC Hydro presentation consisted of the following:

1. Information on BC Hydro's Recent Work
2. NIA Strategy and the 3 Key Pillars
3. Long-Term Resource Planning
4. New Regulatory Approach: Long-Term Resource Plan Framework
5. Continued Engagement and Next Steps

The speaker provided some background on CleanBC and the Ministry in terms of their shared primary goals. The work has largely focused on advancing community-scale clean energy projects with Nations, including working with Nations and their designers, developing technical standards, and creating working groups with governments to align program funding and policies. The work also includes supporting universities and research institutes that are exploring impacts of emerging technologies on existing operations, and working to advance projects while modifying the way that BC Hydro does business in order to learn how to be a better partner. BC Hydro's work has extended beyond just supporting communities in the renewable energy projects. Further on, the speaker expanded on BC Hydro's Non-Integrated Demand Side Management, BC Hydro's work with government and partners, and the goal to improve reliability and infrastructure upgrades. BC Hydro is implementing a program to upgrade the communication and control systems of the larger NIAs, that will provide BC Hydro with the ability to control and monitor their diesel station and to help reduce the frequency of shortages and outages.

The representative stated that BC Hydro's strategy to provide clean, affordable energy is anchored in the goal to reduce the reliance on diesel generation in the non-integrated by 80% by 2030 in alignment with the CleanBC target. BC Hydro is aware that in order to properly address the needs of their customers, they must address reliability and affordability issues. The representative then emphasized the importance of having a "community energy plan," as the document is developed by the community to outline their goals and provides information to help satisfy the requirements. A Resource Plan is BC Hydro's plan to ensure a long-term supply of electricity for the community. It is a guidebook for options on when, why and how to meet a community's energy needs.

The uniqueness of the Long-Term Planning in the NIA was then reviewed. These points included information on the growth of communities, energy efficiency, further options for renewable energy, evolving electricity needs, and energy sovereignty and self-sufficiency.

Another representative from BC Hydro continued the presentation and explained the learning process between BC Hydro and the communities. The speaker addressed affordability issues, uniqueness in the communities, and food storage. Due to the distance between the stores and the communities, deep freezers are vital for the people to be able to have and maintain. The cost of running the deep freezers in the community is a major issue for many people. Carolyn Stock with BC Hydro acknowledged the feelings around diesel consumption within the communities.

Participants were then informed how and when BC Hydro, as a regulated utility, must file a resource plan. This discussion included major factors to consider. The BCUC must weigh in on each of the community electricity agreements. BC Hydro's BCUC Proposal on NIA Resource Plans was then outlined, including the following topics:

1. BCUC's Role
2. Why Long-Term Resource Plans are Important
3. How BC Hydro is Thinking about Approaching their Proposal
4. Expected Timeline

The speaker explained that the Long-Term Resource Plan is important as it provides the BCUC with information on the long-term actions and initiatives that BC Hydro will be taking. The BCUC relies on understanding BC Hydro's long-term plans to inform rate design applications, investments, revenue requirements, specific capital projects, and the demand side management expenditures. The BCUC ensures that BC Hydro is keeping the long-term goals in mind when filing the shorter-term applications.

The desired outcomes of ongoing engagements were then outlined by BC Hydro:

1. Strengthened Relationships with NIA Communities
2. Clarity and Transparency on the BC Hydro BCUC regulatory filing process for clean energy projects

3. Shared Understanding on BC Hydro's NIA Strategy and options for regulatory Framework for Long-Term Resource Plans
4. Identify Information Sharing and Collection planning opportunities for continued engagement on BC Hydro's NIA Strategy and regulatory Framework for LTRPs

Coordination: BC Hydro will coordinate with the Ministry, when possible, to ensure alignment of regulatory options and tools

Discussion Questions:

1. Are your needs and/or interests reflected in the key pillars of BC Hydro's NIA Strategy?
2. Do you have any questions about BC Hydro's NIA Strategy or Long-Term Resource Planning Framework?

Wrap-Up Session

The first presentation in the wrap-up session came from the Ministry, who started with an outline of their presentation:

1. Recap of Potential Regulatory Changes
2. Revisit of Comments and Questions from March 7
3. Discussion Questions
4. Engagement Next Steps

The speaker shared a table that compared potential regulatory tools. The different levels of approval for each tool were highlighted, along with the fact that Cabinet approval requires more time than Ministry approval. The speaker described the Ministry's next steps, which include sharing the summary report with Minister Osborne and seeking her direction on options informed by the engagement process.

The Ministry then shared a brief recap of the questions that were posed on March 7, which are included in the Ministry's presentation in Appendix III.

The second presentation in the wrap-up session came from BC Hydro, who advised that their presentation would mainly focus on what was discussed during the previous session. The core components of the presentation would focus on the following:

1. NIA Strategy & Long-Term Resource Plan Framework Recap
2. What BC Hydro Heard
3. What BC Hydro Can do Now
4. What's Next
5. Discussion Q&A

The speaker shared a recap of the NIA Strategy & Long-Term Resource Plan Framework, along with a brief overview of what was discussed at the previous session. One of BC Hydro's top priorities is the accessibility of clean, reliable, and affordable energy in the NIAs. The main objective is to recognize the goals of the community and work together to find solutions.

In the strategy, BC Hydro is determining near and long-term actions under three key pillars:

1. Reliable
2. Clean
3. Affordable

One of the key components of the strategy is to advance Indigenous-owned renewable energy projects. The power generated from these projects will be purchased by BC Hydro through community electricity agreements otherwise known as an Energy Purchase Agreement (EPA). This will become a key component of the Long-Term Resource Plan. BC Hydro is committed to working with the community to serve their energy needs. BC Hydro's proposal will be guided by the fact that they need to scale the regulatory process efficiently while recognizing that the "one size fits all" approach may not be appropriate given the diversity across communities in the non-integrated areas. The proposal will be centred on unique communities needs. The proposal must indicate that BC Hydro can serve the energy needs over a long-term period. BC Hydro shared that they heard that more time is required to understand the NIA LTRP Framework proposal before it is submitted to the BCUC. BC Hydro committed to notify the BCUC that more time is required.

Closing

Following the wrap up of the discussion period, each session was ended with final remarks from the facilitator and representatives of the Ministry or BC Hydro. Participants were then provided with a survey link in the chat and encouraged to submit any additional feedback in writing that was related to the consultations, with the deadline for submissions being March 31, 2023. Participants were also encouraged to reach out to schedule one-on-one meetings if desired.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

The responses gathered from participants throughout the three consultation sessions are divided by session and by whether it was a comment or question.

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Session 1 – General Feedback:

- In response to the fact that one of the regulatory tools available for use is an exemption by the Minister: it is concerning that the Ministry might be able to bypass the BCUC and give out exemptions. There should be more information given on this as part of the process.

- One challenge is the amount of regulatory process that Indigenous Nations need to go through. Additionally, non-integrated areas are separated from the grid and little information is available. They must go through a rigorous process in order to gain project approval. However, it seems like there has been a shift towards Indigenous projects having 100% ownership, whereas in the past that was only between 10% to 50%. It should not be difficult to go outside of the realm of the regulatory process, but they are entering an area that requires external partners outside of BC Hydro. This is because BC Hydro, when it comes to non-integrated areas, lacks the capacity itself to completely review a lot of the material. Therefore, the Ministry should bring in specialists to make the process more efficient.
- It is important to understand lessons learned with receiving an exemption. There is a lot of value when it comes to information and results, and it is very important to First Nations. The more information they can have, the better.
- Reconciliation and Indigenous Rights can only be defined by communities, not BC Hydro or other decision-makers. This is a great time in history, as a lot of Nations are breaking down barriers and setting a new standard. Additionally, First Nations can be 100% owners and do not need a third-party to come in and benefit off their resources. Sustainability must consider what is beneficial to the communities and future generations in addition to making that transition towards renewable energy.
- The California Energy Commission just had a meeting with their commissioners to discuss advancing clean energy and partnership with California Native American Tribes – there are a lot of similar discussions. While these communities may not be remote, a lot of them are considering micro-grids as resilient backups during long-term power outages. Overall, there could be more regional collaborations with other Indigenous communities within North America.
- Regarding the cost of upgrades, there have been non-integrated grids that have suffered in the past due to power quality and an aging infrastructure. The remote communities will not be able to sustain projected levels of electrical vehicles due to this.
- The processes have only recently changed, which has altered the way that BC Hydro has engaged with First Nations. There have been many opportunities for engagement, but little has come from it.
- One participant spoke about their specific project, and their concern about the Ministry of Forests not using the previously approved development plan or environmental assessment. Due to this, the assessments must be redone which will extend the original timeline of the project. First Nations need resources and time to accomplish things effectively.

