SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX A16 PART 1

COMMUNITY SUMMARY:
MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGION 6

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:
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January 2013
Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6

The Métis Nation of Alberta is a political organization established in 1928 to advocate on behalf of Métis people in Alberta.¹ Region 6 of the Métis Nation of Alberta is located in northwest Alberta, with its office located in Peace River, Alberta.² The Peace River runs through much of Region 6.³ Métis communities within Region 6 include Fort Vermilion, Dunvegan, and Peace River.⁴

In his feedback provided on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6 on the EIS Guidelines for the Project, Walter Andreeff described the population as exceeding 7,000 members in Region 6.⁵

**Traditional Territory Map**

No map has been provided to BC Hydro by Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6.

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⁴ Walter Andreeff, *Site C EISG Feedback Form*.

⁵ Walter Andreeff, *Site C EISG Feedback Form*. 

SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX A16 PART 2

BC HYDRO CONSULTATION SUMMARY:
MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGION 6

FINAL REPORT

Prepared for:
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January 2013
Volume 5 Appendix A, Part 2, provides a summary of consultation activities undertaken by BC Hydro with each of the 29 Aboriginal groups listed in Table 9.1 of the EIS, as required pursuant to section 7.2.1 of the EIS Guidelines. This summary describes consultation activities that took place between November 1, 2007 and November 30, 2012, including meetings, phone calls, letters and emails, and consists of a high-level description of “key events” followed by a chronological summary of the consultation process during the above time period.

Volume 5 Appendix A, Part 2, will be updated with new or additional information prior to the submission of the EIS to the Joint Review Panel.

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGION 6
CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Defined terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“BCEAO”</td>
<td>Environmental Assessment Office, Province of British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“CEA Agency”</td>
<td>Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“EIS”</td>
<td>Environmental Impact Statement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key events

2012

- May:
  - BC Hydro provided Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 with the Potential Downstream Changes Report (May 2012) and requested input regarding the results. The letter offered to arrange a meeting with BC Hydro’s subject matter expert in hydrology to discuss the report’s findings.
  - BC Hydro wrote to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 regarding the process and rationale for identifying the proposed Valued Components and spatial boundaries...
in the draft EIS Guidelines, and expressed interest in receiving feedback from Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6.

- **September**: BC Hydro wrote to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 advising that the EIS Guidelines had been issued by the BCEAO and the CEA Agency on September 7. BC Hydro highlighted the areas of the EIS Guidelines that specifically addressed the incorporation of information from Aboriginal groups, and invited Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 to provide additional information for BC Hydro’s consideration in preparing the EIS. The letter included a specific request for a traditional territory map, as well as requests for information regarding Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6’s current use of lands and resources for hunting, fishing and trapping, and other purposes, and information regarding how the Project would affect Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6’s current use of lands and resources, and their exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights. BC Hydro followed up in late October and advised that it remained interested in receiving additional information to support the preparation of the EIS.

- **October**: BC Hydro met with representatives of Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 (President, Vice President, Scientific Regulatory Advisor) and provided an overview of the Project, which included information on potential downstream changes resulting from the Project, the results of baseline fish studies, and mercury levels in fish. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 requested further information about how the river may change and potentially impact fishing and other cultural and recreational activities of their members, specifically those who lived in Fairview and the Town of Peace River, and expressed a specific concern about potential effects of the Project on the Shaftsbury ice bridge.

- **November**: BC Hydro met with Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 to discuss potential downstream changes and Métis activities around the Peace River. BC Hydro provided an overview of the potential downstream changes, summarized as follows:
  - **Surface water regime**: BC Hydro indicated that the Project would not remove water from the Peace River during operations, change the seasonal timing of flow releases, or affect tributary flows. BC Hydro also concluded that fluctuations in water levels would be more noticeable near the Site C tailrace, with effects diminishing further downstream and no fluctuations being observed at the Town of Peace River.
  - **Thermal and ice regime**: BC Hydro indicated that the reservoir was likely to reduce the amount of ice passed downstream and influence water temperatures in the Peace River by between 0.0 and 1.5 degrees Celsius. BC Hydro indicated that these changes were likely to lead to a) a reduction in the maximum upstream
extent of ice cover, b) a slight delay (3 days on average) in ice formation at the Town of Peace River, c) no change in break-up timing, and d) no change in ice thickness.

- Fluvial geomorphology and sediment transport regime: BC Hydro indicated that it expected no changes to geomorphology due to the small changes in the flow regime expected with the Project. BC Hydro also noted that it expected a reduction in suspended sediment, because the reservoir would trap some of the sediment upstream.

Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 indicated that their members used ice bridges for access to lands, including the one at Shaftsbury, and emphasized the importance of the Peace River historically for transportation. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 stated that its members had trap lines on the tributaries to the Peace River and engaged in fishing on the Peace River.

Chronology of events

2012

On May 9, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 which attached the updated Potential Downstream Changes Report, and requested input regarding the results. The letter offered to arrange a meeting with BC Hydro’s subject matter expert in hydrology to discuss the report’s findings.

On May 23, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 regarding the identification of Valued Components and spatial boundaries for the Environmental Assessment, and expressed its desire to consult further with Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 on these issues. The letter explained the process and rationale used to identify Valued Components in the draft EIS Guidelines, and attached a graphic representation of the Valued Component identification methodology. The letter also explained the process of defining spatial boundaries for each Valued Component. The letter expressed interest in receiving feedback from Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 regarding their proposed Valued Components and related spatial boundaries.

On May 25, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 advising that BC Hydro had created a secured file transfer website for Aboriginal groups containing commonly requested Site C documents (e.g., environmental reports, maps and presentations). The letter provided a link to the website and access information.
On August 22, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6, in follow up to BC Hydro’s letter of May 25, 2012, providing a password to access the secured file transfer website for Aboriginal groups. The letter advised that BC Hydro would be uploading a new set of documents to the website (primarily PowerPoint presentations on key Project components), which contained sensitive information not yet in the public domain. The letter sought Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6’s confirmation that persons with access to the password would not disclose any confidential information, and advised that the confidential materials would be made accessible upon BC Hydro’s receipt of the attached confidentiality agreement.

On August 27, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 enclosing a table titled “Preliminary Summary of Construction Phase Workforce” which summarized the timing, type of jobs and number of opportunities that BC Hydro anticipated would be needed to construct the Project. The letter provided a link to secured file transfer website where additional information regarding Project opportunities had been posted.

On September 21, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 advising that the EIS Guidelines had been issued by the CEA Agency and the BCEAO on September 7, and provided a link to where the document was available online. The letter highlighted the areas of the EIS Guidelines that specifically addressed the incorporation of information from Aboriginal groups. The letter requested any additional information such as mapping of traditional territories, traditional knowledge, concerns regarding potential for adverse effects on the various components of the environment as identified by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6, current land use information, including reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources, current use of lands and resources for hunting, fishing and trapping, and current use of lands and resources for activities other than hunting, fishing and trapping. The letter advised that BC Hydro would like to continue to receive information with respect to any asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights of the community that may be adversely affected by the Project, and in particular information concerning hunting, fishing, and trapping. The letter expressed interest in understanding how the environment was valued by the community for current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes, including activities conducted in the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights, and how current use may be affected by the Project. The letter invited Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 to continue to identify any interests the community may have had with respect to potential social, economic, health and physical and cultural heritage effects of the Project.

On October 2, 2012, BC Hydro met with representatives of Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 (President, Vice President, Scientific Regulatory Advisor) and provided an overview of the Project, which included information on potential downstream changes resulting from the Project, the results of baseline fish studies, and mercury levels in fish. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 requested further information about how the river may change and
potentially impact fishing and other cultural and recreational activities of their members, specifically those who lived in Fairview and the Town of Peace River, and expressed a specific concern about potential effects of the Project on the Shaftsbury ice bridge. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 expressed interest in organizing a community meeting involving representatives from BC Hydro to provide information about the Project. BC Hydro agreed to consider a budget proposal from Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 for funding assistance to support Project-related community meetings and support staff. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 provided the following materials during the meeting:

- Métis Settlements and Métis Nation of Alberta Association Regional Zones, Aboriginal Affairs (1996)
- Métis Regions: Showing Total Métis Identity Population and Member Locations, Métis Nation of Alberta

BC Hydro provided the following materials during the meeting:

- Copy of the Project overview presentation
- Letter regarding the EIS Guidelines (September 21, 2012)
- SharePoint Confidentiality Agreement letter (August 22, 2012)
- Site C First Nation Community Map and Project Maps

Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 signed the confidentiality agreement at the meeting, and provided it to BC Hydro. The agreement would allow Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 to access confidential materials related to the Project located on BC Hydro’s secured file transfer website.

On October 25, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 in follow up to BC Hydro’s letter of September 21, 2012, which had invited Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 to provide any relevant information for consideration in preparing the EIS. The letter advised that BC Hydro remained interested in receiving information from Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 to support the preparation of the EIS.

