

Review of the Range of Impacts and Benefits of the Columbia River Treaty on Basin Communities, the Region and the Province

Trail, November 28, 2012

Report Overview

- Prepared in response to input from Basin residents
- Supported by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas, BC Hydro, and CBT
- Intended to ‘paint the picture’ of impacts and benefits related to the Treaty.

Scope

- **Geographic:** B.C. and the Columbia Basin in Canada (Kootenay and Columbia Rivers)
- **Includes Mica, Revelstoke, Keenleyside/Arrow Lakes, Duncan, Libby/Koocanusa**
- **Information:** Relied on readily available information (reports, web sites etc.)
- **No analysis or “fact checking” beyond what was presented in other reports**
- **No First Nations impacts and benefits – separate consultation**

Report Challenges

- Limited time frame
- Finding adequate data/information
- Impacts on individuals and ecosystems difficult to adequately describe with data

Impacts, Compensation and Benefits

- Perspective on impacts and benefits depends on point of view
- Benefits and impacts occur at different times. Some were ‘one time’ and others are ongoing
- Compensation and mitigation response time frames relative to impacts
- Treaty terms are that the liability for impacts in Canada rest with Canada (B.C., BC Hydro)

Biophysical Impacts (Inundation)

	Keenleyside	Basin Total
Lakes	34,992	39,919
Rivers	2,022	11,488
Streams	51	324
Shallow ponds	103	1068
Gravel Bars	3,263	3,658
Wetlands	3,432	12,647
Floodplains, Riparian		
Forests	3,564	26,664
Upland Ecosystems	3,844	23,586
Total	51,270 ha	119,353 ha

Biophysical Impacts

- Entire terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems inundated
- Impacts on habitat for fish and other aquatic life, mammals, waterfowl and other birds
- Loss of natural features such as hot springs
- 2,153 ha of cultivated fields and 50 (ha) of cultivated orchards (Keenleyside) in the inundated area
- At low water, drawdown areas are unsightly, “dusty” and ecologically unproductive
- The new ecosystem needs ongoing support

Social Impacts

- Inadequate consultation on CRT with Basin residents and First Nations
- Over 2,300 people were displaced
- Arrow Lakes: 1,350 ownerships, 3,144 parcels, over 2,000 people and 615 households displaced, with 260 of those on farmsteads, 44 with commercial sales
- Concern about the process of private land acquisition and amount of compensation

Social Impacts

- Unrealized commitments made by BC Hydro and/or the Province
- Communities lost access to wilderness
- Archaeological sites were inundated
- Lack of understanding system operations and how decisions are made results in a feeling that regional interests are not incorporated into operations

Economic Impacts

- Loss of farmland and orchards
- Loss of potential forestry
- Reservoirs were not fully harvested prior to flooding
- Loss of tourism and recreation activities and potential
- Loss of wildlife and fisheries impacted hunting, fishing and related recreation activities
- Fluctuations in water levels constrain tourism and recreation, and add to costs of forestry operations
- Problems with debris in the reservoirs

Economic Impacts

- Reservoir access and infrastructure
- Loss of tax revenues related to the loss of private lands
- Grants in lieu of Taxes (GILT) are not related to municipal impacts or expenditures
- Employment benefits have not significantly benefited some of the most impacted communities
- Small communities have difficulty adapting to these changes
- Some of the regional economic impacts also have consequences for the province (e.g., stumpage, licences)

Compensation Programs

(In areas affected by BC Hydro's facilities)

Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program –Columbia

- Consolidated in 1995 and began investing \$3.2 million annually (indexed)
- Over \$4.5 million in 2012
- Since 1995, \$67 million invested in 750 projects that conserve and enhance fish, wildlife and habitat
- CPC annual environmental program 2012 is \$421,000
- No FWCP for Koocanusa

Compensation Programs

(In areas affected by BC Hydro's facilities)

Water Use Planning (WUP)

- WUP's developed 2000-2007
- Based on public, First Nations and stakeholder consultation
- Plans address flow management priorities, fish, waterfowl, riparian and wildlife habitat, dust and debris, wetlands, reservoir access, research
- Columbia River investment: Over \$115 million, 2008 to 2020, \$47.4 million to date
- Duncan investment: \$13.4 million, 2008 to 2018, \$5.5 million to date
- No WUP for Koocanusa, Kootenay Lake

Regional Benefits

- **Flood Control:** This year, water levels would have been 2 m (6.5 ft.) higher on Kootenay Lake
- **Grants-in-lieu of Taxes (GILT):** BCH and CPC pay approximately \$5.5 million (No GILT for Koocanusa)
- **Tourism and Recreation:** Provincial Parks and Forestry Recreation Sites. Four Arrow Lakes Provincial Parks had 166,070 visitors in 2010

Regional Benefits

Regional Construction employment:

- approximately 33,000 person years, or an average of 685 construction jobs per year since 1964

Permanent Regional Employment (2012):

- BCH: 109 and 11 temporary
- FWCP: 4
- CPC and CBT: 82
- The total employment budgets: \$24 million
- Contracted services: \$16-18 million
- Construction Mitigation: infrastructure, dikes, roads, settlements, facilities, parks

Regional Benefits: Columbia Basin Trust

- **Created in 1995 “to support efforts by the people of the Basin to create social, economic and environmental well-being”**
- **B.C. provided \$276 million for power projects, \$45 million endowment and \$2 million per year from 1995-2010**
- **B.C. also established Columbia Power Corporation (CPC) to act as a joint venture partner and endowed it with \$250 million**

Regional Benefits: Columbia Basin Trust

- Over \$18 million in Distribution of Benefits to communities in 2012
- Programs include Community Initiatives (CIP) and Affected Areas (AAP), Community Development, Water, Environment, Economic, Social and Youth
- Since 1996, total delivery of benefits has been \$90 million with over half of that since 2009/10
- Current level of benefits expected to continue until 2017/18 when annual benefits are expected to double

Provincial Benefits

- Electricity Generation at Mica (Treaty) 1,800 MW and growing
- Additional Generation (28% of BC Hydro Total)
 - Revelstoke, Kootenay Canal (3,060 MW) (28 % of BCH Total)
 - Arrow Lakes, Brilliant Expansion (305 MW) (68% of CPC total)
- Non-Treaty Storage (5 MAF at Mica/Arrow Lakes)
 - additional head (Mica), power shaping and flow management
 - NTSA agreement with the U.S. generates approximately \$12 million in BCH revenue and environmental benefits to both countries
- The Columbia Basin provides approximately 44% of BCH generation capacity. B.C. electricity rates are the 3rd lowest in Canada

Provincial Benefits

Canadian Entitlement (from the U.S.)

- Provides between \$100-300 million annually to the Province (\$202 million average over the last 10 years)

Water Rental

- Fee based on size of facility, storage and power output
 - BCH approximately \$120 million annually
 - CPC approximately \$7 million annually

Provincial Crown Land Occupation Fees

- For facilities and reservoirs - approximately \$365,000 in 2012

Provincial Benefits

BCH and CPC Payments to the Province

- BCH - \$260M average annual over the last ten years
The Columbia Basin share is approximately \$106 million
- CPC pays the Province a \$2 million annual dividend

Other Provincial Benefits

- Tax revenues from wages , goods and services, Park fees, hunting and fishing licences

Thanks!

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- **Cindy Pearce, CRT LGC**