- Meaningful engagement should not include incentives to attend meetings. To be appropriately engaged, First Nations need resources, such as legal support, to assist them through the process. Additionally, it may help to have an Indigenous Energy Board and an Indigenous Energy Act in the future.
- It is concerning that the BC Utilities Commission is not a First Nations friendly venue. It is very much sided to bodies that have regulatory and legal staff within them. BC Hydro is financially capable of doing the work that BC Utilities Commission deems necessary, but many Indigenous communities do not have the resources or legal teams to do this work. There should be an Indigenous body that assists First Nations in these processes.
- Biomass projects are very cost intensive in terms of operations and maintenance, and wind projects may also have the same issues.
- If there is an approved project that a First Nation is interested in, there should be a mechanism through the BCUC to fully approve it.
- BC Hydro's distribution system has the potential to expand and benefit First Nations by allowing them to generate and sell excess electricity through that system.
- For one Nation, the rates and revenue charges are concerning. Zone 2 rates being increased or passed on is a potential issue. There should be one rate for the province that everyone pays – this would be more equitable to the Indigenous territories.
- Overall, the senior government should be paying for systems.
- When BC Hydro pays for diesel, there should be an acknowledgement that they did not pay for the asset that they are using to generate the clean energy. The diesel plant should be maintained at a lower cost.
- B.C. has a unique piece of legislation called the *Climate Change Accountability Act*. Given the commitment to reconciliation and the number of Indigenous communities, there is enough reason to open the Act and make an amendment to include the remote community target.
 - The Ministry stated that the concern around urgency has been a common theme in this discussion. They have ideas on the table for long-term changes, as well as short-term changes to support upcoming projects. There is a 2030 diesel reduction target, and the Ministry is interested in examining what can be done right now, as well as the larger changes that may take some time to complete.
- The *Climate Change Accountability Act*, regulations, and changes are quite complicated. There should be an informative guide created for future sessions to help participants conceptualize it more easily.

- The policy issues capture a lot of things for the people working on these projects. Regarding the EPA price, can there be more certainty to allow projects to proceed without such a large risk of surprises? There does not necessarily need to be a specific price, but there should at least be a price structure in remote communities. In the past, BC Hydro would cover some of the cost, but they are not doing that now. BC Hydro invests in grid upgrades for new projects; there should be fairness in the way IPPs are treated as well as the First Nations. If the right things are not in place, it can severely affect developments – this should be addressed by BC Hydro.
- There should be more certainty around the EPA pricing. We cannot ignore the administrative burden that some First Nations endure to manage all of the projects in terms of funding sources, technical teams, business planning etc. There is a large burden on staff to make the decisions, and the EPA pricing is a huge part of this. These issues impact the cost effectiveness of these projects, so it is intertwined with this EPA project and price. If there is a mechanism that can mandate BC Hydro to define some of these terms regarding what an EPA price is, and be ready to have system costs available, it would be helpful.
- Regarding the question about what meaningful engagement looks like – this has been a good start. However, it is not sufficient as these are very impactful conversations. From a First Nations perspective, it is evident how these topics are affecting them. But hopefully this is not the only process, and the Ministry should try to accommodate everyone to ensure they are heard as well. This is the beginning process of change, and just because legislation has been created does not mean there are no more barriers. This is a good starting point though, but the process and policies take time, and there needs to be greater representation of Indigenous communities at these sessions.
- Communities are missing an energy champion to keep them in touch. There is no specific person assigned to this duty in the communities.
 - The Ministry responded that they have been supporting the Climate Action Network led by Coastal First Nations Great Bear Initiative to help communities hire a dedicated energy champion. They are slowly making connections with the other Indigenous remote communities to hire staff members, and participants were invited to reach out for more information. There is funding for all Indigenous remote Nations to hire an energy champion.
- Regarding regulatory engagement, a lot of Indigenous communities are limited in capacity – they are juggling a lot of projects to decarbonize their energy. Everyone must keep in mind that there are not many people in the offices, nor do they have the funding to get legal advice on the regulatory process. There are a lot of needs in the office, such as capacity and legal resources.

Session 1 – Participant Questions:

- Can the Ministry expand on the GGRR regulation update and their theory on how that may help solve some of these issues, as well as the linkage between the GGRR regulation and BCUC, along with how they operate?
- The *Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements) Act* was replaced by the *Low Carbon Fuels Act*. The participant asked the Ministry to expand on the history of the Act and explain how the new Low Carbon Fuels Act connects to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation.
 - The Ministry is working on a number of things to try to support remote communities. The current focus is on ensuring the approval of new generation projects by the BC Utilities Commission. In parallel to their work, there is work in the Low Carbon Fuel Branch to identify ways to award low carbon credits in remote communities. This would be in the case where a clean energy project is generating clean electricity and there is less diesel being used in that community. There is a regulatory framework under development to award credits for that clean electricity. The regulatory framework is built on an existing, 13-year-old framework for transportation fuels. A lot of the adoption of electric vehicles in BC has been incentivized through the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, which awarded credits for using low carbon fuels for transportation and also penalized the use of high carbon fuels. This is a complicated area of policy. However, the main impact is when the parallel initiative comes to fruition, it could mean that clean power projects would be able to earn credits, which will have a monetary value that fluctuates. The credits could reduce the costs of operation and become part of EPA negotiations in the future.
- What is the timeline on the Low Carbon Fuel Act, and how long did it take to pass?
 - The Ministry stated that the initial work for the *Low Carbon Fuel Act* started in 2018/2019 with the launch of the initial CleanBC plan. It took several years to get to the point of public engagement around possibilities, and it was passed in 2022. In summary, it took three years of internal development, followed by engagement, and then was introduced in the house. In order to use it, regulations needed to be under development. The Ministry is trying to find ways to support clean energy development in the communities as part of the *Low Carbon Fuel Act*. The regulatory work is underway, and it will have its own engagement. The projected timeline is one year.

- Does the Ministry feel comfortable that they can overcome the challenges with pricing and not have the projects delayed? Is there a way to overcome these issues in order to avoid delaying projects?
 - The Ministry acknowledged the point of inflation as being a challenge. The hard work everyone is doing to move these projects forward is what will help them reach their goals. The impetus behind the potential regulatory changes is to increase the probability that projects will meet their desired deadlines.
- How many community clean energy projects fit into the "uncertainty" group?
 - The Ministry responded that some of the projects may have an EPA price that is consistent with the avoided cost of diesel. The main issue is that they do not know. One of the points of discussion is the situation where you are adding new infrastructure with the existing cost and questioning what the total combined cost is. They are unsure how the math will line up.
- How are all the high-level recommendations made by the RCES Working Group being addressed? Is the group satisfied with what is being said?
 - A participant who is on the RCES Working Group responded that a lot of information is coming to the group. There is a lot of movement for Indigenous peoples now and it is very impressive to see how much engagement is occurring. The participant believes that the Province and BC Hydro are listening. They are satisfied with the pace, but others need to continue being involved. The information that comes out of these sessions should also be sent to the communities for review, especially those that were unable to attend.
 - The Ministry advised everyone that they welcome new participants in the working group. One comment from a working group member emphasized the need to hold groups accountable for acting on recommendations. It is understood that there will be future sessions to discuss some of the bigger ideas provided by the working group.
- There is still some confusion with the regulatory tools and specifics, so can the Ministry review the tools and amendments again?
 - The Ministry responded that in order to add a class of projects to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation, the team would need to ask Cabinet for approval to amend the Regulation.

Session 3 – Clarification Questions:

- Land-based First Nations would like to be able to make land-based decisions. The Province was thanked for validating and putting action into reconciliation, as well as appointing Indigenous people to the processes. However, the participant also strongly encouraged the creation of an Indigenous Council that supports the processes regarding decisions being made

about Indigenous people. There have been many Indigenous people in leadership for a number of years, and it is important to have rights-holders at the tables involved in supporting the processes that they are discussing today. It would also be helpful to have a conversation with individuals such as Doug White, an Indigenous lawyer, and Don Bain on how they could support the framework around reconciliation and DRIPA.

- The process and engagement have been good thus far, but a word of caution with how the material is being delivered. There was high-level information being presented with little detail and limited timelines. These sessions are discussing legislative and regulatory changes which are going to affect what happens, and people must remember that the changes can benefit or harm the communities. The Province and the federal government are still promoting things that work against the climate adaptation goals that are trying to be reached by Indigenous communities, so participants should be cautious about what is being approved as the true avenue of engagement should be with the BCUC.
 - The Ministry is going to be developing a recommendations package for the Minister's decision. If the Minister approves, the Ministry will provide details on the specific recommended measures, along with the implications. The engagement will also need to include Nations whose traditional territories overlap with other Nations, although they may not have their own non-integrated communities. Additionally, any civic governments in non-integrated areas will be invited to comment. However, if the Ministry is hearing that the Indigenous Nations do not wish to pursue regulatory changes, then staff can relay this feedback to the Minister. Ministry staff are not looking to push anything forward if it is not supported by Indigenous Nations. There is also capacity funding available for further sessions if needed.
 - The Ministry should be careful with phrases like they “can do nothing”, as it causes the sessions to feel less meaningful than they should be. The cautioning from the original comment came from the fact that communities are not being given enough information nor the necessary tools to hear what is being presented. Additionally, more Indigenous people should be involved in the process. There should be more meaningful engagements with evidence that action items are being implemented.
 - Another participant echoed this and added that the processes need to include more Indigenous led priorities; there cannot be a dollar figure on Indigenous involvement.
- Additional concern was voiced around the lack of detail in the slides. It is not enough to refer the Nations to a website for more information – examples could have been provided rather than redirection.
- It is vital to have the necessary funds and resources for the Indigenous leaders and communities to achieve their goals successfully. It is also important to have enough time and resources to work efficiently.
- The importance of "fairness" for ratepayers was emphasized, along with the need for a return on investments. Additionally, shareholders should be responsible for reconciliation. The net dollars need to come to the Province and be involved in reconciliation.