On November 15, 2012, BC Hydro sent a letter to Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 which sought to address potential gaps in the information exchange between the parties. The letter requested that Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 notify BC Hydro of instances where information requested in meetings or consultations to date had not been provided, and committed to following up on outstanding information requests as soon as possible.

On November 30, 2012, BC Hydro met with representatives of Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 (President, Vice President, five Directors and others) to discuss downstream
changes and Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6’s activities around the Peace River. BC Hydro provided an overview of the downstream changes as they related to surface water regime, thermal and ice regime, and fluvial geomorphology and sediment transport regime, summarized as follows:

- **Surface water regime:** BC Hydro indicated that the Project would not remove water from the Peace River during operations, or change the seasonal timing of flow releases, or affect tributary flows. BC Hydro also concluded that if the Project were constructed, the fluctuations in water levels would be more noticeable near the Site C tailrace with effects diminishing further downstream and no fluctuations being observed at the Town of Peace River.

- **Thermal and ice regime:** BC Hydro indicated that the reservoir was likely to reduce the amount of ice passed downstream and influence water temperatures in the Peace River by between 0.0 and 1.5 degrees Celsius. BC Hydro indicated that these changes were likely to lead to a) a reduction in the maximum upstream extent of ice cover, b) a slight delay (3 days on average) in ice formation at Town of Peace River, c) no change in break-up timing, and d) no change in ice thickness.

- **Fluvial geomorphology and sediment transport regime:** BC Hydro indicated that it expected no changes to geomorphology due to the small changes in the flow regime expected with the Project. BC Hydro also noted that it expected a reduction in suspended sediment, because the reservoir would trap some of the sediment upstream.

Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 indicated that their members used ice bridges for access to lands, including the one at Shaftsbury, and emphasized the importance of the Peace River historically for transportation. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 stated that its members had trap lines on the tributaries to the Peace River and engaged in fishing on the Peace River. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 further advised that ungulates including moose were an important traditional and current food source. Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 advised that it was interested in employment and small contract opportunities, and BC Hydro agreed to follow up with further information.
Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6

In preparing responses to these questions, information on the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6, and on current and past use of lands and resources by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6, was obtained from on-line research. BC Hydro did not enter into a Traditional Land Use Study agreement with the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6, and no traditional land use information was made available by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 for consideration in this review.

The Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 is located in northwestern Alberta (Figure 1), within the traditional territory historically occupied by the Métis which is asserted to include Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, and parts of Ontario, the Northwest Territories, and British Columbia. The Peace River is a central feature of Region 6.

The office of the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 is located in Peace River, Alberta. Over 7,000 Métis live in the Region.

1. What is the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6’s current use of lands and resources for hunting, fishing and trapping activities, including the location of the activity, the species targeted, and the traditional uses of the harvested animals within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs?

The Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA and RAA are located within British Columbia. No specific information was identified that described or documented current use by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 of lands and resources within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA or RAA for hunting and trapping activities. Portions of the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAA and RAA are in Alberta within the area encompassed by Region 6. No information was identified that described or documented current fishing activities by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 in the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAA or RAA.

2. What is the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6’s current use of lands and resources for activities other than hunting, fishing and trapping, including the nature, location and traditional use purpose within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs?

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1 The sources consulted for this report are set out in the References.
The Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA and RAA are located within British Columbia. No specific information was identified that described or documented current use by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 of lands and resources within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA or RAA for other activities. Portions of the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAA and RAA are within Alberta and the area encompassed by Region 6. At a Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 meeting to review the Project, one family stated that they used the Peace River all year for their income and traditional activities. All participants stated that they used the Peace River for family gatherings and ceremonies.4

3. What is your understanding of the exercise of asserted Aboriginal rights or treaty rights by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA and RAA?

The Métis Nation assert that they are a distinct Aboriginal people of Canada with a shared history, extensive kinship connections, a traditional territory and a collective identity based on a common culture, a unique language (Michif), and a distinct way of life.5

The Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA and RAA are located within British Columbia. No information was identified related to current use of the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA or RAA by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 members, nor was any specific information identified related to reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) LAA or RAA by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 members.

Parts of the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAA and RAA are in Alberta within the area of Region 6. Only general information on past and current use of lands and resources within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) RAA by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 members (see 4 below) was identified. No specific information was identified relating to reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) RAA in Region 6 by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 members.

4. Identify past, current and reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources by Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 members for traditional purposes who may be adversely impacted by the project within the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs and RAAs.

