SITE C CLEAN ENERGY PROJECT

VOLUME 5 APPENDIX D

CORRESPONDENCE: FROM TREATY 8 TRIBAL ASSOCIATION TO BC HYDRO SITE C EA TEAM RE: T8FNS SITE C TLUS CULTURAL SITES NARRATIVE DATED JUNE 14, 2013

Prepared for:

BC Hydro Power and Authority

<contact information removed>

Prepared by:

Site C First Nations Engagement Team

<contact information removed>

Revision 1 – July 19, 2013

Treaty 8 Tribal Association

10233 – 100th Avenue, Fort St. John, BC, V1J 1Y8

Phone: (250) 785-0612 Fax: (250) 785-9800 or 785-2021

Website: www.treaty8.bc.ca

Transmittal			
TO:	**BC Hydro Site C EA Team**		
ATTN:	**Seanna McConnell, Trevor Proverbs, Aliana Slot**		
FROM:	**T8FNs Site C EA Team**		
CC:	**Craig Candler**		
RE:	**T8FNs Site C TLUS Cultural Sites Narrative**		
DATE:	**June 14, 2013**	**PAGES:**	**6 (including this page)**

This narrative describes the location of site-specific cultural values, including buffered cultural sites, identified by the Treaty 8 First Nations in the Traditional Land Use Study (TLUS) as being within the Proposed Site C Project Area. On April 16, 2012, the Treaty 8 First Nations provided the locations of these to BC Hydro on maps that included both buffered and non-buffered spatial information. As per section 8.3(d) of the TLUS agreement, the buffered information applies to especially sensitive site-specific values including (i) sacred sites; (ii) burial sites; (iii) traditional spiritual areas; and (iv) medicinal plants.

Background

Pursuant to section 8.5 of the TLUS agreement, on September 27, 2012, BC Hydro requested that the buffered data be unbuffered in order to identify the precise locations of this information. According to BC Hydro's project information, certain project components appear to overlap with buffered and non-buffered cultural sites.

In response to BC Hydro's request in relation to the buffered cultural information, the Treaty 8 First Nations undertook an exercise of comparing this information to BC Hydro's mapped project components. Given that BC Hydro has requested that the buffered information be unbuffered to inform the planning, investigation, evaluation and development of the proposed Site C Project, the Treaty 8 First Nations questioned the reason for providing a precise location for any sensitive cultural values that would inevitably end up inundated or otherwise eradicated by the Project footprint.

In an effort to meet BC Hydro's interest in understanding the precise location of buffered sites for mitigation purposes, while respecting the Treaty 8 First Nations' interest in the confidentiality of the location of these sites should the proposed Project not proceed, the Treaty 8 First Nations have described the nature of these buffered cultural sites with reference to their locations within the proposed Site C Project Area. The intention is for BC Hydro to consider this narrative and, in light of the information provided, identify those features of the proposed Project (if any) that can be revised to mitigate the impact on these cultural sites. If BC Hydro is able to identify any cultural sites that would benefit from such mitigations, the Treaty 8 First Nations will consider providing precise locations for the sites in question. For the purpose of this narrative, and to account for margin of error, values reported within 250m of an impact line are considered to be inside the impact line. Where values are more than 250m from an impact line, an approximate distance is provided. As the TLUS did not include a fieldwork component, it may be necessary in some instances to field verify sites with community knowledge holders before precise locations can be provided. The Treaty 8 First Nations knowledge and use values include both site specific and non-site specific values and not all site-specific cultural values were buffered on the maps included in the TLUS report. This memorandum should be considered together with other Treaty 8 First Nation submissions, including map and report deliverables related to the TLUS, as well as other submissions.

Cultural Sites Narrative

This narrative starts from the Peace Canyon Dam and moves eastward towards the proposed Site C Dam location 83 kilometers downstream. See also Table 1 below.

Peace Canyon Dam

Immediately downstream of the Peace Canyon Dam there is one burial value and one spiritual value reported on the south side of the Peace River inside or within 250m of the inundation zone, the preliminary erosion and stability impact lines. The spiritual value was recorded as an approximate location based on second-hand knowledge. There are two medicinal plant harvesting areas located outside of the inundation zone and outside of the preliminary erosion and stability impact line, but within the Project Area. This area is also reportedly used for collection of eagle feathers used in ceremonial practice (non-buffered information).

Coffee Pot

Within the vicinity of the Coffee Pot area, there are two spiritual values located on islands in the Peace River and within the inundation zone. It is our understanding that these sites will be flooded by the reservoir and that the impacts cannot be mitigated. The area was also recorded as a teaching area associated with dreamer stories (non-buffered information).