BC Hydro

Session 2 – General Feedback:

- There must be a more in-depth understanding of the resources needed to facilitate participation prior to and during engagement sessions. This includes recognizing the time required to participate in the process, including reviewing documents and attending engagement sessions. Steps must be taken to avoid engagement fatigue, such as immediately building capacity in communities as a foundation for meaningful engagement.
- Relationships with BC Hydro Indigenous Relationship Managers are key to achieving desired outcomes. At the same time, it is necessary for decision-makers to attend key meetings. Decisions around achieving the Province’s target and remote community goals are best supported by having the right people, in the right room, at the right time. If the right people are not in the room, it does not do anything for true reconciliation.
- Regarding the commitment of the government, Province, and BCUC to DRIPA, there is a framework that they could all collectively collaborate on and not work in silos to advance this important work on non-integrated areas, and the EPA conversations. The Gaming Revenue Hearing took over 20 years for First Nations Leadership Council to negotiate with the Province – the will does not need to be renegotiated as there is a real need to incorporate DRIPA into this work. The Commission lacks the tools to make value-based decisions. In comparison, the work done by Indigenous Nations are all based on values – it is important work for the future generations. The Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Framework could likely be brought into the fold and conversations, as well as the *Indigenous Modernization Procurement Act*. The federal and provincial government made a statement supporting DRIPA, and communities are discussing the direction they wish to go. Indigenous people are seeking equity ownership and revenue sharing. The playing field has not been leveled as it pertains to Indigenous Nations and the First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA) has discussed a monetization model with the federal government. However, there are current concerns around health issues, finances, and the fact that the communities do not want any more diesel backup generators.
- The current process is concerning, as BC Hydro should not be stopping at this stage. There must be high-level, one-on-one community engagements. The communities have leadership and elected council that must be heard from so that there is a buy-in from everyone. There is a lot of work that BC Hydro is undertaking, but it is important to dive deep into community engagement. There are challenges on the side of the community in regard to timelines, staffing, funds, and legal guidance. Overall, while it is great to be included in the discussion, it is more important to be included in the decisions.
- It is crucial to have enough resources to fully participate in engagement sessions. For example, there is only 90 days until the draft LTRP Framework is submitted to the BCUC and it is simply not enough time to do the work that is necessary. As mentioned, there is

only a small number of workers, and it is very difficult to gather information and respond to the issues.

- For the future, BC Hydro should communicate with BCUC on engagements and frameworks before inviting general comments. First Nations are not at a point where they feel comfortable with moving forward as everyone needs to be aligned.

Session 2 – Participant Questions:

- Can the BC Hydro team shed more light on the difference between a community energy agreement and an electricity purchase agreement? If they could also share more detail on who is responsible for the Long-Term Resource Plan, and where the community's responsibility lies within that? Does BC Hydro see themselves doing the work independently, or if this is something that will be taken on in part by communities and their partners?
 - BC Hydro responded that there is no standard format for what they are calling a "community electricity agreement." However, they desire a relationship with these clean energy projects that is different and less transactional than the way they operate with the independent power producers. The work could involve regular meetings, shared objectives around how the projects are operated, and triggers to have discussions at senior management levels on projects. BC Hydro believes that the work is individual by communities, and it could include discussions near the end of the contract to reinstate additional purchases. The work acknowledges independent power producers – where BC Hydro paid for electrons, and these projects are different. There is shared interest, and it is not just about buying energy, it is about achieving the shared objectives through reconciliation under the 5-year plan; they will be achieved through diesel reduction. BC Hydro does not want the work to have history or baggage associated with IPP contracts. The participant noted some "red flags" in that response. They addressed the objective around economic development for the communities that are developing these projects. There are expectations around the effort and investment around time and resources going into the projects, which will be rewarded if the community is delivering something that is helping everyone to meet these objectives that they all have. It is concerning to hear that BC Hydro would like the projects to be less transactional. They do not want BC Hydro to shift away from the importance of economics, as the communities see the work as an economic development opportunity within.
 - BC Hydro clarified that there is no intent to erode the financial aspect of the project; every project deserves to earn a profit. Beyond that, if there is interest by the community, BC Hydro can engage in the discussion of what works and what does not work.
 - BC Hydro also emphasized that the community energy plan is the community's own plan, and that the community leads that plan. The plan may consider energy related matters that go beyond electricity or parts of the community that are part

of BC Hydro's grid. The plans are typically funded by the provincial and federal government, but BC Hydro works with the communities to develop these plans. There is a lot to be leveraged from these community energy plans, and while the Long-Term Resource Plan is BC Hydro's plan, they develop it by working with the community. The plan will consider all of their assets in the service area and how they are going to ensure there is safe and reliable electricity for the community.

- While BC Hydro is developing the Long-term Resource Plan Framework with the BCUC, there are a lot of communities in the process of developing projects or in-flight. What will the process be going through that links with the BCUC? Will the in-flight projects be waiting for that to develop before proceeding to making the Long-Term Resource Plan, or if this is something they are imagining happening in parallel?
 - BC Hydro acknowledged that this question has been discussed internally, as one of their principles is to avoid delays within the communities. They anticipate addressing this concern as part of the LTRP Framework proposal submission to the BCUC. In summary, BC Hydro does not expect things to stop; BC Hydro expects everything to continue moving by moving forward on clean energy projects.
- Does BC Hydro have any expectations as to when they will reach an understanding with the BCUC on the framework?
 - BC Hydro responded that these things are difficult to anticipate, but they are expecting to submit the draft in Spring 2023, which will ultimately lead to a revised proposal that reflects the inputs received through the community engagement sessions, as well as information received from the BCUC and interveners. BC Hydro is planning to do this in the later part of 2023, but it is difficult to anticipate until the team gets into the reviewing process.
- What kind of information or study is required for each resource option?
 - BC Hydro understands that the Utilities Commission is asking for information to allow them to make decisions on the projects being brought forward under an agreement to purchase power. The required information will likely vary by community. In areas that have whole range of resource options, BC Hydro expects the BCUC to ask questions regarding cost effectiveness. If a project is not cost effective, the BCUC will question why it is the right project. A Long-Term Resource Plan will need to justify this.. The BCUC seeks assurance that the project they are being asked to evaluate is the right one. BC Hydro may seek more information on what the next project will be, as well as analysis on how the current project interacts with the next project.
- How is the engagement being considered? The slides in the two sessions have included very high-level documents that do not contain much detail on how the submission is finalized into the BCUC. There is not much engagement going into each session and they need to look at how that consultation is happening with rural remote communities, as they are discussing non-integrated areas, not just the Indigenous components. Rural areas been very vocal as they are trying to make so many changes occurring at all levels of government. Indigenous people are a first-tier government, they should have the

ability to speak one-on-one with the Province and government – that is where the implementation is making those changes and collaborations possible. The collaboration is authentic when the rural areas are included in every piece of change occurring. Consultation with legal representation is recommended for the non-integrated areas and to be part of the BCUC process. All of the questions should be part of the process with the BCUC. It would have been good to have the BCUC part of this process, as they are an integral piece of what is occurring. Are these three sessions considered engagement prior to the submission to the BCUC?

- BC Hydro emphasized that these three sessions are considered engagement, but this is not the level of engagement that they hope to have. It was debated whether the sessions were considered "information sharing" or engagement, and since there is dialogue and feedback it is classified as engagement. If BC Hydro is not hearing from communities or if communities are not present, it is not satisfactory to them. BC Hydro would like to be satisfied about the level of engagement as much as the communities wish to be satisfied. The expectations vary across community, as well as the interest in being involved with BC Hydro, so the level of input will vary as well. If deeper engagement is desired, the communities can ask, and it can be accomplished.
- BC Hydro also recognizes that this is high-level, and they are still working through the process and see this as an opportunity to start the discussion. What is being shared and submitted in June will be a draft, and it will be an initiation point to have more in-depth dialogue with the communities to reshape the proposal that they intend to file at a later time. Once BC Hydro has prepared the submission, they can start to have dialogue with the BCUC, the communities, Nations, and intervener groups. There will be various forms to receive feedback to shape the proposal.
- Regarding the three pillars of the NIA Strategy, where does BC Hydro see the gaps between the current pillars and priorities of the NIA Strategy and the standard utility mandate?
 - BC Hydro stated that the Utility is an economic regulator, but there are gaps in the discussion and how projects will be evaluated. BC Hydro's mandate is to provide clean, reliable and affordable electricity to the province. A key component on delivering that is reducing the diesel that they use in these areas.
- While assuming that the Non-Integrated Strategy does not align fully with the traditional mandate, how is BC Hydro intending to pitch that to the public utility to gain support for it and be able to move this forward?
 - BC Hydro has made a commitment that they are intending to file this draft framework with the Commission in the spring. BC Hydro was able to begin this conversation with the Commission during the Integrated Resource Plan process, and there were a number of points put forward to BC Hydro from the Commission, including how BC Hydro plans to consider NIAs when it comes to resource

planning. BC Hydro was able to lay the foundation of NIAs being different and considered differently than the Integrated System.

