



SEP 07 2011

Ms. Janice Pitman
Coordinator
Mr. Roland Woodward
Chair
Ms. Julie Burke
Co-Chair
Keepers of the Athabasca
mashmead@mcsnet.ca

Dear Ms. Pitman, Mr. Woodward and Ms. Burke:

Thank you for your letter of June 17, expressing your concerns regarding the environmental assessment process for the proposed Site C Clean Energy Project (the Project).

An environmental assessment of the Project will be required under both the provincial and the federal environmental assessment legislation. The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) is working closely with British Columbia's Environmental Assessment Office to ensure a coordinated review process. I can assure you of our mutual commitment to delivering a high-quality environmental assessment for the Project.

The Agency has accepted the Project Description it received on July 20 and is reviewing the description to determine the most appropriate form of environmental assessment under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). Once it receives an acceptable project description from a proponent, the Agency has 90 days in which to post a notice of commencement for the environmental assessment on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry's website at: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/index-eng.cfm

An environmental assessment conducted under the Act will consider all the possible environmental effects of the Project, including any cumulative effects that are likely to result from the Project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out. As appropriate, the scope of the environmental assessment may also include a consideration of other matters, such as alternatives to the Project.



Aboriginal and public consultations are important components of an environmental assessment. All interested parties will be provided opportunities to participate in the environmental assessment process for the Project and to express their views and concerns.

The information provided in your letter is important. I encourage you to participate in the environmental assessment of the Project that will commence this fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Kent". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "K".

The Honourable Peter Kent, P.C., M.P.