



Local 230

Established in Victoria in 1902

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Site C decision was a difficult but prudent decision

Victoria, BC – I commend British Columbia Premier John Horgan for his no doubt a difficult but prudent decision to proceed with the completion of the Site C dam project.

I know that Premier Horgan wrestled with this decision, and that the preceding government had done its utmost to ensure that Site C was at the point of no return prior to the last provincial election. That being said it must be recognized that this project will not only provide for thousands of jobs today, but will also help displace fossil fuel plants while providing a secure source of green energy for generations of British Columbians to rely on.

The termination of the Site C project would have represented a \$3.2 billion dollar immediate loss to the BC government with no benefit from the expenditure while alternative new sources of clean power would have had fewer benefits and would currently be at least as costly as Site C power.

As John Kenneth Galbraith, Canadian-born Diplomat noted, "Politics is not the art of the possible. It consists in choosing between the disastrous and the unpalatable."

As unpalatable as Site C may be to some, to have reversed course would have been financially disastrous for BC Hydro, the taxpayer and ultimately the consumer.

The IBEW has a keen interest in the development of alternative energy sources and conservation technologies. As examples, our members have worked to upgrade legacy BC Hydro facilities such as the John Hart Dam upgrades in Campbell River; we have constructed wind turbines on the northern tip of the Island; and we install electric vehicle charging stations and energy-efficient building controls every day.

In other words, we see the B.C. energy system in a holistic way. We see Site C as a valuable ally providing needed base-load energy along with smaller scale alternative energy projects that will come along in the 21st century.

It is estimated that electric vehicles will account for 30 percent of all new vehicles by 2035, and will add a significant new load to the B.C. power grid. Site C will ensure that the electricity charging those vehicles does not come for thermal plants burning fossil fuels.

Although we strongly support the government's decision to proceed with Site C we must also ensure that this project, to as much an extent may still be possible, be built on time and on budget. For the sake of product quality, efficiency and long-term reliability, as well as worker and consumer safety, it is imperative that all employees performing electrical work on the Site C project should hold provincial certification as Construction or Industrial Electricians, or should be registered apprentices working under the direct supervision of certified electricians.

About the IBEW Local 230

Chartered in 1902, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 230 represents 1300 electrical workers on Vancouver Island in industrial, commercial, institutional and residential construction and maintenance, marine shipyards, railway, motor winding, electrical wholesale, municipal, provincial and federal governments. Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, and human security.

For further information please contact:

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