- Will any representatives from the Province be answering questions during this session? Or is it strictly BC Hydro? Is there anything that the Province is doing to support BC Hydro's application on NIA communities?
 - BC Hydro believes that they are working with the Province by looking at the agreements, and emphasized the importance of seeking the Commission's acceptance on agreements. In determining whether to accept the agreement, the Commission has to consider whether the agreement is in the public interest based on a variety of factors. The Commission heavily relies on what is in the interest of rate payers, which often boils down to the purchase price and the need for that energy. Unfortunately, current legislation and regulations do not provide the Commission with any guidance on how to value and consider other things that are important to BC Hydro, the Province, communities, etc., such as greenhouse gas reduction. The Commission does not consider how to value contributions to the achievement of the objectives. In summary, the Commission has insufficient tools to make decisions that have a higher cost compared to alternatives but that do more to advance climate action. While there is a need to address the higher mandate gaps on the side of the Commission; it will likely take time on the broader scale. Therefore, it was important when the Province was discussing the policy tools, and how they can lean on them to support the Commission in making decisions on the clean energy projects.
- Regarding a note in the presentations that indicated a proposal to change zone electricity rates, folks living in non-integrated areas are currently paying for electricity and the proposal process will affect many people. The BC Hydro team stated the prices could become aligned with Zone I rates, and that addressing rates is a very important point. However, there was no mention of revenue under the slide describing the "three pillars." BC Hydro's NIA Strategy is going to impact the ability of the projects to become long-term, stable sources of wealth, and this should be addressed. BC Hydro also must be proactive about upgrades (standard connection equipment, diesel backup generator systems, batteries) while properly communicating a timeline to communities to help them understand what stage the upgrades and project are at, and how it will perform on the grid.
 - BC Hydro agreed with the participant's assessments and that they speak to the need for LTRPs for communities. It is important to understand the commercial and industrial sizing projects correctly to size the clean energy projects and the battery storage. There is also significant interconnection work to replace diesel generators with renewables, etc. All of the items are in the scope. The goal of the LTRP is to provide that view for all of these items. It is difficult to size a project if you do not accurately know what loads are coming on.
 - Another BC Hydro representative echoed the importance of the participant's last point, along with the importance of working with the community, understanding

the economic development, where the community wishes to grow, and being able to articulate to the BCUC the need for an energy purchase agreement and building capacity. Being able to have that long-term vision is exactly what BC Hydro needs to work on in order for BCUC to approve the downstream applications that will be filed in the future. Understanding the communities' objectives could include the air, water and land impacts and considering the project in terms of economic development. There could be various paths and mixes of resources which may align with objectives in different ways. Articulating the objectives at the outset allow the teams to evaluate the pathways that they might work with the community to achieve those objectives. In summary, economic development is an important factor to establish at the outset.

- How will this support capacity building of communities who are seeking to become energy sovereign?
 - BC Hydro is balancing the Indigenous interests in energy sovereignty with the expectation that BC Hydro is still going to be the owner and operator of the overall microgrids. The agreements they enter into will support the operations of Indigenous clean energy facilities with the existing diesel generating facilities. BC Hydro acknowledged that control over decisions related to energy and the direction of energy development in remote communities is important for energy sovereignty and resilience. Communities are seeking to build energy sovereignty and resilience through demand side management activities and the development, ownership, and operation of clean energy systems, including generation, transmission, and distribution. They heard several suggestions/solutions to increasing energy sovereignty during the Province's Clean Energy project work, including:
 - commitment to equal participation of Indigenous communities
 - recognition that each community and Nation may have individual needs that need to be accounted for, and;
 - sharing information and knowledge related to energy efficiency projects to ensure community buy-in and long-term success.
 - BC Hydro reiterated that the NIA Strategy supports these efforts by continuing to remove barriers to inclusion in the energy planning and implementation process through shared decision making (e.g., collaboration on identifying feasible projects), knowledge sharing, and transparency.
- How will First Nations be able to navigate the upcoming framework for how to progress a project? Will there be "how to" guides for communities who are just beginning the process and want to navigate the process in the NIA?
 - BC Hydro is willing to work with communities to help them understand what their community electricity needs are, along with what studies, projects and applications might be required. Each community is unique and will take its own path, but BC Hydro is committed to working with communities on the elements of support they require to make these projects a success.

- How does this work align with BC Hydro’s draft UNDRIP Implementation Plan?
 - BC Hydro’s Draft Implementation Plan has been a collaborative effort with Nations from across BC. The draft plan is in the final stages of engagement, and it encourages Nations to participate and contribute as it will inform all their operations across BC. The NIA Strategy and the LTRP Framework proposal reflects numerous principles outlined in the Draft Implementation Plan. In particular, three themes of the Plan are reflected in BC Hydro’s approach in the NIA:
 - Theme 3: Decision-Making
 - Co-developing a framework for collaborative decision-making?
 - Greater cooperation in planning
 - Theme 4: Water, Land and Environment
 - Reducing reliance on diesel generation
 - Theme 5: Economic Relations
 - Indigenous clean energy opportunities engagement process
 - Helping First Nation Communities reduce their energy costs
 - Exploring new economic opportunities
 - While the draft plan is still in the review and finalization phase, BC Hydro assures they have heard the above three themes consistently throughout their work in the NIA. As the Plan evolves, a core principle in the NIA Strategy is agility. BC Hydro is committed to flexible implementation of both the Strategic Goals and Actions and Initiatives by revisiting periodically to ensure they are still taking the right actions to support their vision, which includes their commitment to implement the principles of the UNDRIP in their operations in B.C.
- Does BC Hydro have the capacity to support all of this work? Or do they need to work with external parties?
 - BC Hydro acknowledged that undertaking all this work will require working together with Nations, developers and other third parties. It may also require them to increase their internal capacity. In the strategy they will identify short and long-term actions. Short term actions and initiatives are those that will be undertaken now. They can be achieved with the resources and funding currently available and/or be managed within BC Hydro’s fiscal 2023 to fiscal 2025 revenue requirements application. Longer term goals require more detailed planning and incremental funding. These goals will build upon experience gained through the implementation of their short-term actions. In the next revenue requirements application, they will include further details and justification for any increased funding and resources required to implement the actions and initiatives within this strategy.
- How is the strategy ensuring that there is fairness between IPP’s and how Indigenous Clean Energy Projects are being developed?
 - BC Hydro’s NIA Strategy is focusing on diesel reduction, and therefore is specific to Non-Integrated Area needs. They do not expect to align pricing principles

between programs like the Standing Offer program on the integrated system and the diesel reduction program.

- Should Nations believe that Indigenous views will be considered in LTRP? Many recommendations from Nations on the Integrated Resource Plan were not incorporated. Why will this be different?
 - The recommendations raised during this process related to the NIA are actively being considered in the development of the LTRP Framework. The overall approach to the NIA in relation to the IRP is that the NIA needs a separate process – which is the focus of the NIA Strategy and the Framework proposal to the BCUC.
- Will BC Hydro be sharing a draft version of the NIA Strategy document before it is published in June 2023?
 - BC Hydro stated they would be conducting further engagement on the strategic goals as well as short-term and long-term actions before the document is finalized. This will be an opportunity to get feedback on their plans from communities that have been working with them and have firsthand experience with clean energy projects. It will provide meaningful feedback on whether Nations needs and/or interests are reflected in the key pillars of BC Hydro’s NIA Strategy. They will also be conducting more extensive engagement on the NIA Strategy in the community engagement sessions after the strategy is published in June 2023. This will provide feedback that will inform BC Hydro’s work moving forward.

Session 3 – Clarification Questions

- How many non-integrated Indigenous Nations are currently being engaged regarding their long-term resource planning?
 - BC Hydro has been working with Nations for three years on the projects, this includes the community energy plans. Most communities have their own energy plan at this point, but BC Hydro has not started any engagement on long-term resource planning as they are at an early stage of this framework. However, they have been doing a form of long-term resource planning, but this was historically centred around the diesel generators. BC Hydro is recognizing that things are changing which means they need to change and adapt their processes.
- There was some discussion around an interim plan from the prior session. Can BC Hydro circle back to that with focus on the intentions that they are talking about today? Will the interim plan include some sort of pricing certainty, as a number of Nations are in a position to get pricing certainty in place to understand where the projects are going.
 - BC Hydro recognizes this desire for pricing certainty, and they will address that in the near term through direct conversations between BC Hydro and the Nations. BC Hydro will continue with this process as they are advancing the clean energy projects. Additionally, BC Hydro has further work to do as they adjust their timeline around the submission to the BCUC. BC Hydro will consider how to ensure projects continue to move forward while they are taking the appropriate amount of time to develop the framework.

