



"Accelerate Canadian exploration and development of geothermal resources in order to provide secure, clean and sustainable energy"

Empowering Canadian Geothermal

May 15, 2014

For Immediate Release

GEOHERMAL ENERGY FACTORS HEAVILY IN JOINT REVIEW PANEL'S SITE C REVIEW

Calgary, AB – May 15, 2014 – The Canadian Geothermal Energy Association was satisfied with the overall quality of the report, completed by the Federal/Provincial Joint Review Panel, which was issued on May 1st, 2014, and weighed the costs and benefits of the 1,100 MW Site C hydroelectric mega project that is proposed by BC Hydro in NE BC.

Throughout December and January CanGEA invested significant resources into making a presentation and composing multiple submissions within the public hearing process held in relation to the mega project.

CanGEA's primary concern was that when BC Hydro looked at alternatives to the Site C project its examination of the province's geothermal resources was far from sufficient. In fact, the option was almost glossed over entirely. Numerous areas with significant geothermal potential were simply ignored in BC Hydro's analysis, such as regions of the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin in NE BC.

Ultimately, the report of the review panel provided a strong affirmation of CanGEA's perspective, related to BC Hydro's oversight. Some highlights of the report include statements such as:

There are alternative sources of power available at similar or somewhat higher costs, notably geothermal power. These sources, being individually smaller than Site C, would allow supply to better follow demand, obviating most of the early-year losses of Site C.

- and -

The Panel concludes that a failure to pursue research over the last 30 years into B.C.'s geothermal resources has left BC Hydro without information about a resource that BC Hydro thinks may offer up to 700 megawatts of firm, economic power with low environmental costs.

Subsequent to this report being made public, discussion about the geothermal option has been re-energized in the public sphere. Some recent articles mentioning geothermal include:

The Globe and Mail - [Four telling points that show why the Site C dam fell short of endorsement](#)

The Vancouver Sun - [Vaughn Palmer: Focus on Site C has reduced power options Political calculations have long trumped sound energy policy making in B.C.](#)

The Province - [Guest Column: B.C. can do better than old Site C technology](#)

The Time Colonist - [Les Leyne: Horgan, Bennett do the Site C tango](#)

In order to capitalize on the present discourse, CanGEA recently sent a letter to every MLA in the province of British Columbia, aimed at informing decision makers precisely how geothermal can factor into meeting the goals outlined in the June 10, 2013, mandate letter of the Honourable Bill Bennett, Minister of Energy and Mines.

About CanGEA

CanGEA is a national industry association that believes we can provide competitively priced, emissions free, renewable, base-load energy to Canadians and to U.S. export markets. CanGEA works on behalf of our members to facilitate the growth of geothermal power projects and promote publicly listed companies on the Canadian Exchanges. Visit us at www.cangea.ca.

If you are supportive of CanGEA's efforts, [please consider a donation to our Policy Action Fund](#), so that CanGEA can continue its tradition of high quality advocacy, in support of a clean and renewable source of energy, on behalf of its members.

Contact: Grant Van Hal
Senior Policy Advisor, Canadian Geothermal Energy Association
grant@cangea.ca, (403) 921-6348