



Ministry of
Energy and Mines



Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee

Form and Function
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Nelson, BC

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CBRAC

- Why: how it came to be
- Who: how the committee was formed
- What: will the committee cover
- Where: let's start here



The Province is excited to be part of this new initiative that builds on our collective experiences from previous information sharing, consultation and engagement activities



What people said:

- Better information
 - more timely information
 - at the right level
- Greater understanding of decisions & plans
- Ability to provide input
- Continued engagement on the Columbia River Treaty



- During the 2 year engagement for the Columbia River Treaty review, Ministry of Energy and Mines heard many questions and comments regarding further involvement in hydro operations and the CRT
- Information: people wanted to have relevant information at the right time, looking back at what happened and looking forward to what's planned
- Basin residents also wanted information at a level that they could understand - that is challenging because there is a wide range of knowledge, expertise and interests
- Understanding: people want to understand how certain decisions around flows and water levels are made, what is considered and what are the constraints
- Input: First Nations and basin residents affected by hydro operations want to have the ability to provide advice and input into BC Hydro planning
- First Nations, residents, local governments and stakeholders want to continue to be engaged in discussion around the CRT, especially in contributing input to future improvements during potential upcoming negotiations with the U.S.
- This builds on initial success with CRT Sounding Board



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Formation of CBRAC

- Partnership between
 - Local Governments' Committee
 - BC Hydro
 - Ministry of Energy and Mines
- All 3 partners form a steering committee
- All decisions made by consensus



- MEM providing secretariat



Committee Selection:

Consensus on member selection based on diversity of:

- importance of First Nation and local government representation
- knowledge, ability and collaborative approach
- geographic and sectoral representation
- inclusion of age and gender diversity



- MEM providing secretariat
- Sectors: environmental, business and economic development; recreation and tourism; agricultural and community



What it is:

- A forum for dialogue and mutual learning
- Provides insight, advice and input on current and future hydro operating issues and plans
- Explores positive solutions to regional issues
- Provides input and advice on potential future changes and improvements to the CRT
- Complements other BC Hydro and MEM engagement

- This is a multi-faceted dialogue, with everyone learning from everyone else
- It's important to understand each other's perspectives and interests, and the basis for them
- A key role of members is to also engage members of their respective communities in a way that works for them; seeking their input and disseminating information to improve collective understanding



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What it isn't:

- It is not aboriginal consultation
- It is not a decision-making body
- It will not re-open results of previous broader consultative and regulatory initiatives



- Previous initiatives such as the Water Sustainability Act, WUPs or the decision to continue the CRT
- Also not a place to advance each one's own individual projects



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CBRAC - a beginning:

- This is new – it will take time to figure it out
 - We don't have all the answers – we don't even have all the questions
 - CBRAC will evolve as we learn and adapt
 - This is important – but let's make it a rewarding experience for all
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- This is the first time that such a Basin committee has First Nations, provincial and local governments, utilities, citizens and stakeholder representatives – I think. It will take some time to get to know each other, understand each other and find our voices.
 - The success of CBRAC will depend on each of us; there is a lot of goodwill to make it happen.
 - We get out what we put in – participate, engage, discuss, listen question and ENJOY!



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Thank you