- Referring to the comment that a "one size fits all" approach would not work, as well as the one regarding the pricing being defined on what is considered a reasonable profit. Who would be defining what a reasonable profit is then? This may be getting outside the normal process of a regulated business, as a customer normally sets the rate that they are willing to pay for something and the supplier works within that.
 - A representative agreed that what is being presented is a different model than what BC Hydro would present for a standing offer program or for working with an independent power producer. BC Hydro is committed to doing something different, and they are internally working through their pricing principals for how they will work with Nations on these projects. Once BC Hydro receives endorsement for the pricing principals, they will be in a position to share more with the Nations.
- They seem to be going down a path where they understand pricing to be based on the avoided cost of diesel while discussing reasonable profits. Did some sort of a direction change, or has something happened to shift where they are going on this?
 - BC Hydro will get a better sense of what will be required to meet the targets under CleanBC. They are also learning more, so if there is a shift, it is because everyone is working together and gaining more expertise.
- Is it possible to see a return on investments if they seek federal or provincial funding?
 - BC Hydro does not have the answer to that question in terms of how grant funding is treated in the pricing strategy.
- Although the team is doing good work now, the past infringements must be remembered. Some Nations have faced as much as three serious infringements to their territory, and that should be addressed. Additionally, it is concerning that the topic of revenue sharing has not been discussed. There should be a high-level discussion around past infringements and revenue sharing.
 - BC Hydro advised that they are having high-level discussions with one such Nation.
- Regarding a previous discussion in 2012 with BC Hydro that focused on how they would pay for a clean energy project, BC Hydro provided them with two options. The first option included revenue sharing that was so high, they were told BCUC would not accept it. However, BC Hydro informed them that the BCUC would accept the avoided cost of diesel as they were already paying that. Why is BC Hydro now taking another look at this matter, and are those still the two markers?
 - BC Hydro is looking at their pricing principles as they are learning more about these projects and what the expected cost to achieve their CleanBC targets is, and they will share more information once they receive it.

Wrap-Up Session

1. **What information would you like the Ministry to take into account as it considers options for regulatory support? Answers can include project timing, type of project, project cost, and project ownership structure.**

- Thinking about these projects, the promise is around diesel reduction, economic development, and the idea of creating more jobs around the communities. Individual energy projects can create jobs and economic development. If there is a structure that has profit and stable revenue, that can be an important thing.
- When thinking about energy, people also think about attracting commercial and industrial activity, as well as business and economic opportunities. However, what are ways to structure rates and the way that projects are paid for in order to achieve those ends? Revenue projects include a capital investment upfront and, following that, there will be a low marginal cost of energy generation. Once the asset is there, every extra kilowatt hour generated is inexpensive after that point. Would it be possible to oversize projects to generate extra investments? BC Hydro may not pay the same rate for extra power, so maybe the power could be delivered to new commercial entities at below the market rate to attract business to remote communities while providing cheaper power.
 - A representative from BC Hydro noted that the idea to overbuild for the future is an interesting concept. It could come into play during the load resource balance, and the team would have to determine how to get the resources into place. The leftover energy could be discussed through the technical working group and commercial negotiations.

2. How can we best organize engagement to support enhanced input on the LTRP Framework?

- Referring to earlier comments about further discussion with First Nations, it seems as though the plans were already drafted, and the Nations are being informed of what is happening with the resources in the area rather than taking the Nations' feelings and needs into consideration. Long-Term Planning would be a benefit to BC Hydro and to the community.
 - BC Hydro was not discussing the community specific long-term resource planning in these sessions. BC Hydro is currently thinking about the LTRP Framework proposal to the BCUC. BC Hydro would like to work with communities differently and continue building on the community and planning work that has already started. Additionally, BC Hydro is interested in hearing what came out of the recent community sessions, and they are willing to discuss long-term planning whenever the communities are ready, as it is important in parallel to the project development. BC Hydro is not doing things in isolation any longer.
- We should see First Nation led engagement with support for the engagement. Only we will see our recommendations held to a higher standard. We need to place value on our time and on the work being carried out. We need to include more than the few Nations who are always engaged. We need more capacity.
- BC Hydro needs an advisory group that is comprised of Indigenous representatives. The UNDRIP implementation only saw 4-5 new employees and how many are Indigenous? It's all relative.

- Based on the discussion this morning and from past meetings, it feels like there's more uncertainty - in particular on EPA rates - than ever on accelerating diesel displacement. With that, if we are serious about moving forward with clean energy-driven NIAs and, given the historical absence of capital from BC Hydro to do this, we see Indigenous communities stepping up and taking leadership to invest significant capital into this challenge/opportunity. Given the risk and reward profile of many communities in BC (who often face scarcity in capital), it is a bit puzzling to see a discussion unfold that feels like BC Hydro may be squeezing the opportunity to move forward. The baseline should be the avoided cost of diesel as was shared earlier for EPA rates. If we need to find ways to make less economically viable projects happen, as they represent the "best option to displace diesel", then this group and many other thought leaders could come together to make those projects move forward.

SURVEY RESPONSES

Participants were also encouraged to provide written feedback to the Ministry and BC Hydro. Only two questionnaires were completed. Respondent #1 was representing an NIA community, while respondent #2 was an employee of an engineering firm. The information is presented below for input but has no statistical validity.

Questions	Respondent #1	Respondent #2
Q2. Have the policy issues been appropriately characterized?	They have not, and there should be clarity on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA pricing schemes, including equity among communities in terms of true project cost. Standard methodology for estimating full costs of power generation using diesel (including health, environmental). Remuneration for project developers. Interconnection upgrades as prerequisites for renewable energy projects, with appropriate contributions from BC Hydro. The requirements of the province and BC Hydro for due diligence and project selection. The extent to which low-cost electricity is part of a strategy to draw industry to more remote communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes.
Q3. Do you have questions regarding the regulatory tools available?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide more details on regulatory options so that communities can assess which ones are the most consistent with their interests. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No.
Q4. What information would you like the Province to consider as	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurances that there will be steps to eliminate diesel in all communities and compel BCUC to fully account for the costs of diesel, including impacts on health and the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project cost and ownership structure, especially if

<p>it reviews options for regulatory support?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirming if NIAs on treaty vs non-treaty lands have a level playing field. • Think about the big picture in terms of how new energy systems in remote communities can foster economic development. 	<p>Indigenous owned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity cost of displaced diesel.
<p>Q5. Are your needs and-or interests reflected in the key pillars of BC Hydro's NIA Strategy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More details required to better assess – currently the pillars are high level. • Role of energy in economic development for remote communities, and incentives for communities that complete clean energy projects and help BC Hydro meet its objectives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skipped question.
<p>Q6. Do you have any questions about BC Hydro's NIA Strategy Resource Planning Framework?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overbuilding now to support future industrial requirements for future development. • Whether BC Hydro is interested in being proactive. • Level of support for communities in terms of diesel costs, interconnection costs and curtailment losses. • Carbon credits and whether communities are adequately rewarded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skipped question.
<p>Q7. What does meaningful engagement on the topics listed above look like?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings, both in-person and virtual. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCUC should be at the table, especially if discussions involve BCUC approval. • Communities need legal and technical support to understand impacts of policy change.
<p>Q8. How would you like to be involved in the Provincial and or BC Hydro processes moving forward?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In every possible way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being invited to attend future engagements.
<p>Q9. What information do you need to be able to participate fully?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details about what is being planned and decided, not just high-level points. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skipped question.
<p>Q10. Are there any additional comments, ideas, or requests that you would like to share</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of interconnection upgrades as a requisite. • Importance of taking a big picture approach regarding clean energy as a hub of economic development for remote communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skipped question.

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Table 3 - Survey Responses

APPENDIX I – BRIEFING MATERIALS & INVITATION

Briefing Materials

March 7, 2023



Indigenous Remote Community Engagement with Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs)

Briefing Material

In March 2023, the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low-Carbon Innovation (the Ministry) is partnering with BC Hydro to host three online engagement sessions with Indigenous Nations who have communities in Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs).

The primary aim of the engagement session on March 7, 2023 is to discuss potential regulatory tools to support renewable energy generation projects that displace diesel electricity generation in NIA communities. The Ministry has prepared the following briefing material to inform participation in the sessions as well as a written feedback form.

Draft Agenda

1:00pm	Welcome
1:20pm	Presentation from the Ministry: Regulatory Changes to Support Renewable Energy Generation in NIAs
1:45pm	Break
2:00pm	Discussion
3:15pm	Closing Remarks

Context for Regulatory Support

There are several Indigenous-led renewable energy projects nearing completion in NIA communities and these projects require energy purchase agreements (EPAs) to proceed. EPAs enable BC Hydro to purchase electricity from Indigenous power producers and sell the electricity back to customers on the micro-grid. Before BC Hydro can agree to purchase electricity, it must seek approval from the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) as per section 71 of the *Utilities Commission Act*.

