



Lands Department and G2G Joint Report to the JCM

For the Purposes of the TRTFN JCM report on status of the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project

November 21-22, 2020 Joint Clan Meeting

Re: Status of the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project proposed by Tlingit Homeland Energy Limited Partnership (THELP) under the BC-TRTFN G2G Process

I. Introduction

The TRTFN has a process for engagement under our existing BC-TRTFN G2G or Government-to-Government Agreement with the Province of British Columbia. This means that any project or application for work by any party within our territory must abide by the engagement process defined under our G2G Agreement. This includes projects proposed by our own corporations, who must be treated fairly in the context of our engagement process to protect the interests of our nation and allow the Lands Department and G2G Co-Chair to effectively fulfil the requirements of their job duties.

This letter is intended to provide a status update on the process, which has been recently defined by TRTFN and the Province to ensure that a project of this scale and scope is meeting the engagement process needs so that citizens can safely make an informed decision at the point that a decision is required of our leadership and the nation.

II. Role of the Lands Department, G2G Co-Chair and the Province

The role of the Lands Department is to ensure we are working as a team to provide the most accountable process for the nation and community of Atlin for accurate and responsible tracking and monitoring purposes and to ensure alignment with our Atlin-Taku Land Use Plan (ATLUP). The Lands Department is neither for or against the Atlin Hydro Expansion Project and does not make a decision on whether to move forward with the project or not.

Lands Department staff are expected to be as objective as possible and gather information to have a wholistic assessment of the risks and mitigation measures to provide in recommendations at various point throughout the process. In order to increase an objective view, the Lands Department has consultants working with TRTFN that are paid for by THELP. This is a usual process with proponents. The consultants are independent of TRTFN and THELP and are responsible for providing input into the assessment of any environmental concerns.

Specifically, the role of the Lands Engagement Officer (LEO) is to gather and compile information, coordinate with consultants, and document any concerns brought forward by Lands staff and citizens.

The G2G Co-Chair is responsible for assisting in the oversight of the development of a fair and reliable process to support respectful and effective engagement between the proponent (THELP) and the TRTFN. The Co-Chair is expected to ensure the G2G Engagement Process is being followed, that TRTFN interests are not misrepresented, and to keep the Province accountable to their role in the engagement process. The G2G Co-Chair does not make a decision either but is expected to assist in providing reasonable recommendations throughout the process.

The role of the Province is twofold: The BC Project Manager on the one hand has the responsibility to ensure that TRTFN receives adequate and meaningful engagement, providing support to both THELP and TRTFN to coordinate and facilitate communication; the Regional Clean Energy Project Team (RCEPT) consisting of various BC representatives on the other hand are tasked with the technical review of the project. In order to make the engagement for TRTFN most meaningful and ensure full involvement in the project review, the Lands Engagement Officer and independent consultants will be part of RCEPT.

III. Status Update on the Engagement Process

Because a project of this scale and scope was never planned for when the G2G Agreement was being negotiated over a decade ago, the existing engagement process was deemed inadequate to meet the needs of the proposed Atlin Hydro Expansion Project. A new process has been developed under the umbrella of the G2G, which was created through input from the Province's Project Coordinator and TRTFN. The process for engagement involved determining frequency of meetings, who will be on the teams and what their roles would be, hiring of contractors, review of assessments and studies from THELP, and stages and timelines for engagement and recommendations.

Currently, we have not begun the formal engagement as defined in the Flow Chart (see Appendix. A) that was developed to assist with tracking our progress. The first stage of this flow chart begins once the Proponent (THELP) submits the Clean Energy Development Plan to the RCEPT team for review.

The Clean Energy Development Plan is the main application document that THELP has to submit to receive the majority of required permits and authorizations. Currently, THELP is still in the process of finalizing impact studies, compiling information and drafting the Development Plan. This is why there is still not enough information available on project impacts and benefits, and at the current stage more information is needed to make an informed decision on the project.

In general the TRTFN-THELP working relationship has continued to improve over time and as with other proponents we encourage THELP to work with TRT Lands Department before submission of the proposal so they submit the best proposal possible with potential concerns already addressed. The intention with the pre-submission engagement process is to help ensure significant delays or miscommunications do not negatively impact the working relationship or review process.

TRTFN will be a part of the RCEPT team and will still separately engage on a more localized table with the proponent. TRTFN will be involved with every step of the review and will have a community



engagement plan that will determine key times when the community should be informed and input from the community is needed.

In the end, TRTFN will be part of formulating recommendations to the decision makers and this will be the most appropriate step for the JCM to make a decision to accept the project. It is very important for citizens and community members to remain involved and to attend meetings jointly hosted by TRTFN and the Proponent to receive information. Informed decisions require participation by citizens!!


IV. Next steps and Action Items

Some of the items the Lands and G2G team are now currently working on together with the proponent include:


- Making sure the conditions existing before construction of the current hydro project are being considered as baselines for valued components so cumulative effects from the proposed expansion can be considered together.
- Requesting that the socio-economic and benefit studies are revised as necessary to get a clearer picture of what the revenues and benefits are for the community and TRT citizens.
- Participating in ongoing face to face and telephone meetings with THELP to maintain good working relationships and to provide support for mitigating any assessed concerns.
- Working with the Proponent to ensure assessment information on wildlife and land use concerns is reviewed and addressed in a timely and responsible manner.
- Working with the Proponent on long-term monitoring plans for valued components, such as wildlife and fisheries.
- Preparing to engage with the RCEPT team to continue providing information to the community and following the agreed upon engagement process under our G2G agreement.

Updates and information will be presented to the community as it becomes available and at recommended points throughout the engagement process. When a decision point for approval of the project has been identified, this will be made widely known to the community to ensure citizens have the chance to provide their input.


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 Chantelle Schultz, G2G Co-Chair



 Charmaine Thom, Lands
 Manager



 Date



 Date

Appendix A

Coordinated Review and Consultation Process for Authorization of Clean Energy Projects

Regional Clean Energy Project Team Review (includes TRT)