Hudson's Hope

Within the area of Hudson's Hope there are four reported instances of burials located outside of the inundation zone and outside the preliminary erosion and stability impact lines but within the Study Area. Three of the burial values are recorded within or near the town site and are reported to include multiple individual burials. One reported burial is approximately 2.5km

northeast of the town site. All four reported locations are more than 250m, but less than 500m, from an impact line.

Maurice Creek

Within the area of the Maurice Creek confluence with the Peace River and on the south bank (opposite Hudson's Hope) one burial and two spiritual values have been reported within the inundation zone. This area is associated with ceremonial features and a camping and village area.

Farrell Creek

The confluence of Farrell Creek and the Peace River includes multiple medicinal plant harvesting areas. Upstream of the Farrell Creek confluence, and on the Peace River, there are three reported medicinal plant harvesting areas on the north shore and one spiritual value reported on an island in the Peace, all in low-lying areas that would be inundated based on BC Hydro information. One additional medicinal plant harvesting area is reported higher up the north bank and within 250m of the stability impact line.

On the east side of Farrell Creek at the confluence with the Peace River, there is a medicinal plant harvesting area reported on the north bank. This area is reported between 500m and 1km outside of all impact lines.

Another medicinal plant harvesting area is reported on the north bank of the Peace about 8km downstream of the Farrell Creek confluence and inside the inundation line.

Halfway River Confluence

Within the area of the Halfway River confluence, the following values are reported within the inundation zone, or proposed highway realignment:

- Nine reported burial values located on the north bank of the Peace;
- One spiritual value; and
- Two medicinal plant harvesting areas locate on or adjacent islands.

On the north bank of the Peace River, above the confluence, there are two burials and one ceremonial value reported outside of the preliminary erosion impact line but within the preliminary stability impact line. These burial values are associated with the grave of Chief Attachie.

There is one medicinal plant harvesting area located on the north bank of the Peace River and just upstream of the Halfway River confluence. This area is approximately 1km outside of all impact lines.

Bear Flat

Within the area of Bear Flat, the following sites are located within the inundation zone:

- Four reported burials;
- Three medicinal plant harvesting areas; and
- Five ceremonial values.

It is our understanding that these sites will be flooded by the reservoir and that the impacts cannot be mitigated.

On the south side of Cache Creek, across from the confluence with Red Creek, one burial was reported above the inundation zone but within the stability impact line.

On the east side of Red Creek near its confluence with Cache Creek, there is one medicinal plant area located outside of the inundation zone but within the stability impact line.

Proposed Site C Dam Location

Within the area of the proposed dam site construction area there are two burial sites reported on the south side of the Peace River, one medicinal plant harvesting area and one ceremonial site. It is our understanding that these values would be destroyed by construction and that impacts cannot be mitigated.

Just upstream of the proposed Site C dam location, there is a large area (approximately 10km along the north shore of the Peace) that is reported as a medicinal plant harvesting area. Portions of this area are within the inundation zone.

There is one burial site reported to include multiple interments and located immediately downstream of the dam structure and outside of all impact lines and approximately 2km from the proposed footprint.

Table 1: Location of Cultural Site and Values

Location	Inside Project Footprint or Inundation Zone	Within Erosion Impact Line	Within Stability Impact Line	Within LSA	Other Impacts or Related Information
Peace Canyon Dam	One burial, one spiritual value on south shore			Two medicinal plant areas on south bank	Collection of eagle feathers for ceremonial use
Coffee Pot	Two spiritual values on islands in the Peace				Teaching area associated with dreamer stories
Hudson's Hope				Four burial sites on the north bank (three near town site and one to the northeast) within 500m of an impact line	
Maurice Creek (opposite Hudson's Hope)	One burial site and two spiritual values on the south bank.				Associated with village area and other features
Farrell Creek confluence	Three medicinal plant harvesting areas on north bank of confluence, one approximately 8km downstream, and one spiritual value on an island in the Peace		One medicinal plant harvesting areas on the	One medicinal plant harvesting areas on the north bank	Two teaching areas also associated

	near confluence.		north bank		
Halfway River Confluence	Nine reported burial values and one spiritual value; Two medicinal plant areas		Two burial sites and one ceremonial site	One medicinal plant harvesting area	Aggregate and borrow sources would also likely impact these values
Bear Flat	Four burial sites, three medicinal plant areas and five ceremonial sites		One burial site, one medicinal plant area		Associated with habitation and other features. Multiple values potentially impacted by the highway realignment and proposed reclamation
Proposed Site C Dam Location	Two burial sites reported on the south shore of the Peace, two medicinal plant harvesting areas (one very large and extending over 10km along the north bank of the Peace) on the north shore, and one ceremonial site. All are within the inundation zone or dam construction footprint.				One burial site (multiple interments) is reported immediately (approximately 2km) downstream of dam structure