In determining whether to approve an EPA, the BCUC must consider whether the EPA is in the public interest. The BCUC makes this determination based on a variety of factors, including the interests of ratepayers, the purchase price, and the need for the energy. Despite the benefits of renewable electricity in NIA communities, the BCUC may not be prepared to approve the upcoming EPAs due to its mandate to prioritize cost-effectiveness. The Ministry is therefore considering regulatory changes to facilitate the approval of upcoming renewable energy projects.

Policy Issues

Since the launch of the CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) in 2019, the Ministry has engaged with remote communities in formal and informal contexts. In 2022, the RCES Indigenous working group submitted a report to the Ministry with program and policy recommendations.¹

Figure 1 - Briefing Material for Session 1 (Page 1)



Based on the RCES working group report as well as previous engagement feedback, the Ministry has compiled a list of policy issues associated with renewable energy production in NIA communities, summarized in the following table.

	Policy Issue	Description
1	Uncertainty of Project Approval	New renewable options may cost substantially more in comparison to the average BC Hydro diesel cost of energy which could pose a problem to the BCUC to approve new Electricity Purchase Agreements (EPAs). That being said, there are other compelling reasons to approve these projects, for example advancing reconciliation and supporting climate action.
2	Cost of Upgrades	System upgrades are required when connecting remote energy projects to the BC Hydro micro-grid. The cost of upgrades can be considerable and are not usually included in project cost estimates. BC Hydro's current practice is that the proponents cover 100% of the system upgrade costs. How these costs will be recovered is currently under review.
3	Unexpected Costs	Feasibility studies are required at various stages of clean energy project development in NIA communities. These studies present unexpected funding gaps for Indigenous Nations. There is debate about how to best cover these costs.
4	Uncertainty of Purchase Price	Indigenous Nations have described the difficulty of assessing the business case for clean energy projects when the purchase price for clean energy is unknown. The uncertainty can lead to delays and increased costs, especially if there is also uncertainty around funding for capital costs.
5	Purchase Price Amount	Purchase prices may not be sufficient for covering the costs of clean energy development. There is an open question as to whether they should reflect Provincial reconciliation objectives which note the importance of economic development opportunities for Indigenous nations.

The primary focus of the spring 2023 engagement process is to verify the appropriateness of the above list and seek input on the issues experienced by Indigenous Nations in NIA communities. An additional aim of the engagement process is to discuss the regulatory tools available to government to continue supporting the development of clean energy projects in NIAs.

Regulatory Tools

The Ministry is considering whether to recommend that Government put in place one or more regulations to ensure the timely advancement of renewable energy projects that displace diesel for electricity generation in NIA communities. Government has several regulatory tools that can be used for this purpose.

Figure 2 - Briefing Material for Session 1 (Page 2)



Each tool has its benefits and limitations. The Ministry is currently considering which tool, or combination of tools, could best support the objective of timely implementation of projects that would reduce diesel use in NIA communities. These tools will be presented during the virtual engagement sessions.

Parameters of Regulatory Support

The Ministry is exploring what kind of regulatory support is required to facilitate renewable energy projects in NIA communities. The following list provides some parameters that would need to be considered in one or more of the above regulatory tools.

- Project Timing
- Type of Project
- Project Cost
- Project Ownership Structure
- Ratepayer Recovery

Limitations

As part of this engagement the Ministry is not considering regulatory changes that would provide the BCUC with a comprehensive framework for decision-making regarding environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. This work is focused on a time-sensitive response to the issue of EPAs for renewable energy projects in NIA communities.

The Ministry recognizes that an ESG framework (or another approach that considers the co-benefits of renewable energy production in NIA communities) merits further attention. Given the need for significant collaboration with Indigenous Nations beyond remote communities to develop this type of framework, the Ministry believes that the Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities (ICEO) process, which is co-led with the First Nations Energy and Mining Council, is a more appropriate venue for considering such a framework.

Timeline for Regulatory Amendments

Date	Objective
March 2023	Targeted Engagement
April 2023	Request for Decision
June 2023	Broad Engagement
July 2023	Drafting Instructions

Figure 3 - Briefing Material for Session 1 (Page 3)



Regulatory Questions for Discussion

1. Have the policy issues been appropriately characterized?
2. Do you have questions regarding the regulatory tools available?
3. What information would you like the Ministry to take into account as it considers options and parameters for regulatory support?

Engagement Questions for Discussion

1. What does meaningful engagement on these topics look like?
2. How would you like to be involved in the regulatory process moving forward?
3. What information do you need to be able to participate fully?

Next Steps

Ongoing engagement will continue to occur throughout summer 2023 and through the RCES working group, which is a jointly led initiative between the Ministry and seven member Nations.² This spring, the working group is expanding membership and inviting new members to support the implementation of the RCES Action Plan. Remote Indigenous Nations are asked to indicate their interest by April 14, 2023 by emailing events2@mahihkan.ca

Contact Information

If you have any questions about this material or the overall Indigenous engagement process, please contact us at CommunityCleanEnergy@gov.bc.ca

Figure 4 - Briefing Material for Session 1 (Page 4)

March 9, 2023



*Indigenous Engagement Non-Integrated Area (NIA) Communities
Session 2: BC Hydro NIA Strategy and Long-Term Resource Framework*

In March 2023, BC Hydro is partnering with the Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Low-Carbon Innovation (the Ministry) to host three online engagement sessions with Indigenous nations who have communities in Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs).

The primary aim of the engagement session on March 9, 2023 is for BC Hydro to introduce BC Hydro's NIA Strategy's components and the options BC Hydro is considering for the NIA Long Term Resource Plan Framework (LTRP). We will also be discussing how communities can be involved, and to support that involvement, BC Hydro has prepared the following overview to inform participation in the sessions as well as a written feedback form.

Input We've Received

Since the release of CleanBC in late 2018, both BC Hydro and the Ministry have worked with communities on our shared goals of reducing the reliance on diesel generation. During this time, BC Hydro has undertaken discussions on diesel reduction projects with several NIA communities. These discussions evolved to include topics such as investments to improve reliability, affordability, and resource planning.

Since late 2018, BC Hydro has gathered input from the Ministry and through the Remote Communities Engagement Strategy (RCES) Working Group established by the Ministry in 2021. BC Hydro has also received feedback from established Clean Energy Working groups and NIA planning needs through regulatory filings (i.e. Integrated Resource Plan and Revenue Requirements Application).

Starting in 2021, BC Hydro began planning activities to support its Integrated System through the Integrated Resource Plan process with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). In response to Information Requests on the topic of NIAs and Fort Nelson, BC Hydro suggested that the construct of Section 44.1 of the [Utilities Commission Act](#) it is not well-suited to small, isolated energy systems with loads that might fluctuate and are challenging to forecast. In response, BC Hydro has begun developing an NIA Strategy and options for the LTRP Framework, informed from multiple ongoing working groups and project specific experiences with NIA communities.

NIA Strategy

The NIA Strategy is an attempt to coordinate NIA energy needs and focuses on consolidating opportunities under 3 key Pillars:

- Clean Energy (e.g. clean energy projects, small scale solar, etc)
- Reliability (e.g. distribution reliability improvements)
- Affordability (e.g. customer rate design options)

NIA LTRPs

As a regulated utility, BC Hydro needs to submit our long-term resource plans to the BCUC for review and acceptance. These long-term resource plans provide the BCUC with important information that supports applications like Energy Purchase Agreements, Rate Design and Revenue Requirements. The BCUC has experience reviewing BC Hydro's plan for the integrated system, which is a large but relatively stable and predictable system due to its size.

Figure 5 - Briefing Material for Session 2 (Page 1)



*Indigenous Engagement Non-Integrated Area (NIA) Communities
Session 2: BC Hydro NIA Strategy and Long-Term Resource Framework*

The BCUC recognizes that we may need a different model for the oversight of resource plans for our remote communities that are much smaller in size and more dynamic than the integrated system. BC Hydro will submit a proposed framework to the BCUC for the consideration of long-term resource plans, recognizing that each of the communities in our non-integrated areas is unique, and that we need to scale the process for regulatory efficiency.

In June 2023, we will submit our draft proposal to the BCUC. At the same time, we will be publishing the first version of our Strategy for the Non-Integrated Areas to support the approach to LTRP.

Engagement Going Forward

This March, BC Hydro's March 9 – and the follow up March 15th – engagement sessions will serve as the beginning of engagement on this work.

