

**Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee**  
**Webinar: Water Use Planning in the Columbia Basin**  
**February 17, 2015 | 12pm – 1:30pm Pacific Time**

**Purpose:** Increase understanding of the purpose, process of development, roles and responsibilities for the Columbia and Duncan Water Use Plans (WUPs) and provide information regarding implementation of the WUPs

**Presenter:** Connie Chapman, Water Specialist at the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

**Subject Matter Experts:** Pieter Bekker, Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights and Heather Matthews, Director for Generation Resource Management

**Attendees:**

John McLean	Lawrence Pillon	Deb Kozak
Ross Lake	Gord DeRosa	Grant Saprionoff
Cal McDougall	Cindy Pearce	Jody Lownds
Linda Worley	Pam Turyk	Greg Utzig
Mike Cantle	Randy Priest	
Korie Marshall	Victor Jmaeff	

**AGENDA**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>
<b>11:50 – 12:05</b>	Log in
<b>12:05 – 12:15</b>	Welcome and Introductions
<b>12:15 – 1:00</b>	Presentation
<b>1:00 – 1:30</b>	Questions and Discussion
<b>1:30</b>	Adjourn

**PRESENTATION**

[Click here](#) to access the presentation.

#### Key points:

- BC's Water Use Planning guidelines were published in 1998, offering a framework for how to develop a Water Use Plan (WUP). [http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-planning/water\\_use\\_plan\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-planning/water_use_plan_guidelines.pdf)
- Key WUP objectives are power generation, flood management, fish and aquatic habitat, vegetation, wildlife and cultural heritage interests
- The water use plans provide a better balance among competing interests
- In the Columbia Region there are 9 WUPs – the 2 largest being the Duncan Dam WUP and the Columbia River WUP.
- Columbia River WUP is the most complicated because it covers 3 dams - Mica, Revelstoke and Hugh Keenleyside with 5 licences.
- There is no WUP for the Waneta Dam or the Kootenay System (reasons below).

#### **DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS**

##### **Is there coordination between the operation of the Kootenay system and the Columbia system?**

There is some coordination between BC Hydro and the US Entity (in charge of power generation within the Columbia River Treaty) in terms of water controls for a given year based on what is appropriate. Both the Columbia and Duncan WUPs are bound by the Columbia River Treaty, which governs the flows and release of water across the border to the US.

##### **Are soft constraints in the Columbia River WUP being considered? How are they weighted compared to power generation and flood control?**

It was acknowledged at the beginning of the WUP process that the hydroelectric facilities in the Columbia River Basin and Peace River Basin generate most of the power in BC, and so WUPs in both regions would need to prioritize power generation. The Columbia River Treaty places additional constraints regarding power generation and flood control. The soft constraints are considered where possible after power generation and flood control.

The Columbia River WUP is due to be reviewed by 2020, which will show whether the soft constraints have had an impact.

##### **Waneta Dam – why is there no WUP?**

There is a WUP for Seven Mile Dam, which does consider impacts downstream of Waneta. In addition, Waneta owned by Teck Cominco, and BC Hydro now owns 1/3 of the facility.

## **Kootenay System – why is there no WUP?**

There are a number of dams with multiple owners, including one in the U.S., which would make it extremely challenging to develop and implement a WUP. To date, no issues have been identified that would require a WUP to resolve.

There is a workshop on the Kootenay System March 9<sup>th</sup> for members of CBRAC and the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments' Committee, which aims to increase knowledge about the legal, planning and operations of hydropower activities on the Kootenay system, including the Libby Dam, Fortis, CPC/CBT and BC Hydro projects, as well as identify information needs to improve residents' understanding of this system.

### **NEXT STEPS**

1. Compile feedback from CBRAC members
2. Identify topics CBRAC wants to explore further
3. Decide how and if to address those topics within CBRAC