The Métis have been part of the history of the northwest region of Alberta since the time of the fur trade in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Métis history is tied to the communities of Fort Vermilion, Dunvegan, Peace River and numerous other communities in the region.6

The Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 assert that historically their economy, both sustenance and commercial, was based on trapping, hunting and fishing in the area of Region 6, and that the area continues to be of importance to their economy today. The leadership of the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 held a meeting and workshop regarding the Project where participants provided information on uses of the region. One family stated that they used the Peace River all year for their income and traditional activities. All participants stated that they used the Peace River for family gatherings and ceremonies. Many of the participants felt that their Aboriginal rights would be impacted by the Project.7

5. In the TLUS, is there any information relating to the exercise of asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights outside the Current Use of Lands and Resources (Wildlife Resources) and Current Use of Lands and Resources (Fish and Fish Habitat) LAAs or RAAs?

BC Hydro did not enter into a Traditional Land Use Study agreement with the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6, and no traditional land use information was made available by the Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 for consideration in this review. The Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6 assert that historically, their economy, both sustenance and commercial, was based on trapping, hunting and fishing in the area encompassed by Region 6, and that the area continues to be of importance to their economy today.8

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Figure 1: Alberta, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations. Map of Métis Settlements and Métis Nation of Alberta Association Regional Zones (University of Alberta (2012). Métis Map. Website: http://www.ualberta.ca/~nativest/home/metismap.htm).
References


**Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6**

As required by Section 20.8 of the EIS Guidelines, the following summary presents BC Hydro’s understanding of Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6’s asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights, and other Aboriginal interests potentially impacted by, and concerns with respect to, the Project. The summary also provides BC Hydro’s understanding of the potential adverse effects of the Project on the asserted or established Aboriginal rights and interests of Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6.

**Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6’s Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights**

A Métis group holds Aboriginal rights if it establishes: (i) it is a contemporary Métis community; and (ii) the existing community is grounded in a historic Métis community. Métis rights, like all Aboriginal rights, must be integral to the community member’s distinctive culture. Unlike other Aboriginal rights, however, a present-day Métis right must have been an existing practice at the date of “effective European control” (in contrast to prior to contact with Europeans).

The Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6 is one of six groups listed in Table 34.1 of Volume 5 Section 34 Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Interests and Information Requirements that asserts rights as a Métis group. The six groups consist of two located in British Columbia (Métis Nation British Columbia, Kelly Lake Métis Settlement Society), three located in Alberta (Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6, Paddle Prairie Métis Settlement Society, Fort Chipewyan Métis Local 125), and one in the Northwest Territories (Northwest Territory Métis Nation).

For a more thorough discussion of Métis rights, see Section 34.3.2.3 Volume 5 Section 34 Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Interests and Information Requirements.

**Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6’s Concerns with Respect to the Project**

The following table presents a high-level description of the concerns identified by Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6 in consultation activities with BC Hydro between November 1, 2007 and November 30, 2012, including those identified in meetings, phone calls, letters, emails, reports, and any submissions made during the comment periods for the EIS Guidelines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Water- Thermal and Ice Regime</strong></th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concern about the potential effects of the Project on ice flow, ice formation, ice break-ups and ice bridges, including of the ice bridges at Shaftesbury, Dunvegan and Carcajou.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

These concerns are presented in an issues tracking table under Volume 1 Appendix H Aboriginal Information, Distribution and Consultation Supporting Documentation, which
outlines BC Hydro’s consideration and/or response to the concern or provides a reference to where the concern is considered or responded to in the EIS.

**Potential Adverse Effects of the Project on Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6’s Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights**

Based on the assessment undertaken by BC Hydro and set out in Volume 3 Section 19 Current Use of Lands and Resources for Traditional Purposes, it is BC Hydro’s understanding that the Project will have no adverse effects on the current use of lands and resources for traditional purposes of the Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6.

Volume 5 Section 34 Asserted or Established Aboriginal Rights and Treaty Rights, Aboriginal Interests and Information Requirements presents BC Hydro’s assessment of the potential impacts of the Project on the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights and treaty rights of the 29 Aboriginal groups with which BC Hydro was instructed to consult. Based on that assessment, it is BC Hydro’s understanding that the Project will have no adverse impacts on the exercise of asserted or established Aboriginal rights by the Métis Nation of Alberta – Region 6.

Consultation is ongoing between BC Hydro and the Métis Nation of Alberta - Region 6, and may yield additional information on the Métis Nation of Alberta - Region 6’s current and reasonably anticipated future use of lands and resources that may potentially be affected by the Project. Should Métis Nation of Alberta - Region 6 provide additional information to BC Hydro, it will be considered and incorporated in the effects assessment during the EIS review phase and prior to submission of the EIS to the Joint Review Panel.