Draft Agenda for March 9th Meeting:

9:30 am	Welcome from Maureen Daschuk (Executive Vice-President, Integrated Planning, BCH)
9:55 am	Presentation from BC Hydro: NIA Strategy and Long-Term Resource Planning Framework Overview
10:45 am	Break
11:00 am	Discussion and Future Engagement Opportunities
11:45 am	Closing Remarks

Additional engagement opportunities on more detailed components both the NIA Strategy and the NIA LTRP Framework will be made available to communities participating in these March engagement sessions in April and May 2023 to support the BCUC filing of the LTRP Framework in June. Through the remainder of 2023, BC Hydro will continue to offer meaningful engagement with NIA communities seeking Indigenous communities' perspectives on how to best align the needs and interests of each community with the NIA Strategy and NIA LTRP Framework.

Questions for Discussion

1. Are your needs and/or interests reflected in the key pillars of BC Hydro's NIA Strategy?
2. Do you have any questions about BC Hydro's NIA Strategy or Long-Term Resource Planning Framework?

Figure 6 - Briefing Material for Session 2 (Page 2)

Invitation



Good afternoon,

The Province of British Columbia (B.C.) and BC Hydro are pleased to invite staff and representatives from your nation and/or Indigenous governance organization to join upcoming Indigenous engagement sessions with remote communities in Non-Integrated Areas (NIAs).

The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI) and BC Hydro have partnered to deliver engagement sessions on the development of policy proposals related to the CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy and the BC Hydro Non-Integrated Area Strategy.

Feedback received through the engagement sessions will assist in the formation of policy ideas to support the decarbonization of Non-Integrated Areas while honoring the Province’s and BC Hydro’s ongoing commitments to Indigenous peoples.

Three engagement sessions are planned for March 2023. Each session will build on information from the previous session, so participants are encouraged to attend as many sessions as possible. Please see below for engagement dates and locations.

On March 7, the Province will provide an update on the CleanBC Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) and host a discussion on regulatory changes to support renewable energy generation in NIAs. **Please see the attached briefing material.**

On March 9, BC Hydro will share information about a new NIA strategy, resource planning in NIA communities, and next steps with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC). **Please see the attached briefing material.**

On March 15, the Province and BC Hydro will summarize information and feedback from previous sessions, answer additional questions, and report on next steps.

Session Dates and Times

Event	Date/Time	Location
Session 1 EMLI Presents: Regulatory Changes to Support Renewable Energy Generation in NIAs	Tuesday, March 7, 2023 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm (PST)	Virtual (via Zoom)
Session 2 BC Hydro Presents: NIA Strategy and Long-Term Resource Planning Framework	Thursday, March 9, 2023 9:30 am – 12:00 pm (PST)	Virtual (via Zoom)
Session 3 EMLI & BC Hydro Co-Presentation: Wrap-Up and Report Back	Wednesday, March 15, 2023 9:30 am – 12:00 pm (PST)	Virtual (via Zoom)

Figure 7 - Event Invitation (Page 1)

REGISTER NOW

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/indigenous-engagement-with-remote-communities-in-non-integrated-areas-tickets-538079218427>

Who Should Attend?

The Province and BC Hydro invite Indigenous remote communities in Non-Integrated Areas to participate. The suggested attendance for these sessions is staff and leadership from Indigenous nations and/or governance organizations.

Other Ways to Provide Feedback

Participants are welcome to provide written feedback to the Ministry and BC Hydro before and/or after the sessions. The written feedback form can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T7JKK7B>

Alternatively, please email the Ministry at CommunityCleanEnergy@gov.bc.ca to provide written feedback, with subject line "Feedback: Indigenous Engagement - Non-Integrated Areas".

If you are unable to attend any of the sessions, but would like to meet with EMLI and/or BC Hydro staff, please contact Eryn Fitzgerald, Senior Policy Analyst, at Eryn.Fitzgerald@gov.bc.ca or at (778) 974-4437 to schedule a meeting.

Capacity Funding

The [Province](#) is offering capacity support to staff and leadership representatives from Indigenous nations and/or governance organizations to enable attendance at one or more engagement sessions. On behalf of the Province, The Fraser Basin Council will be administering payments of \$250.00 per person, per session, up to a maximum of two representatives per nation/organization. Please note that March 31, 2023 is the last day on which the Province is able to provide funding.

Contact Us

Your personal information is collected under section 26(c) and 26(e) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* for the purposes of informing policy development. If you have any questions about the collection of your information, please contact the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Carbon Innovation project staff, Eryn Fitzgerald, Senior Policy Analyst, at Eryn.Fitzgerald@gov.bc.ca.

If there are other representatives from your nation and/or Indigenous organization who should be invited, please inform Mahihkan Management at events2@mahihkan.ca

Mahihkan Management is pleased to be supporting EMLI and BC Hydro with event management and facilitation services for these upcoming sessions.

Thank you,
Mahihkan Management
on behalf of Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation & BC Hydro



Email events2@mahihkan.ca
Website www.mahihkan.ca
1466 Enderby Ave, Delta, BC V4L 1S5

Mahihkan Management acknowledges that it is situated on the shared, traditional, ancestral, and unceded traditional territories of the scwáwəŋ (Tsawwassen), xʷməθkʷəyám (Musqueam), and other Coast Salish Peoples.

Figure 8 - Event Invitation (Page 2)

APPENDIX II – PARTICIPANTS

March 7, 2023

Representatives from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Representatives from BC Hydro

Mahihkan Management

Facilitator

Technical Support

Notetaker

Communities & Organizations Represented

ATCO Ltd.

Barkley Project Group

Council of the Haida Nation
Gitga'at First Nation
Hedgehog Technologies
Heiltsuk Tribal Council
Kwadacha Nation
Nuxalk Nation
Old Massett Village Council
Ratcliff LLP representing Maa-nulth Treaty (requested by Uchucklesaht Tribe)
Skidegate Band Council
Tahltan Central Government
TII Yahda Energy
Uchucklesaht Tribe Government
Ulkatcho First Nation
Union of BC Indian Chiefs
West Chilcotin Forrest Products

March 9, 2023

Representatives from the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation

Representatives from BC Hydro

Mahihkan Management

Facilitator

Technical Support

Notetaker

Communities & Organizations Represented

ATCO Ltd

Barkley Project Group

Council of the Haida Nation

Dease River Development Corp

First Nations Energy and Mining Council
Gitga'at First Nation
Hedgehog Technologies
Kwadacha Nation
Nuxalk Nation
Old Massett Village Council
Ratcliff LLP representing Maa-nulth Treaty (requested by Uchucklesaht Tribe)
Tahltan Central Government
Tahltan First Nation
Taku River Tlingit First Nation
TII Yahda Energy
Tsay Keh Dene Nation
Uchucklesaht Tribe Government
Ulkatcho First Nation
West Chilcotin Forest Products

March 15, 2023

**Representatives from the Ministry of
Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation**

Representatives from BC Hydro

Mahihkan Management

Facilitator

Technical Support

Notetaker

Communities & Organizations Represented

ATCO Ltd

Barkley Project Group

Dease River Development Corp

Gitga'at First Nation

Haida Nation

Hedgehog Technologies

Heiltsuk Nation

Nuxalk Nation

Old Massett Village Council

Skidegate Band Council

Taku River Tlingit First Nation

TII Yahda Energy

Uchucklesaht Tribe Government

Ulkatcho First Nation

Urban Systems

West Chilcotin Forrest Products

APPENDIX III – MINISTRY PRESENTATION



Provincial Engagement with Indigenous Remote Communities in Non-Integrated Areas

Community Clean Energy Branch
March 15, 2023

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Figure 9 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 1)



Agenda

1. Recap of Potential Regulatory Changes
2. Revisit Comments and Questions from March 7
3. Discussion Questions
4. Engagement Next Steps



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Figure 10 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 2)



Policy Issues:

1. Uncertainty of Project Approval
2. Cost of Upgrades
3. Unexpected Costs
4. Uncertainty of Purchase Price
5. Purchase Price Amount

3

Figure 11 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 3)



Regulatory Tool Comparison

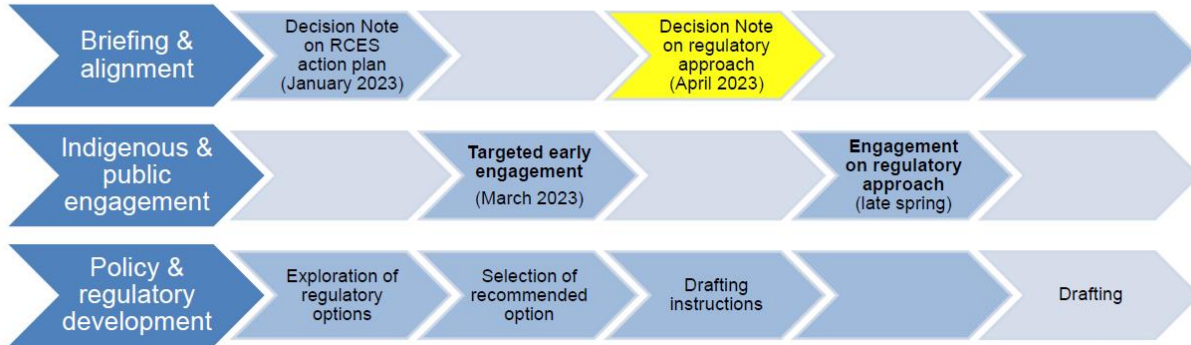
Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation	Exemption	Direction
Clean Energy Act Section 18	Utilities Commission Act Section 22	Utilities Commission Act Section 3
Cabinet-Approved	Minister-Approved	Cabinet-Approved

4

Figure 12 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 4)



Timeline for Regulatory Changes



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Figure 13 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 5)



Comments and Questions from March 7



6

Figure 14 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 6)



1. Have the Policy Issues Been Appropriately Characterized?

- Uncertainty of Project Approval
- Price Structure
- System Upgrades
- Power Quality

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Figure 15 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 7)



2. Do you have questions regarding the regulatory tools available?

- What does the GRR do exactly?
- What are some examples of exemptions?
- Will Zone 2 ratepayers be impacted?

