

PRESS RELEASE

New Report Indicates that Site C creates significant less employment than the alternatives

New report finds that the BC Hydro and BCUC alternative portfolios (which include conservation and renewables such as wind and geothermal) would create significantly higher employment.

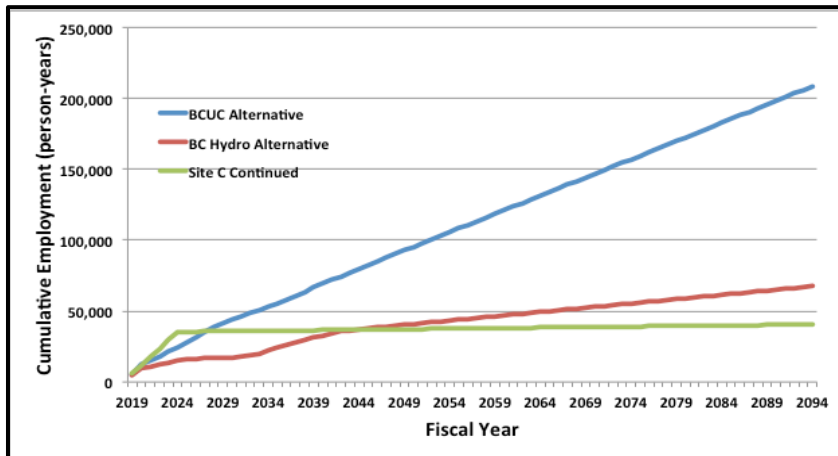
November 20, 2017 (Vancouver)—The key finding in a new report from the University of British Columbia: If the goal is to maximize long-term sustainable jobs, then Site C is not the best choice.

A team of researchers led by Dr. Karen Bakker at the University of British Columbia has produced a new report comparing the future employment generated from Site C, versus the alternative portfolios put forward by BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission (which include significant amounts of conservation and alternative energy sources such as wind power).

“Our analysis indicates that the alternative portfolios put forward by the BC Utilities Commission and BC Hydro would generate significantly more jobs in the long term, and have only a modest net loss in the short term,” said report author Karen Bakker,

Professor, Canada Research Chair, and Director of the Program on Water Governance at UBC.

Employment (person-years or “jobs”)	BCUC Alternative	BC Hydro Alternative	Site C Continued
Construction (remaining)	5,156	23,435	35,398
Operations (per year)	172	604	74
DSM Programs (annual average)	2,416	0	0
Site C Remediation (total)	9,556	9,556	0
Site C Monitoring (per year)	74	74	0
Cumulative to 2024	24,612	15,059	35,398
Cumulative to 2030	43,836	17,284	35,842
Cumulative to 2054	105,618	43,421	37,618
Cumulative to 2094	208,498	67,580	40,578



The report uses data from BC Hydro and the BC Utilities Commission in its analysis. In the medium and long term, Site C creates far fewer jobs than the alternatives. Site remediation, geothermal construction and DSM will create thousands of jobs each year. Through 2030, the BCUC alternative portfolio creates 22% to 50% more employment than Site C.

“In the short term, site remediation provides significant employment. After that, conservation jobs represent the majority of jobs. And then alternative energy sources such as wind power come online. By 2054, the BCUC alternative portfolio will have created three times as many jobs as Site C. Many of the jobs from wind power could be in the Peace region, which has the best wind resources in the province,” added Dr. Bakker.

Media contact:

Dr. Karen Bakker (Vancouver; French and English): (778) 847 2663; karen.bakker@ubc.ca