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Figure 16 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 8)



“What does the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Regulation do?”

- Lists various classes of projects
- Addition vs. Amendment
- A new class of project could be added to the GGRR

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Figure 17 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 9)



“What are some examples of exemptions?”

- Exemptions are listed on the BC Laws website
- Various reasons why exemptions are issued by the Minister
- Examples include Indigenous power projects

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Figure 18 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 10)



“Will Zone 2 ratepayers be impacted?”

- Unlikely that the BCUC would seek to recover costs from Zone 2 ratepayers
- But prepared to recommend an option that would eliminate the risk

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Figure 19 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 11)



Other initiatives

- What is the timeline for the Low Carbon Fuels Act (LCFA) and how does it relate to the proposed regulatory changes?

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Figure 20 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 12)

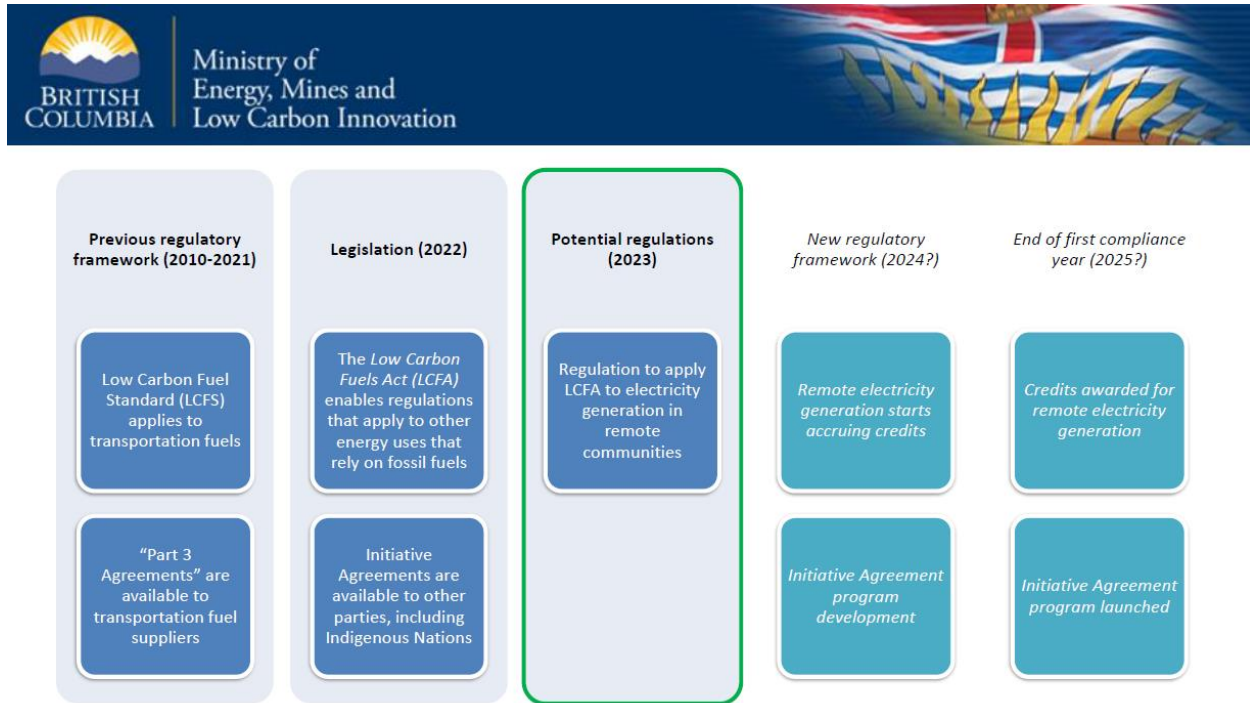


Figure 21 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 13)



Other initiatives

- What is the Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities process (ICEO) and what will it address?

Figure 22 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 14)



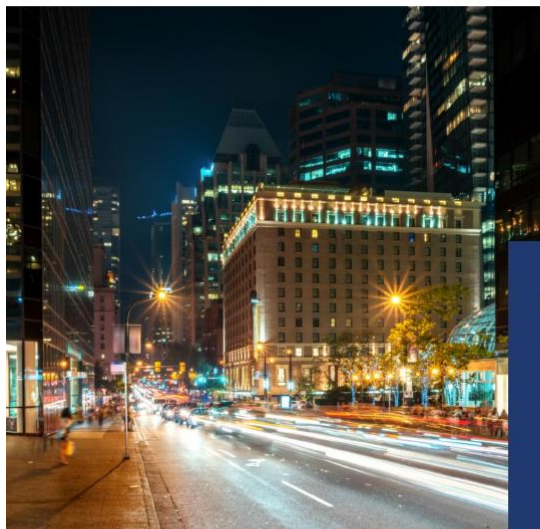
INDIGENOUS CLEAN ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES (ICEO) ENGAGEMENT



- Co-developed, co-led process between First Nation Energy and Mining Council and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation.
- Dialogue to position First Nations to fully participate in current and future opportunities in BC's clean energy sector; improve economic, environmental, social and cultural outcomes
- ICEO province-wide launch in November 2021

For more details, or if you would like to provide input:
Annika.VanRoy@gov.bc.ca 778-698-4998

Figure 23 – The Ministry's Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 15)



ENGAGEMENT TABLES FOR 2022-2023



Three Engagement Tables:

- Electricity Table
- Hydrogen and Renewable Natural Gas Market Opportunities Engagement Table
- Legislative Standing Table

Website:
indigenouscleanenergyopportunities.gov.bc.ca

Figure 24 – The Ministry's Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 16)



What does meaningful engagement look like?

- Reconciliation can only be defined by Indigenous Nations
- Capacity funding is needed
- Demonstrate how feedback is being applied
- Need more engagement on important issues

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Figure 25 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 17)



Follow-up Questions

What information would you like the Ministry to take into account as it considers options for regulatory support?

- Project Timing
- Type of Project
- Project Cost
- Project Ownership Structure

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Figure 26 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 18)



BC Hydro Presentation



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Figure 27 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 19)



Engagement Next Steps



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Figure 28 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 20)



Engagement Next Steps – Written Feedback

- Collected until March 31
- Mirrors discussion questions
- Considered in “What we Heard” report



Indigenous Remote Community Engagement with Non-Integrated Areas Written Feedback Form

The following form is a voluntary questionnaire created by the British Columbia (B.C.) Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (the Ministry) as well as BC Hydro. The questions have been developed as part of the spring 2023 engagement sessions with remote Indigenous nations who have non-integrated areas communities.

For context, we invite you to attend the virtual engagement sessions on March 7, 9, and 15, 2023 and to read the associated briefing package.

You are welcome to respond to the questions below, ask questions, and/or contribute additional thoughts as they arise. If you prefer not to use the form, you may email your responses to Community.CleanBC@bc.ca.

The information collected in this form and by email will be shared with the Ministry as well as BC Hydro. This information is being collected by the Community Clean Energy Branch under sections 26(2) and (e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for the purpose of remote community engagement.

This questionnaire will be open until March 31, 2023. You are welcome to submit written comments beyond this date by email. Please note that written comments received after March 31, 2023 may not be included in the “What We Heard” report for the spring engagement sessions but will be considered as part of the broader summer 2023 engagement process.

*1. Please enter your contact information below:

First name:

Last name:

Work / organization:

Email address:

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Figure 29 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 21)



Remote Community Energy Strategy (RCES) Indigenous Working Group

The RCES Working Group is expanding membership and inviting new members to support the implementation of the RCES Action Plan.

To join, please indicate interest by **April 14, 2023** by contacting Mahihkan Management at events2@mahihkan.ca

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Figure 30 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 22)



Learning Opportunities re: British Columbia Utilities Commission

- Indigenous Clean Energy Opportunities Fund is organizing **Electricity 101 Workshops**
- The Community Clean Energy Branch and BC Hydro are collaborating on a BCUC Intervenor Training

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Figure 31 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 23)



Contact Us

Sean LeRoy, Director

Community Clean Energy Branch

Sean.LeRoy@gov.bc.ca

General Inquiries

CommunityCleanEnergy@gov.bc.ca

RCES Working Group

events2@mahihkan.ca



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Figure 32 – The Ministry’s Wrap-Up Presentation (Page 24)